

355 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass. May 4th, 1923.

My dear Mr. Powell:

Sched. Orch. #4 was placed in the mail for you this afternoon. I sincerely hope that this issue will please you and serve a useful purpose in your reference library. I am afraid it is a bit dull as a reading proposition, although there are one or two pages that should have significance for you.

This morning your letter of the 25th, April came in. I immediately inserted the enclosures in the herbarium marking each envelope with the date of deposit. I find that "do it now" is the best of our modern proverbs in herbarium matters as a postponement is sure to lead to future confusion.

Your letter to Schlechter is both fair and reasonable. I approve of its lines and I congratulate you on its logical sequence. Although Schlechter may be pardoned for a great disappointment at the turn affairs have taken, he is thoroughly German in his point of view. He is oblivious of everything except his deep desire to have the Central American orchid flora within his eager grasp. And this notwithstanding the fact that another man is engaged in a monographic treatment of the orchids for the United States National Museum. I say this because there is a certain amount of etiquette connected with such matters under certain circumstances. If he persists in his efforts there is sure to be a great amount of confusion created which will not benefit science one bit. Even now I am not sure but that an early mail may bring in his promised work on Costa Rican orchids and reduce to synonymy many of my proposed new species.

Now, to change the subject: I picked up a bottle today numbered 181 with the contents designated as Ionopsis utricularioides. There is surely some mistake here, as the flowers are those of Compartmentia, probably of C. falcata Poepp. & Endl. Schlechter does not give this

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genus in his enumeration of your collection and I do not find it in your manuscript list of the species Schlechter determined for you. I only have this species from Guatemala and the West Indies. It has been reported, of course, from Costa Rica. I do not find it in the Kew Set of your specimens and you have not sent it for Herb. Powell. Please explain this specimen and if possible make herbarium specimens for me when the plants bloom again. You can recognize this species by the peculiar spur like lateral sepals that hang down beneath the labellum. [See letter of May 6th. for explanatory remarks]

I had already detected the mixture of numbers in the *Stelis* species. I wrote to you about this yesterday and gave you my determinations and views.

The specimens listed in your letter of the 23d have not yet come in, but I expect them any day. These, you may be sure, will be most welcome.

The *Epidendrum* with fleshy flowers sent in mailing tube appears to be new to Central America. When the specimen for the herbarium arrives I will study it and publish the name in Sched. Orch. 5. There may be some other new species among the unnamed material. These will also receive attention.

Mailing-tubes, bottles and Manila covers will be forwarded tomorrow.

I think it may be well to illustrate the new *Epidendrum*. We can make an interesting ~~plate~~ plate in a few days.

Keep on the look-out for *Stelis* flowers. Have little bottles ready for these fellows. And acquaint the Indian with the genus.

Everything is running smoothly. It is up to you to prevent me from taking a vacation this summer.

With the best of good wishes,

Ca



Ames, Oakes. 1923. "Ames, Oakes May 4, 1923 [to C.W. Powell]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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