

355 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass. May 6th, 1923.

Dear Mr. Powell:

Just a few lines to tell you that I have worked nearly all day on your *Pleurothallis* 282. Owing to the fact that Schlechter's *P. chiriquensis* is as yet missing from the Powell set I did not realize that the name was preempted until I began to get down to brass tacks. Now for the story: 282 is to be known as *P. alpina* sp. nov. in allusion to the high altitudes at which you found the plants. The nearest affinity is *P. sicaria* Lindl. from the island of Trinidad. It is painfully close to Lindley's species but differs sufficiently to be recognized as a geographical departure that may well be kept distinct until we have a more thorough knowledge of the intermediates. At least I intend to describe the plant and until we learn more about it I think you may safely regard it as a distinct thing. The additional specimens in your field collection simply substantiate the differences that I think exist.

The fact that such a close match is found in Trinidad will give you some idea of the extreme care we must use in our determinations. We cannot take for granted that endemism is our friend in our attempts to get at the bottom of things.

I am sorry to cause you trouble, but, until one has searched the records pretty well it is six to one that a name which seems perfectly safe will be found already in use when we approach the genus *Pleurothallis*.

I am still of the opinion that the little orchids are getting away from you.

Yours faithfully

Calypso
Ref. remarks regarding bottle said to contain *Dioscorea* flowers. I had on of these out after writing to you and find that the genus is *Rodriguezia* and the species *secunda*, probably var. *panamensis* Schell.



Ames, Oakes. 1923. "Ames, Oakes May 6, 1923 [to C.W. Powell]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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