

North Easton, Mass. May 28th, 1923.

My dear Mr. Powell:

I have moved to the country for the summer, but as I intend to visit my Boston laboratory at frequent intervals, dont make any change in your manner of addressing me.

I have received some interesting material from you in the way of specimens in alcohol. I will take up only one of the species as it will be best to wait until the herbarium sheets arrive before discussing the others.

Nos. 151 & 187, sent as *Epidendrum pachycarpum* Schltr, seem to me to represent *Epidendrum ionophlebium* Reichb.f. I wonder if these ^{flowers} ~~plants~~ simply represent your own identifications or if they came from plants of which Schlechter received specimens. *E. pachycarpum* as represented by the type is a much smaller flowered species comparable to the herbarium specimen already sent as *E. pachycarpum*. I find that Schlechter distinguished *E. pachycarpum* in part from *E. ionophlebium* by the smooth callus on the base of the lip. The bottled flowers show a distinctly hairy callus. They also show much larger parts and resemble Reichenbach's type of *E. ionophlebium*. Examine your specimens as the plants bloom and ascertain what the status of the callus really is. I have had a suspicion that Schlechter made a questionable diagnosis as to this character and that *E. pachycarpum* is simply a small flowered *E. ionophlebium*. Here is a place for Powellian aid.

I have examined all of the *Masdevallia* material and I am convinced that as to *M. Livingstoneana* we simply have a variable species. You will be delighted, I am sure, with the manner in which I have disposed of this puzzling species when Sched. Orch. 5 reaches you. The

plate that clears up the situation is really a dandy. Your 78 is just what we thought it was, pure *M. Livinstoneana*. The petals and labellum are in every way the same as those of the other specimens. Schlechter was quite right in his conclusions although I think he guessed as to the type of *M. Livingstoniana*. Our mistake came in knowing what the type was before we discovered that the species shows an astonishing range of variation. But the matter is clear now, thanks to your success in finding an abundance of material.

The *Stelis* specimens are very welcome. I will report on these just as soon as the herbarium specimens arrive. It would be unwise to examine them until I know just what the habit is like. This applies also to the *Epidendrum* which you think is different from any of the other species in your garden.

I am now mounting up the Lankester collection. This is to be a strong addition to my representation of Costa Rican species. His *Epidendrums* are mighty good. He reports that *E. exasperatum* grows to be ten feet high when in perfect condition of growth. From herbarium material you would never imagine such a thing possible. Here again we have the crying necessity for complete field notes.

Unfortunately your letters are not by me, so I must leave until another time answers to any questions you have asked.

Yours faithfully,

Oakes Ames



Ames, Oakes. 1923. "Ames, Oakes May 28, 1923 [to C.W. Powell]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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