

June 4th, 1923.

My dear Mr. Powell:

Yours letters of May 20, 22 & 23 are before me. I found these when I went to my Boston laboratory this afternoon. I also found a package of most welcome specimens and several containers with alcoholic material for study. I did not boil up the only flower of 288 as I felt sure that it must be Pleurothallis arietina Ames, a species described in Sched. Orch. 4. It is strange that this rare species should turn up in two collections received within two months. It would indicate that the Chiriqui flora merges with that of Cartago, Costa Rica. I must delay a report on the other specimens as I am a bit on the down side of health and will not return to Boston until late in the week.

The Epidendrum alajense muddle has already been cleaned up and an erratum slip went to you several days ago. I find that error is lurking near the man who attempts to hasten his scientific work. You must realize that the recent Sched. Orchs. were prepared under pressure. No. 5 comes off the press to-morrow.

Your reference to F. Sander and Masdevallia Livinstoneana interests me. But your surmise must be wrong. Years ago Mr. F. Sander took a fancy to me and one day at his nursery in St. Albans presented me with his herbarium. Kraenzlin has assured me that the original Roezl flowers are in the Reichenbach Herbarium, but that they are worthless because poorly preserved. Anyway the problem is solved. Unless you really wish it, I will not send a specimen to the Sander nursery as the old gentleman is dead and as his sons would have no memory of Roezl's plant.

My reference to Odontoglossum Powellii was simply to place stress on the fact that such a lovely thing had escaped notice previous to your discovery of it. I have not attempted to identify the species, but when I do I most certainly hope that it will prove to be a perpetual reminder of Powell and not a synonym. There is no reason why Schlechter should have slipped on this.

Your explanation of the Oncidium mix-up is probably the correct one.

Your reply regarding the missing numbers is reassuring. I am quite ready to wait for the plants to bloom.

As soon as possible a check list of your bottled goods will be made up and forwarded to you.

The gold beetles and pots came with the other materials. You may be sure that Pauline will be delighted with your note regarding the beetles.

The Hexadesmia question will be answered on my next trip to Boston. Isn't this summer vacation habit a nuisance? I would so love to be able to go down-stairs and answer your question at once.

I do not understand the lack of mailing-tubes. I will send an additional supply at once with large size bottles. We must keep this alcoholic material coming along, because without it we cannot hope to make satisfactory plates of the Panama orchids.

I have written this letter after a long hard day, so please pardon any omissions.

Yours faithfully,

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Charles D. Smith

Everybody joins in send/to you and your daughter the best of good wishes. They are here now and have expressed delight at the thoughts of the visit to Balboa.

POSCRIPT.

I have just been studying *Stelis* #234 & 232. There is no defence for the recognition of two distinct species. The apical portion of the labellum in the bottled material of both numbers is very fragile and breaks off easily. A poke of the needle will convert *S. Isthmi* into very good *S. praemorsa*. I am afraid that Schlechter examined a flower that was injured when he described *S. praemorsa*. It would seem that the age of the flowers and other things must be considered with regard to your #234 & #232. We must allow some opportunity for normal variation. If I had any doubts before about the two species under consideration, I have none now.

O.A.



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

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