

355 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.

February 18th, 1921.

My dear Dr. Schlechter:

I enclose a small *Oberonia* for you to examine. If the identification is correct please let me have your verification. Please retain the specimen for your herbarium.

I am getting ready to take up *Acoridium* for the *Folia*. It seems to me that my Section *Pseudacoridium* ought to be taken up as a genus. The lateral flower shoot and the structure of the labellum and gynostemium seem to differentiate it from its allies. You will note this if you turn to the little drawing in *Orchidaceae* Vol 2.

Perhaps you will be kind enough to tell Dr. Fedde that I would like to have him forward to me the complete volume of your *Orchidaceae Novae et Criticae* with title and index. I shall send him a money order on receipt of the volume.

What do you intend to do with *Sigmatichilus* R. A. Rolfe, *Lobosyne* Schltr., *Carteria* Small? These genera are missing from your list. *Carteria* is a puzzle. The type consists of budding material collected in Florida. When I first saw it I was inclined to refer it to *Tetramicra* *Eulophiae* Reichb f. Now I see it reported from the Bahamas in Britton & Millspaugh *Flora of the Bahamas*. I intend to write to Britton about it. At present I am very sure that we can not take it up. If more material is available it may be possible to tell just what the generic characters are. I shall attend to this at once.

Vonroemeria is another genus not found in your list. What is your attitude toward this?

Just at present I am taking the time to fill in the gaps in my herbarium made by your numerous new genera. Some of these I am unable to get analyzed and I am now looking your way with intense expectation as I must have your help where no illustrations have been published. If you have duplicate specimens representative of any of these new groups I hope you will anticipate a general distribution and send them to me.

I got your letter regarding the cheque this morning (Feb. 21) and it was good news to learn that it was acceptable and sure to help your work. To-morrow is a holiday here, so I can not get the balance of the money off to you until Wednesday. I shall not forget it.

I have been giving close attention to the details of the Folia and one or two questions have come to mind that I would like to have you answer. How close to a critical revision of the Orchidaceae do you expect to come in listing the species? With types widely scattered and in many cases difficult to study it may often prove impossible to make a comprehensive survey of the larger genera in that manner which characterizes monographic treatment of a scholarly type. If we attempt a critical revision of large genera it will require years of toil to arrive at worthwhile conclusions. Perhaps it is your intention to include all species that seem to be in good standing and to reject those that are evidently dependent on too slender distinctions or that are evidently provincial in conception. With regard to this subject we ought to have an established working basis.

I have to admit that I am often in doubt as to the wisdom of separating *Sarcanthus*, *Robiquetia* et al. If you have given this matter detailed attention I wish you would defend the separation. This should be simple if the differences are of a nature to be clearly set forth.

I am pleased to learn that you are getting out some economic material for me. Almost anything will be welcome.

I have some duplicate specimens of the Bureau of Science, Manila, that I have just been sorting out for distribution. As ~~there are~~ a few types in the set I intend to send you what I have ready. Most of this material is at North Easton and I can not get at it until later. Just now we are "snowed up". A great snow storm came yesterday and closed the country roads to motors.

Yours very sincerely,

Oakes Ames.



Ames, Oakes. 1921. "Ames, Oakes Feb. 18, 1921 [to R. Schlechter]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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