

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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*Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*

August 8, 1932.

My dear Mr. Edwards:

Just a word of warning regarding too much pressure in pressing your orchid material. In looking at *Laelia rubescens* and *L. Digbyana*, I think it is evident that these were unduely weighted. Although the specimens look well, it becomes very difficult to restore them to any sort of form for study when they are boiled out because the parts are agglutinated. This is very true of such things as *Sobralia* and *Vanilla*. Sometimes it is well to use pads of cotton in paper to place over the flowers of such things as *Cattleya* and *Laelia*. In any case pressure may be a serious fault in the absence of alcoholic material. Just avoid a crushing weight, and if the fleshy bulbs and leaves indicate the need of pressure, then protect the flowers with pads. Sometimes one has to build up a sort of frame with strips of paper round a flower to protect it while sufficient pressure is imparted to thick leaves/ Your ingenuity will play an important part in this regard. Just make sure that the sepals and petals do not have the appearance of being glued together.

Very truly yours,

*Oakes Ames*





Ames, Oakes. 1932. "Ames, Oakes Aug. 8, 1932 [to J.B. Edwards] [2nd item]."  
*Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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