

North Easton. Massachusetts, June 29, 1933.

My dear Mr. Edwards:

You will be pleased to learn that the specimens 390 to 398 have turned up. 384 is *Purpurea striata* and is an addition. The other numbers are not exciting. Now I have the next series beginning with 391. This is a very interesting collection and 420, an *Odontoglossum*, is very fine.

I took the two packages of zoological specimens to the Museum this morning. Dr. Barbour is away on a fishing trip. Just as soon as he returns I will let you know what he will do in the way of taking your specimens. I am very sure that he will want you to collect for him. The only hitch seems to be that you are not getting enough plant material to make it worth our while to carry you on a salary basis. And if you use your time to collect animals in addition to plants, I do not see how you can carry on for the Arboretum. I am unable to understand the paucity of plant specimens. I am very sure that I could go out from my front door and in a very few weeks in this very deficient flora beat your record for a year very badly. What seems to be the trouble? When Standley collected round Tela, and Sigutepeque he collected several thousand numbers in a very few months. The species are there on his record. I still hold the opinion that you make fine orchid specimens. But the cost per specimen is terribly high. I am anxious to have you continue your work for us because you are in a territory that we desire to have conscientiously explored. We do not wish to build up your ability and then have you collect for somebody else. That is natural. But unless you can supply material in greater quantity I fear it will be impossible to make another offer. On July 5th I will order sent to you a check for one thousand dollars. The reason for the delay is that Saturday July 1 is the beginning of a week end that includes Monday the third and Tuesday the fourth of July. I shall have the check sent by air mail and it should reach you in good season.

The specimens in alcohol came through without damage. This liquid material is wonderful and helps amazingly in critical studies. Your 299 seems to be a new species of *Sobralia*. I could not have described this from the dried specimen because the flowers are so membranaceous that they defy dissection when boiled up. I think I shall publish this with a drawing and name it *S. Edwardsii* in your honor. If you can get any more of it, additional specimens will be most welcome.

Very sincerely yours,

Walter C. Coker

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Ames, Oakes. 1933. "Ames, Oakes June 29, 1933 [to J.B. Edwards]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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