

355 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.
January 6, 1924.

My dear Lankester:

A letter from me might be more welcome if it contained a goodly number of determinations based on your Christmas package, but as it will take some days to finish the job in hand, I am writing to inform you that the twenty specimens are in hand and are already mounted. #551, for which you proposed a name (*Epidendrum gracilime*) is *E. centradenia* Reichb. f. I am always delighted to receive material of this species, because it is one of the chaps that varies mightily. I think it is Schlechter's *E. tenuiflorum*, and is the possessor of a rich synonymy. 540 is a new *Scelochilus*. I may call it *S. Lankesteri* if it proves distinct from *S. aureus* Schltr. from Tablazo. #541, correctly determined by you as *Sigmatostalix costaricensis* Rolfe, is a delightful addition to the herbarium. It is safe to say that this material represents the finest herbarium record of the species that has been made. The Kew type is simply a raceme. Schlechter seems to have had this species but once as he only cites a Werckle number from an unrecorded locality. My only material is from Powell. Schlechter is of the opinion that *S. costaricensis* is the same as *S. guatemalensis*. If he is not mistaken, then the species ranges from Guatemala to Panama. Your 534 is *Elleanthus capitatus* Reichb. f. #553, which you suggest is *Hexisea*, proves to be a *Scaphyglottis* and may be undescribed.

Pray save some flowers of *Masdevallia costaricensis* for me. This is a most rare species in herbaria. Until I receive additional flowers I will refrain from boiling up the single flower submitted.

Why did you send to me such a scappy specimen of #540? It will be difficult to prepare a satisfactory description in the absence of complete pseudobulbs and roots.

NOTHING IS TOO COMMON FOR MY NET. Do you realize that many of the common species of Costa Rica are only represented in herbaria by greenhouse material? And then again, the types of many species described by Reichenbach consist of flowers only. Every specimen you prepare is a distinct contribution to the records on which floristic work is to be done in the future. Bear this fact in mind when your inclination is strong to avoid the trouble of saving some of those little things that appear in your collection, or attract your attention when you are afield.

Dr. Standley will be with you soon. By the time this letter reaches you, he will be making preparations to leave Panama.

With the best wishes in the WORLD,
Yours faithfully,

Arthur Q. Jones



Ames, Oakes. 1924. "Ames, Oakes Jan. 6, 1924 [to C.H. Lankester]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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