

355 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass. U. S. A.

April seventh

1 2 2 4

My dear Lankester: I am sorry that you have found me to be a poor correspondent of late, but the truth is I cool my fires by trying to heat too many irons at one time. It is impossible to forget you, because you ~~will~~ have the delightful faculty of submitting outlandish things to keep my mind on your existence. By the time I finish the task of describing the new species sent in your last package, another volume of the *Schedulac* will be ready to bind up.

That *Epidendrum* you sent in a large envelope proved to be *E. prostratum* Schltr. I wish you would send me some of this when the flowers are a little less mature. It is a rare thing, and I should like to have the pleasure of publishing a plate of the species. Perhaps you will be good enough to prepare a specimen some day with the thought uppermost in your mind that the success of my plate will be helped by the perfection of your part of the work.

The *Oncidium* submitted for determination by your friend, is a puzzle, indeed. If it is a common thing, as you intimate, then make a complete specimen and let me have a fair opportunity to locate it. The shouts of rage that go up in this laboratory when species of *Oncidium* come in ought to be audible in Costa Rica. It sometimes seems that this genus is worse than *Stelis*. And that is a mean thing to say about any organic complex. I am beginning to wonder if we have not drawn the lines between *Oncidium* species a bit too fine. Would it help matters to broaden our conception of specific limits? Old Kraenzlin's monograph is about as useless for the job of identifying *Oncidium* species as a sieve for holding water.

I expect to leave here on Wednesday evening for Florida to be gone about two weeks. How I can spare the time, I do not know, but I suppose a little change will help to feed those fires I have mentioned above and add a little zest to a job that is just now becoming obnoxious.

I suppose Standley is on his way home with a steamer load of the Costa Rican flora.

Yours faithfully,

Orville D. Ames



Ames, Oakes. 1924. "Ames, Oakes April 7, 1924 [to C.H. Lankester]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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