

GRAY HERBARIUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY,

BOTANIC GARDEN, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.,

Dec. 14 1895

My dear Dr. Kennedy:

I was sorry to miss
you yesterday and to miss the
chance to talk over these Asters
with you.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, & 4 are puzzling forms
but on the whole I should put them
into novi-belgii instead of longifolius.

5, 6 & 7 are most interesting.

They are the true patulus, Lam.,
which is a poorly understood plant.

I have been making a careful
study of the specimens which Dr.

Gray compared with the types of
tridiflorus, L., and patulus, Lam.;
and of Dr. Gray's notes taken from

the type specimens. All the
conclusion I can come to is
that tardiflorus, L. (the real thing),
and patulus, Lam. (the real thing)
are identical. Prior to
publishing the Flora, Dr. Gray,
said "A. tardiflorus, founded entirely
on specimens cultivated in the Upsal
Garden, is confidently identified with
a low form of A. patulus, Lam., a
northern species, not rare in cultivation,
but little known by indigenous specimens."
The whole evidence seems to show
the two plants together.

But in the Synoptical Flora
Dr. Gray attempted to keep the
plants apart on very shady characters,
not well borne out by the authentic
specimens, and we have been
floundering about in the dark ever

Since. As for the name
taediflorus, that has priority over
patulus by some twenty years,
but for the present, until I can
settle some technical points in
the nomenclature, these plants
would better be called patulus.

And now there is in Maine
& Eastern Mass. another very
different plant with long leaves
& short inflorescence which has
been passing as "patulus?"

I must follow this up and see
what it is.

If you have any more specimens
of either of these forms, taediflorus
patulus, & so called patulus may
I see them when you come over
again? As soon as I get

the matter straightened out, I
shall probably publish the results
hoping to throw some light on
the puzzling question.

Sincerely yours
Wenitt L. Fernald.

As you say you will be over
again soon, I will keep the
specimens here until you
come.



Fernald, Merritt Lyndon. 1895. "Fernald, Merritt L. 14 Dec 1895." *George Golding Kennedy correspondence*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/172899>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/284555>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

IMLS

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.