

Gray Herbarium



Harvard University

B. L. ROBINSON,
Prof. Syst. Bot. and Curator
M. L. FERNALD, Assistant Professor
MARY A. DAY, Librarian

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, U. S. A.

11 Feb. 1913.

Dear Dr. Kennedy:

C. phaenopyrum is correct and the capital in the index is an error. Am glad to have it called to attention, so that it can be corrected later. It was formerly the case that most authors capitalized all specific names, which, like this, were substantive in form, but according to the international rules of nomenclature this should be done only when the substantive is a personal name or has been taken from a generic name.

The recommendation regarding the capitalization of specific names is worded as follows:--

"Specific names begin with a small letter except those which are taken from names of persons (substantives or adjectives) or those which are taken from generic names (substantives or adjectives).

Examples: *Ficus indica*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Brassica Napus*, *Lythrum Hyssopifolia*, *Aster novi-belgii*, *Malva Tournefortiana*, *Phyteuma Halleri*."

The specific name *phaenopyrum* was, in the case in question, first used by Linnaeus filius. It was capitalized by him and evidently treated as a substantive, since he did not attempt to make it agree in gender with the generic name he was using (*Mespilus*). So far as I can learn *Phaenopyrum* had not been previously employed as a generic name, so our present rules would not call for its capitalization.

Well, thanks to that stupid ground-hog, we are having some real winter--which reminds me of the good old Irish woman who said that a thermometer seemed a small bit of a thing to make such powerful changes in the weather.

Our building operations are held up for a few days by delay in getting the metal window and door-frames. They have been promised for several dates already past, but have as yet failed to arrive. However, the architect assures me that there is every prospect that the building will be completed by the middle of April.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

W. L. Robinson.

Dr. G. G. Kennedy.



Robinson, Benjamin Lincoln. 1913. "Robinson, Benjamin L. 11 Feb 1913."
George Golding Kennedy correspondence

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/173266>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/285297>

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>.