

Los Gatos, Cal
Aug. 6, 1906

Dear Mr. Deane:

I have struck a snag, and it occurred to me that perhaps you could get me out of the difficulty better than any one else. Cakile edentula originally came from somewhere near Boston and probably you know where it grows. I should like to have a good description of the fresh fruit - The shape, length and breadth of both joints of the pod, and whether they are ribbed or angled, and if so where and how many.

Out here we have a plant which has passed as C. edentula, but I never could believe that it is, for geographically everything is against it. Last week I had a chance to examine living plants, and this is the result:

Pods about 15 mm. long, without lateral projections at the nodes, the lower joint obovoid, about 5 mm. long, 5 mm. across the top, neither angled nor ribbed; upper joint broadly ovoid, 1 cm. long, 8 mm. across, faintly 2-ribbed below, strongly so at the flattened retuse apex. The petals are 6 mm. long, the claw ~~only~~ 2 mm. long.

Now dried specimens from the same place, as well as from other parts of California

make the pods appear strongly 4-angled, and of this there is no sign in the plump fresh fruit. So I want to know what fresh pods of C. edentula look like, and if there are flowers, whether the claw is longer or shorter than the blade.

During the past two years especially I have had impressed upon me the necessity of studying living material in its native habitat. One may poke around among dried specimens for a lifetime and never really know some things with which he thinks he is familiar.

California is the home of Lupinus, a fascinating genus when studied in the field, but the real characters have never been brought out. I have descriptions of perhaps 30 of them, made from living plants, and some day hope to say something about them in print.

Very sincerely

A. A. Heller.



Heller, Amos Arthur. 1906. "Heller, Amos Arthur Aug. 6, 1906." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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