

Philadelphia, Sept. 28th 1836

Dear Sir,

I have finished the selection of Grasses for Trinius, and have been enabled, I believe, to supply all the desiderata on your list, with the exception of Muhlenberg's species, which you know belong to the American Philosophical Society. — In many instances, the specimen being unique, it was only practicable to send flowers. — I have added several species which happened to come to hand during the selection, making the whole number ^{seventy} ~~just~~, but I think I have sent no Nondescripts. — Some suggestions occurred, which should they prove well founded, you might communicate to Trinius as they are not mentioned in the letter. —

Eriopis virginica — cf. E. schoenoides

Panicum cenchroides — a very strange grass, more like Cenchrus than Panicum, perhaps a new Genus; but I did not examine the flowers (the only portion I was able to send)
"Calamagrostis confinis Nutt" — The name only given by Nutt. from Willd. & there is nothing to answer to it in his herbarium

Atheropogon oligostachyum — cf. Spartina!

Agilops hystrix. — cf. Elymus! — which I think occurred to us jointly on examination. — We have several undescribed North American species of Elymus.

Rotboellia campestris Nutt — same apparently from N. Carolina by Schweinitz.

"Melica racemosa Muhl" — If my memory serves me, this is wanting in Muhl's herbarium; but there is a specimen in Schweinitz's, which may afford a clue to it. — cf. Festuca nutans Ph. & whether the latter is given by Muhl.

Hordeum pusillum Nutt. — same from Southern Atlantic States; also from Norfolk or Wilmington by Dr Darlington. —

Poa glauca Nutt. — cf. Uniola n.s. of Torrey, in R. mtn plants.

Hierochloa pauciflora Brown. — ~~needs comparison~~ The specimen sent to Schweinitz, seems to be the same with the true Hierochloa alpina, found on the White Mts. & in Lapland &c. —

Agrostis rupestris Auct. — White Mts.

Panicum hispidum (Cylindriacus) — Salt-marsh about 9 miles from Boston — rare. with me & prob. unknown to other New England Botanists. —

Danthonia striata (Avena striata Mx.). The White Mountain species seems different from that from New York State (the Trisetum purpurascens, Torrey) though closely allied. — no specimens have been sent to Trinius. —

Holcus! alpinus (Aira alpina. Auct.) — same from White Mts. & same from Norway, through Schweinitz, under the name of "Aira atropurpurea."

Oxydenia attenuata Nutt. — Nothing to do with the Eleusine filiformis of our Southern Botanists, or of Moort; though possibly of the same genus? ^{of the Tropics, or}

Aira montana Auct. — The three-flowered Aira! of the White Mountains — where however, the A. flexuosa is infinitely more common.

I have just run over the Plums & Cherries in the Herbarium, & send a few suggestions, without having time to consult books for priority or descriptions.

1. Prunus pubescens. M. (P. littoralis Bw), the Beach-Plum of the Sea-Coast of the Northern & Middle States. - A specimen from Muhlenberg under the name of P. pygmaea. - of also P. maritima Wray. - the best name.

2. P. hiemalis. The wild red-Plum of the interior of Penns. & which I have heard of on the Penobscot (the same as P. Americana Darl.), the leaves are coarsely serrate & there is a constant tendency to a long serrated acumination - what is P. acuminata Mx?

3. P. chicasa. - The leaves finely serrated, the flowers small & on short peduncles - Raf. has perhaps the same ^{or P. pinnata} from N. Jersey - but it needs more careful comparison.

4. P.? "an hirsutius Ell." - "Montgomery & L." (N.C.?) per Schweinitz. - We have perhaps the same from Arkansas as "Prunus n. sp" from Nuttall. - but neither specimens have flower or fruit.

1. Cerasus Caroliniana

2. C. virginiana Mx. f. -

3. C. obovata or serotina of some - like the preceding, but serratures of leaves more acuminate & fruit red (The Choke Cherry of Bw.) - grows 20 feet high - principally in the north, but Short has sent it from Kentucky.

4. C. of Rafinesque from Washington Square - brought by Lewis & Clarke.

5. C. nigra? of Hook? - I have only seen specimens from Schweinitz, labelled "Bethlehem" - It has a coarse Diospyroid serrated leaf, with sometimes three or four glands on the petiole - The fruit is in racemes, but almost as large as a Beach-plum - from the leaf indeed one would take it for a Plum.

6. C. pumila - of also P. depressa Descript. - A Northern species, which I have found near Boston & which we have from Long's Exped. to L. Superior &c. - My plant was a shrub about ~~four~~ ^{three} feet high, & I have never seen the ripe fruit - the leaves vary much apparently with age 

7. Cerasus borealis Mx. f.

8. C. ramosus Baldw. ^{ms.} from East Florida - not very strongly marked, but probably a good species - approaching in its leaves C. borealis - Baldwin's specimens are poor, but Mr. Read brought a good specimen from St. Augustine. - All have flowers only & I am not able to say whether it is a Cherry or Plum.

I will take back all I said in my former letter about the Garden Cherry - but I have not examined the question of the distinction of the two Genera.



Dickerson, Mahlon. 1836. "Pickering, Charles Sep. 28, 1836." *Charles Pickering letters* –.

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