

Amund May 8.

Columbus Ohio - April 20th - 61

My Dear Sir - I have at last the pleasure of hearing from you, in yours of the 6th inst. -

First I must express my regrets for your eyes - I have been in the same predicament for the last 5 or 8 weeks - my eyes were so much affected that the microscope had to be laid aside - but by the application of tepid water, a very moderate use of them, and no doctoring! They are now nearly well. -

about the plants. - 1st The Carex. - you ask "can it be a hybrid between *C. putericens* & *C. gracillima*" - the same thing has frequently occurred to me. - But I still think it is a distinct species. I found it in many different places, within the space of 10 acres, upon wet land (cleared of heavy timber within the last 5 or 6 years and never cultivated), growing among *C. putericens*, *C. gracillima* & a dozen other of our most common Carexes, which are always to ^{be} met with in such localities. - I am not aware that Carexes ever do hybridize - if such were their tendency I should suppose there would be frequent cases of it - they grow in such immense quantities together, intermixed among one another. - owing to the close resemblance of this to *C. puter.* & *C. gracill.* it might be easily overlooked. - plants of this kind have been but little attended to in the central parts of this

state, as far as I know, except what little I have done. — While on coins I will remark, that we have in the extensive barrens west of us, in such places where it certainly could not be introduced a corn, which has been named for me & I have peeled it off, as, *C. tetanica*, Skk.? — good & authentic specimens of *C. panicosa*, L. from near Boston Mts the only other N. Am. locality I have heard of, prove that ours is exactly the same. — May not Deasy's *C. tetanica*, Dill. Gr. V. 11. p. 312 be *C. panicosa*?

— 2^d — Sax.? *Sullivantic*. — On this, your suggestions are new to me. — It would be well, as *Saxifraga* is now^{so} large a genus, could DeCand's character "Spermodonium, ultra nucleum ovoidem non productum" be sustained. — But on this subject the books are deficient — inspection of the seed must determine the matter. — Sax.? *Sulliv.* has a perfectly 2 celled anther, a genuine *Saxifraga* capsule 2 celled — but the seed of *Leptanthera*, differs from either in the number of stamens. — about the dehiscence you remark "that Sax.? *Sulliv.* like *Leptanthera* opens its fruit by the whole length of the ventral suture of the (elongated) beaks or distinct part of the capsule" — don't all *Saxifragas* do so?

Sax. Virginicensis & *Sax. Pennsylvanica* certainly do. — further is the dehiscence of *Saxifraga* "opening by a roundish hole between the diverging beaks" Fl. p. 563 correct? — I have no doubt Sax.? *Sulliv.* can afford as good generic characters as are to be found in most of the related genera. — and on the subject of

making it a *Sullivantic* — if course I cannot refuse! — i.e. if you think it well it shall

— 3^d — The umbelliferous plant — the fruit was not mature — but I am strongly inclined to think that it was full grown, & that there would be no appreciable alteration at maturity, except perhaps that the ribs of the fruit might be a little plainer indicated. — have you examined it? — I shall try and settle the matter this season — though it is extremely rare — I have never been able to meet with more than 3 or 4 specimens, after repeated searches for it during the last two seasons. — you say "it is doubtless not a *Neurophyllum*" — I thought the genus as laid down in the Flora correct & pretty well — at least as well as usual. — you say *Neurophyllum* will probably be upset — why so? — is it the *Pseudanemum tomentosum* Nutt?

I'm sorry sent me a year or two since (among a lot of my rare southern plants for which I have have never thanked him enough) the *Pseudanemum tomentosum* Nutt. in flower only — The flower is about the same as in my plant, — that influenced me in referring mine. — your *Neurophyllum* & the *Pseudanemum tomentosum* appeared to be the same in every thing except the fruit. —

— I am glad to hear that Bridel & Declunius are on the way — now if we can have the same luck with Hedwig, Schwaegrichen, Rostk & Schmidt & Schimper, we will be pretty well set up in the Muscological line — I have a fancy to look into musps, which I mean to indulge some of these days when I get things ready — I hope Grunow's Musps & the papers of Louisiana are on the way. —

- Sprengel also. — Hübener Musco. Germ. which
you loaned me, you must charge to my acct or
order an other copy for me. — as soon as the navigation
opens I shall start a box of myos & the other plants
to you. — Is it not time to pack up the things you
have for me & leave them at the old place the
Baldwins 25 William St. — Don't fail to send me

PAID 29

Dr Asa Gray

(Care of Bridgman Torrey)

30. McDougal St.

New York

By mail the flora as soon as published. — It is hardly
probably that I shall be in N York this summer. — But
I have made special reckoning upon your spending some
time with us, when you make your Michigan trip this
summer. — about this there is to be no disappointment. — I shall
attend to your request concerning the Lindley reprint & will be
happy to have you in any way I can. — remember me to Dr Torrey from whom or
yourself I hope to hear soon — Believe me yours very truly W. S. Sullivan



Sullivant, William S. 1841. "Sullivant, William Apr 20, 1841." *William Starling Sullivant letters* –.

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