

Chas. Jan. 5.

St Louis Dec 10th 1846

My dear Doctor

yesterday I received your interesting letter, and answer
you directly. I would have written sooner but wanted to finish
Cuscuta & send it along. From your letter I see that there is no
haste necessary, as you only speak of appendix to Composite of
Flora, and nothing else, so I write here again before
sending the manuscript. This is done and would have been
sent if fortunately a letter from Luchtmann (Nov 19th) had
not reached me about a week ago, including ripe fruit of
what I had called before (in my letter to you of Octob 19th)
Cuscuta gamostyla. This is certainly the one mentioned by Dr
Wright, who describes the scales correctly but strange to say
does not mention the united style! - The strangest thing however
has to be told yet: The capsules open by circumscission!!
and the whole plant is very little different from *Cusc.*
monogyne!!! ^{but stigmas capitate, depressed!} what say you to that! It is not an
analogon in the american group, but it is its true
representative, and the ^{only} american *Cuscuta* with circumscissile
capsules!! - I confess it bothers me; I had
arranged the american *C.* in the genus *Lepidanche*: stigma
capitate, caps. not opening and the others in *Cuscuta*:
stigma elongate, caps. circumsciss - I am pondering and studying
now whether we should form a third genus: stigma ^{4 species:} *capitate*,
stigma abbreviate, caps. circumsciss: (our Texas, 2, both
in Europe & Asia, one in Afghanistan. Mr Hooker has already
more elongate stigmas) I have begun to study Hooker's
Herbarium very diligently now, and find more puzzles
in the east indian *C. reflexa* & *macrantha*, which

have styles partly united and stigmas elongate, acutish! And
— a new feature, the large corolla is deciduous! not remaining
on the capsule[†]. — There is a new type for a genus — and we
might form perhaps still more — or be forced to unite them
all! — These questions I would leave all till I had
studied all specimens in my hands — if I had not to
hurry a decision on account of Flora, let me know therefore
positively when you want it. It can be ready any
day, as soon as I decide about the genera. —
I have united several of my species: *neurypetala* & *hispidula* —
appressa & *compacta* — *pentagona* & *verrucosa* = *arvensis* Benth.
— Benth's *C. umbrosa* is according to original specimens — Berlin
from Georgia my *C. Coryli* — but I can not adopt Benth's name
— I could not unite *Gronovii* & *Saureri*, though they ought
to be perhaps — I can always distinguish them so easily
here, in the field as well as in the herbarium. —

† I have not seen ripe fruit, which is important; if it is
baccate, as Choisy says ^{ie. indehiscent} we have certainly a fourth genus,
but Choisy is no authority for me. Hooker describes *C. reflexa*
from specimens cult in Edinburgh[‡], in *flora exotica* t. 150
can you compare it? But I trouble your valuable
time too much. — *Cuscuta* is entirely analogous to
Convolvulus, if we allow the number of genera in *Convolvulus*,
we must with equal justice divide *Cuscuta*.

The Vienna & Munich collections have not yet reached me.
About *Cus. reflexa* & *macrantha* compare the Citat. — Choisy
monogr. or *DE podium*. As they have cultivated it in Edinburgh they
ought to know the ripe fruit. Edinb. phil. Journ Jan. 1825
p. 172. — Sw. Brit fl. gard t. 6. —

I know that I have copied the full labels of this year's
plants of Linckheim, but I do not recollect, whether I have
given you all the information I possess about those
of 1845 — let me know, if not, I must send it yet.

‡ This is according to the sp. in Hooker's not different from *C. grandiflora* Willd.
but a Canadian spec. in H. Herb. under the same name, is different — but
unfortunately very incomplete, whether the original description of Roxb. will
decide, I do not know. — Doubts of this kind, I fear, will come many.

2) I have sent to Wiley & Putnam in 1843 17 sets of
Jeyers Plants, and requested them in my letter of
August 26 1843 to sell them at \$6.00. If he delivered
to you 10 he can not have sent any? or at least
many to England. —

B. Can you tell me which *Cuscuta* Vahl meant in his *C. monogyne*?
There are two distinct species ^{under this name} *C. monogyne* from Silesia to the Altai,
and one other from Portugal, south of France, Caucasus to
Afghanistan. — If he meant the southern form, the northern
must retain the name *C. lupuliformis* of Krocken fl. Siles.

I doubt whether any sets were sent to England. I requested
them to sell them at 6 dollars, and they must deduct therefrom
their charges. I do not understand the letter, when the clerk
of W & P says: I have never informed us the price we were to
pay him for these sold. — Did they sell them at a higher
price than six dollars? They have sold 7 sets and
must know what they have got for it. — The price is
very low and if the charges are high, there will remain
very little for me! — — Enough of it, it was a bad
speculation! Means nothing.

I have in our Flora 3 genera of *Cuscuta*, the imported
Cuscuta Epilinum (*Epilina* is no genus at all)
Lepidanthus most of our species, and
— comprising the large Texan species, and *C. monogyne*.
The stigmas of the Texan form are depressed capitate, of *C. monogyne*,
both forms globose inclining to coarct, and in the affghan species
cylindrical! But they all belong together by every law of nature.
Nuttall says that in *Engelmannia* (*Lepidanthus*) the capsule opens at

top; but it is no real opening — though certainly a hole is found between the styles — but only a separation of both carpels at top, by which the upper part of the septum is divided, but the loculi never opened. — I have found the same in some European species.

I think we must maintain Richards Echinodorus, alter the character a little, and include all Alismae with carpellis capitatis, petalis imbricatis, nervibus costatis e.g. *A. natans*, *raucunculoides* etc. — *Alisma* would comprise only those carpellis verticillatis, nervibus dorso 2 carinatis — and *Sagittaria* is monocious or didymous and has nerves carinato-alatas. *Alisma* has 6 stam. *Echinodorus* 6 — 21 or indefinite, and *Sagittaria* indefinite.

I had sent to Prof Torrey my two new Cyperi, with the expectation that he either knew them or would describe them. As he does not appear to do it, I shall send you a name and description. You have already specimens; I have collected both now more abundantly.

But I write you a good many things which at this time can be of little interest to you.

Linckheim got Albert's note long after the army had left San Antonio, and concluded not to follow it, so late in the season, and I think he did right. He will go to the Mountains on the upper Gueadeloupe, if the Indians permit all next season, and expects a richer report of new things there than on the Rio Grande. — Are you aware, that in Bonn, Germany a society has been formed for the exploration of the nat. hist. of Texas, which will publish a large work, 5 members were to go to Texas this fall, & spend 3 years there. — We must keep ahead of them!

Very truly yours
J Engelmann



Engelmann, George. 1846. "Engelmann, George Dec. 20, 1846 [fragment]."
George Engelmann letters to Asa Gray

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