

Berkeley, Sept. 19, 1883

Dear Dr. Gray:-

I have now mailed you one more parcel, containing some things which must prove interesting.

The Sparganium I discovered two years ago, but could not obtain mature fruit, until now. I thought, meanwhile, that it might show itself a merely overgrown S. eurycarpum; but its fruits have a different shape. It must be the largest Sparganium known, for the longest leaves are 9 or 10. feet, and as I stood among the plants, some of the heads of fruit were borne upon a level with my eyes i.e., little less than 6 feet.

It seems to be very local.

I have detected no Sparganium anywhere else, in any marsh swading, except the little one that grows in water, in Donner Lake. I have a specimen for Dr. Engelmann, but some one has said he is in Europe, and I have not sent it.

I can not find that any one of the many synonyms of Minimus luteus was made for the plant I am now sending under a new name. I therefore trust M. moniliferus will hold. I sent you the same thing, years ago, and you must have it in abundance, for it is the commonest Minimus in the Sierras. You called it luteus, though we without having seen the tubers, I

perceived it was not that.
 Its corolla alone will clearly
 distinguish it. The limb
 thereof has hardly any perceptible
 irregularity, and is nearly rotate.
 The long tube is characterized
 by a pair of neat folds ^{outside & underside}, which
 are conspicuous in even the
 dried specimen. The plant
 is nearer M. moschatum than
 to M. luteum, yet is distinct
 enough from that.

Astragalus Clevelandi I published
 a year ago; but I had sent it
 to you, under the name "melilotoides,"
~~lyrae~~, not having thought to look
 and see that there was an Old World
 species, sailing under that name.
 Mr. C. got but one specimen, &
 that, in flower only, you already
 possess; but now you have
 it nicely fruiting.

I confidently trust you will, after seeing the specimens, now sent, have no objection to my Leucophylla congesta. I would add that the plant yields a very strong, bad odor of cucumber vines! L. ramosissima is scentless.

Hernizonia hazulifolia & H. Clevelandi grow intermixed up there, just as you see them. I find that the latter species has, what I thought I detected in Cleveland's freshly dried specimens, a sweet balsamic odor, very unlike the musty smell of the former.

Sidalcea. I have long felt sure that the smooth, pale, sea-greenish one of the Sierras is distinct from S. humilis, and yet, of the latter I still possess no fruit to compare.

Mrs. Austin's plant is clearly new; the corolla well marked.

You must tell me if I am
wrong in calling that
Pentstemon P. Lemmonii.

Aplopappus undulatus, near A.
inuloides + A. creceus.

Astragalus claviformis. I do not-
feel sure that this is not the A.
asquiflorus of Mr. Watson; but he
can tell.

I sent you, in the last parcel, a
"Helianthus Harknessii", against
which it was not strange you
should protest; for on going to
the original account of H. Bigelovii,
I discover that my plant must
be the very same. But what-
misled me is the fact that-
everything in the Cal. herbaria
that is called H. Bigelovii is a
plant of such very different aspect,

This common plant (of the mountains
and of the coast marshes) has glabrous
thin, non-decurrent leaves, and
is odorless. Its achenes too, have
a nice character, for they are
ribbed, as ⁱⁿ the true Bigelovii they
are not, and they are nearly destitute
of villosity, as those of the other are not:
so then the n. sp. should be the
commoner, mountain plant.

But alas! I find a Bolanderian
specimen from Yosemite, and
one of my own collecting at
summit which looks intermediate!
So I give up.

In the matter of my "Galium pumilus"
I had wholly overlooked the note
saying of G. Budrovii that 'it
has berries.

Now, I have done, for to-day.

As ever yours
E. L. Greene.



Greene, Edward Lee. 1883. "Greene, Edward L. Sept. 19, 1883." *Edward Lee Greene letters to Asa Gray*

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