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Clayville, N.S., Jan. 12/99

Dear Mr. Davenport,

Your letter together with

The enclosed & very nice specimens of Cheilanthes  
Pringlei arrived safely yesterday, & I am under  
many obligations for them. The fern is so brittle  
that I can imagine it would be difficult to  
make perfect specimens of it, altho' Mr. Pringle  
would succeed in doing so if any one could.

What you sent makes a very nice sheet in my  
herb<sup>um</sup>, & with your label attached I am very  
proud of it. I turned at once to your description  
& figure in the Torrey Bulletin & by means of  
them was enabled to understand the peculiar  
features of the species without trying my eyes  
by use of a glass. The species seems to be very distinct  
& beautiful.

I am a little curious to know  
where in the genus you would rank it. The Fern Bull<sup>et</sup>  
list puts it next to C. Californica. Heller's more recent  
list places it between Parishii & tomentosae. On the  
other hand, Baker's "New Ferns" gives it as "24 star", which  
means nearest to 24 in the Synop. Fil. Now 24 is



C. viscosa Klf., a species that I do not know, which stands next to C. hirta, but under which Baker ranks C. leucopoda. I can see but little resemblance between this last & C. Pringlei. My ferns are arranged & numbered after the arrangement in Syn. Fil., so of course I have numbered C. Pringlei as 24<sup>th</sup>, but am not satisfied with its position there. Should be glad to learn your opinion on the subject, inasmuch as your description does not indicate what you consider to be its affiliations.

I am sending with this a little pkge containing specimens of my new variety of Adiantum which I trust may prove acceptable.

Hope you will send me a copy of anything you may publish on the Botrychium question, if you have any to spare.

With kindest regards, believe me

Very sincerely Yours

B. D. Gilbert

Don't deplete a nice specimen of C. fibrillosa to send to me. I can wait - perhaps you may get it again from some other source.



Gilbert, Benjamin Davis. 1899. "Gilbert, Benjamin D. Jan. 12, 1899." *George Edward Davenport correspondence*

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