

Gray Herbarium



Harvard University

B. L. ROBINSON, Curator,
Asa Gray Prof. Syst. Bot.
M. L. FERNALD,
Fisher Prof. Nat. Hist. (Bot.)
MARY A. DAY, Librarian

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A.

May 31, 1919.

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The notes enclosed on a separate sheet answer, I think, the questions you raised, particularly regarding some of the specimens you recently kindly sent us. All the material was worth-while and we thank you for it.

Now as to some questions you put in your letter of the 17th inst. I should consult the Canadian Geological Survey reports for the information you desire about British Columbia. I have never been there but I heard a man lecture on the country not long ago and I gained the impression that the valley between the ranges was of the typical sagebrush-desert type.

Osmaronia was proposed by Greene in 1891 as a substitute for Nuttallia T. & G. because there were earlier Nuttallias. None, of these, however, are really valid, so T. & G.'s use of the name for the rosaceous tree may stand.

Holodiscus I consider a good genus. But the Henry is rather conservative at times, as in this instance, his work on the whole is certainly refreshing. Long life to him; his little flora is far above the average.

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CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A.

MARY A. DAY, Librarian
Fishes, Forest, Nat. Hist. (Bot.)
M. J. FERNALD,
Asst. Gray Herb. Syst. Bot.
B. J. ROBINSON, Curator

May 31, 1919.

I have read with interest your revised plans for the summer and think your decision is wise. I hope I no longer need to mention that I trust we'll share in the "loot"!

Your next letter is awaited, as ever, with interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Francis Macbride
by H.M.B.

Now as to some questions you put in your letter of the 17th inst. I should consult the Canadian Geological Survey reports for the information you desire about British Columbia. I have never been there but I heard a man lecture on the country not long ago and I gained the impression that the valley between the ranges was of the typical sagebrush-desert type.

Gammaronia was proposed by Greene in 1891 as a substitute for Nuttallia T. & G. because there were earlier Nuttallia. None, of these, however, are really valid, so T. & G.'s use of the name for the roseaceous tree may stand. Holodiscus I consider a good genus. But the

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- 2527 I have not found a reference to the fact that the flowers of this are ever white. Erysinum asperum sometimes has white flowers. Probably only an albino state but possibly rare here.
- 2501 I think this is wonderfully attractive.
- 2500 Trillium is notorious for variations of this sort and botanical literature is filled with records of these.
- 2507 This seems to be C. tenella. The limitations of this species and C. grandiflora are not as well-understood in the region where their ranges meet as they should be.
- 2534 Lathyrus sphaerius Retz.? Native of Greece and Italy. Probably this but mature fruit is necessary before we can be certain because several closely related species are distinguishable only by the character of the seeds. Secure fruit. Apparently a brand new introduction!
- 2502 O.K.; and mighty glad to have it as an introduction.
- 2504 Rather S. fragosa Suksd. of Oregon & Wash. S. californica seems to be confined to central California and the very similar has even more open inflorescence and more definitely crenate leaves.