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*About the Institute*

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

318 N. First St. #1  
College Station, Texas 77840

April 22, 1971

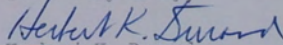
Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
Casa Popenoe  
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I recall having read that you are presently interested in temperate fruit crops, such as peaches, in the Central American tropics.

I am a horticultural technician working for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service while completing requirements for the Masters Degree in Horticulture. Our research is primarily controlled crosses, breeding and selection, of peaches with a lower chilling requirement suitable for lower Gulf Coast U.S.A. My thesis will involve analysing past data on the effect of thermo-periodicity in the breaking of dormancy. I would especially like to know more about the chilling response on peaches in Colonia Tovar, Venezuela. Assuming you are already familiar with the peach crop there, would you be able to assist me in certain questions I will in future have to know about the chilling response of peaches in sub-tropical and tropical areas? My thesis work will begin this summer.

Yours very truly,

  
Herbert K. Durand

318 N. First St. #1  
College Station, Texas 77843  
February 26, 1972

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
Antigua, Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thank you for the reference to Antonio Molina for Vaccinium seeds, as I am sure he will be familiar with the plant.

I mentioned to Dr. Hollis H. Bowen that you would like to have budwood of peach selection A-1-70. He said he would be glad to send budwood, but alas it is too late to send dormant budwood since in College station this selection is blooming and leafing out about mid-January! So we will have to wait now until about May or June when the current season growth will have differentiated vegetative buds. I will try to get this to you before I leave in June following presentation of the thesis. If for some reason I should fail personally to attend to it during the "rush" in late May, please do not hesitate to request the budwood from:

Dr. Hollis H. Bowen  
Assistant Professor of Soil & Crop Sciences  
Horticulture Section  
Plant Science Building  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, Texas 77843

I am going to ask Dr. Bowen to send you a reprint of his presentation last year at Gainesville, which describes this selection and our breeding program here.

Yours very truly,

  
Herbert K. Durand

2815 Bammel Lane  
Houston, Texas 77006  
September 14, 1973

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I would appreciate your assistance in obtaining some fruit samples of Vaccinium in Guatemala. Some collections in the New York Botanical Garden herbarium are:

Vaccinium confertum

Dept. of Totonicapan; along the road between San Francisco El Alto and Momostenango, alt. 2220-3000 m.

Dept. of Huehuetenango. Sierra de los Cuchumatanes: between Chemal and San Juan Ixcay; about 3140 m. alt.

Dept. of Totonicapan. Forest floor of Maria Tecun.

Dept. of Huehuetenango. Chemal, Sierra Cuchumatanes to San Juan Ixcay. Alt. 3500 m.

Vaccinium gemmiflorum

Dept. Huehuetenango, bet. Tojquia and Caxin bluff, alt. 3700 m.

Other spp. occur widely in Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua and therefore may also occur in Guatemala:

V. consanguineum

V. caespitosum

V. haematinum

V. hondurensis

V. possumum

Also I would very much like to get large fruited cherries of the so-called Capulin, Prunus serotina or perhaps other domesticated cherries with a low chilling requirement that may be suitable for the mild winter Gulf Coastal Plain.

How is your peach work coming along and did you receive the package of budsticks of peach A-1-70?

Yours truly,

*Herbert K. Durand*  
Herbert K. Durand

Antigua, Guatemala 19 Sept 1973

Dr Herbert K Durand  
2815 Bammel Lane  
Houston, Texas 77006

Dear Doctor Durand:

I have just received your letter of the 14th instant. It seems to me I wrote you a year or more ago about that Vaccinium business. I am no longer doing any collecting in the field and the only person who might be able to get fruit samples of local species would be Antonio Molina, who collects for the Field Museum under the direction of Dr Lois O. Williams of that Institution. There is no local botanist here in Guatemala whom I believe could get material for you, but Dr Williams keeps Antonio Molina in the field a large part of the time, collecting for the Field Museum and Escuela Agrícola Panamericana where we have a fine herbarium which was developed under the direction of Dr Williams.

As for the capulin cherries, some 18 or 20 years ago we brought to Honduras and Guatemala seeds of the large-fruited variety which I described in the Journal of Heredity many years ago. This has been in production at Escuela Agrícola Panamericana and at Quezaltenango here in Guatemala, and at neither place have the fruits proved to any better than the local forms which appear every year in our markets here and which I have seen so abundantly in Mexico.

We are coming along well with the peaches from Florida but it seems

bearing life. Florawon which was the first one we tried, started off beautifully but practically stopped bearing after two three crops and the only man here who had a small orchard of it dug them all out a few months ago. I wrote Ralph Sharpe about this problem and he says they are beginning to fear, in Florida, that some of these new hybrids are not going to remain on bearing more than 6 to 8 years. Another problem: We have been growing quite a few trees of Okinawa for seed and they bear good crops every year but the fruits contain no viable seeds - no kernels, that is. Most everyone has gone back to using the small native peach as a rootstock. There appears to be a nematode problem here but it does not seem to be severe as yet. What is bothering us is that all large-sized peaches, which includes the "canning clings" of which we have many seedlings in the country, are not producing good crops. The only grafted orchard in the country, now about 10 years old, is bearing very little fruit. As you know, we can do nothing with the "canning clings" from California or varieties such as Elberta and Georgia Belle.

We are making fine progress with pears on *Pyrus calleryana* stock, but are not clear as to the identity of several of the varieties which have done well here. Bartlett seems to need the most chilling of all. We have several Oriental hybrids from Tennessee which look very promising. One of them we think is Dr. Drain's Avres which according to him was a cross - 3/4 Anjou and 1/4 Gerber. It is a fine pear at 7000 feet.

Cordially yours,