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5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
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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.



INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE CIENCIAS AGRICOLAS DE LA O.E.A.

DIRECCION DEL PROYECTO 39

PROGRAMA DE COOPERACION TECNICA

OFICINAS:
Nuevo Edificio Steinworth
Cuarto piso - Oficina No. 29
SAN JOSE - COSTA RICA

TELEFONO: 6582

APARTADO: 4359

CABLES: AGROEA

July 2, 1959

Mr. Paul H. Allen
Research Department
United Fruit Company
LA LIMA, HONDURAS

Dear Paul:

Thanks for your very interesting letter of June 25th and for having taken the time to go over the specimens.

Tasaico's 21 is still unknown. Terminalia lucida is common at La Selva in Sarapiquí and I know that well. Apparently, we also have your T. bucidoides although it is not common and I know of only two individuals. HTT 21 has an interesting bark, vertically, but not deeply furrowed or ridged, quite distinct from the major number of tropical trees. In looking at the tree, I can't place it at all, and it was only in looking at the dried specimen that I thought of Clethra. I will try to pick up the fruits later which may be more enlightening.

Your notes on the Quararibea are of real interest. It all makes good sense. I will try also to get the fruits of that so that sometime you can check with your 3729.

You may as well hold the specimens as I have duplicates anyway. Perhaps you will find some time to go on with trees, as I would dislike very much to think that you will be lost to dendrology for very long. At any rate, it is good to hear that you will continue in the same region and perhaps we will have a chance to get together or exchange ideas once in a while.

With best wishes and thanks again for your help,

Sincerely,

L. R. Holdriege
Forester & Ecologist Project 39
Technical Cooperation Program
O. A. S.

LRH:vp.-

Zamorano, Honduras
June 25, 1959

Dr. L. R. Holdridge
Apartado 4359
San Jose, Costa Rica

Dear Dr. Holdridge:

Your extremely interesting packet of specimens came to hand three or four days ago, when I was still in the midst of the check list of the trees of El Salvador, which had to be given preference if it was to be delivered on schedule at the end of this month. I have now had a chance to examine the individual species, and must report some rather surprising conclusions, which you may be in a position to refute, having had a personal acquaintance with the trees in the field.

We may dispose first of Ormosia Schippii, which is not represented in our herbarium, but which seems to match the description in the Flora of Guatemala perfectly, so that I would accept its identity as such without question. The HTT 21, collected by Humberto Tasaico, I feel must be of juvenile leaves and imperfect inflorescence strands of nothing more nor less than Terminalia lucida, which it matches very closely. None of our Clethras look anything like it, and it does not seem to me that the flowers, such as they are, are characteristic of that genus, as I know it.

The real bombshell is presented by the "Basilloxylon", which seems to be a second collection, and the first in flower, of a presumably undescribed species of Quararibea, of the type frequently kept separate under the name of Matisia. Your leaves match my No. 3729, from the rainy hills north of El Valle de Anton, in Panama, almost exactly, but the comparison ends there, since my specimens were in fruit. Flowers proved to be very different from Schumann's drawings in the Flora Brasiliensis, and it was some time before I succeeded in tracing them to the Bombacaceae. This entity, if both flowers and fruits represent the same thing, and there certainly is every evidence that they do, is probably undescribed, and certainly new to Central America, but is fairly close to the well known "Matisia" cordata that is so commonly grown for its indifferent fruits, which are frequently offered for sale in the Bogota market.

I will hold these specimens for further study, or return them to you, as you wish, but would suggest that you may be likely to have a better opportunity to do something with them than myself, since I am to return to the United Fruit Company next month, to be in charge of the collection at Lancetilla, and to undertake the introduction of wild Musas from the far east, as part of a major breeding program. This promises to be an interesting and stimulating assignment, but it will probably spell the end of my dendrological efforts for a long time to come.

With most sincere regards,

Paul H. Allen



INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE CIENCIAS AGRICOLAS DE LA O.E.A.

DIRECCION DEL PROYECTO 39

PROGRAMA DE COOPERACION TECNICA

OFICINAS:
Nuevo Edificio Steinworth
Cuarto piso - Oficina No. 29
SAN JOSE - COSTA RICA

June 17, 1959

TELEFONO: 6582

APARTADO: 4359

CABLES: AGROEA

Mr. Paul Allen
C/o Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
ZAMORANO, HONDURAS -

Dear Paul:

Just saw Dr. Popence last week and during our conversation he mentioned that you were at Zamorano for a few weeks. Thus I thought I would send you a sheet of Basiloxylon with flowers which you wanted to see. They as well as the leaves were collected from the ground.

The three numbers sent are as follows:

LRH 5087 Basiloxylon - Tree 70' tall 18" DBH. Petals cream-colored. Collected at San Miguel de Sarapiquí. Elev. 550 m. March 1959.

LRH 5088 Ormosia Schippii Pierce (apparently) (Seeds and fruits which I have seen coincide with the description in Flora Guatemala.) - Tree 50' tall 15" DBH. Petals light purple. Sarapiquí River valley. Elev. 150 m. May 30, 1959.

HTT 21 - This is a tree at the farm near the house which I would like to have identified. It might be a Clethra although the tree doesn't look like the usual C. lanata. The student Humberto Tasaico collected it last year, but I have thrown in a few recemes found on the ground recently.

Hope everything is going well with you and the family on your project.

With best personal regards,

L. R. Holdridge
Forester & Ecologist Project 39
Technical Cooperation Program
O. A. S.

LRH:vp.-

San Salvador
March 11, 1959

Dear Les:

Your report of Basiloxylon near San Miguel tends to confirm the Atlantic, and ultimately Amazonian origins of the Golfo Dulce rain forest flora. It would be nice if you could get some flowering specimens. I have never seen flowers of this genus, and haven't much idea what they would be like.

Things run along well here, within the limits possible for so short an assignment, which will be over at the end of this coming June. We are now more or less in the stage of photographing common, conspicuous, or otherwise important species, characteristic associations at various elevations, and getting ready for another session at Zamorano for the identification of about a thousand specimens that have pretty well filled up my available storage space.

As things stand at present, we have a basic list of native and introduced trees for the country of about 350 species, up from the approximately 480 given in Standley & Calderon's "Lista Preliminar" with which you are doubtless familiar. Some of these have been collected during my stay here, but many have been added from records cited in the Flora of Guatemala, or from unidentified material that I found here in the herbaria at Santa Tecla and the Instituto de Investigaciones Tropicales, so that the increase sounds rather more impressive than my own efforts would have produced.

I had a chance for a little chat with Jorge Leon during his visit to the country, and found that he, in common with most traditional botanists, can't see anything in our approach, or understand the necessity for it. I'm afraid a whole new generation is going to have to come along before the system will be very much used or appreciated. I just hope we can keep from starving to death, in the interval!

It would be pleasant to have you near enough to talk things over, from time to time, since our interests are so similar. There is a remote, but by no means certain possibility that we may be in Costa Rica by about November or December of this year, but I would hope that your travels might bring you our way sooner.

With most sincere regards,

Paul H. Allen



INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE CIENCIAS AGRICOLAS DE LA O.E.A.

DIRECCION DEL PROYECTO 39

PROGRAMA DE COOPERACION TECNICA

OFICINAS:
Nuevo Edificio Steinvorh
Cuarto piso - Oficina No. 29
SAN JOSE - COSTA RICA

4 March, 1959

TELEFONO: 6582

APARTADO: 4359 Mr. & Mrs. Paul H. Allen
c/o El Centro Nacional de Agronomía
CABLES: AGROEA Santa Tecla, El Salvador

Dear Paul and Dorothy:

Your lovely seasons greeting card has just arrived, even though posted there the 15th of December, and I appreciate the remembrance.

Incidentally, I just saw Saturday on the way back from Sarapiquí a tree in flower down in a deep ravine near San Miguel which looked very much like Basiloxylon. The flowers were cream colored and through glasses showed clearly what are probably the projecting lobes of the stamen column, well above the petals or perianth.

If this is so, that is one more species to add to the list of those from the tropical wet forest with the interesting distribution in both SW and NE Costa Rica. The others which I have found on the farm are Inga corruscans, Sloanea laurifolia and Pithecolobium macradentum.

Here everthing goes well and I hope you are finding the assignment there of interest.

With best personal wishes,

Sincerely,

L. R. Holdridge
Forester & Ecologist
Technical Cooperation Program
O.A.S.

LRH:ms

February 3, 1958

Dr. L. R. Holdridge
Forester and Ecologist
OAS Technical Cooperation Program
Apartado 4359
San Jose, Costa Rica

Dear Les:

Anyone who has attempted to use Record & Hess's admittedly fine Timbers of the New World in the field will welcome the news that you have a manual on general dendrology in the works for Latin America. Just why someone hasn't undertaken so obviously useful a project long since escapes me, but you are in a uniquely favorable position to do it.

If you feel that any of the preliminary keys that you now have (such as that on the digitately compound leaved trees) is far enough along to warrant publication, we would feel honored to have it, since even in a slightly imperfect state it would be of immeasurable aid to field workers throughout Central America.

I hardly know what to tell you about prospects for my attendance at Turrialba during your next scholastic year. Dr. Paddock is not slightly interested in any of the natural sciences, and strongly discourages the idea of having me take more training in forest ecology. This has reached the point where he has been frank enough to say that he will grant me a leave of absence to take additional training in almost ANYTHING but that, but that I will have to resign to go to Turrialba.

While this is, and has been my principal interest for some years, as you know, and while I do have a project for Panama in a very advanced state of completion, I don't have any prospect of support in that field and hesitate to simply cut myself off from a good, if somewhat routine job unless I can see a little more clearly just where such a move might lead.

If you have any reason to suppose that I might be able to wangle support for the completion of the Panama project, after finishing my work with you, I would like to hear about it. I manage to get the impression that about the only ones interested in forest ecology are thee & me, but maybe you have better contacts.

Present prospects are that I will be in Salvador in early April,

working on a botanical chore for their Ministry of Agriculture in relation to the floral peculiarities that they have discovered there in Simarouba glauca, which they exploit as a source of edible oil. I expect to go there on the 12th of this month to get the program started, but can't expect to stay very long until after our graduation in early March.

You may be sure that any comments or suggestions would be greatly appreciated. I want to complete my Panama project, but I also have to eat, to put it bluntly. Vamos a ver.

Most sincerely,

Paul H. Allen



INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE CIENCIAS AGRICOLAS DE LA O.E.A.

DIRECCION DEL PROYECTO 39

PROGRAMA DE COOPERACION TECNICA

OFICINAS:
Nuevo Edificio Steinworth
Cuarto piso - Oficina No. 29
SAN JOSE - COSTA RICA

10 January, 1958

TELEFONO: 6582

APARTADO: 4359

CABLES: AGROEA

Mr. Paul Allen, Editor "Ceiba"
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras, C. A.

Dear Paul:

Thanks for your kind letter of January 2 and your encouragement on the dendrological work. I appreciate also the extra copies of Ceiba which have just arrived.

As for further work on keys, I hope to do that with time. Actually, I have the keys for the digitately compound leaved trees (not including trifoliolate) and the opposite-pinnate-leaved trees fairly well developed. However, one cannot tie a key together until he has all the species available, and I may not be able to finish these sections until I get to some herbaria late this year.

You may be interested to know that I have committed myself to doing a book on general dendrology for Latin America, which is a heavy task. This would aim especially at getting out to the correct family. From there on, I figure that non-taxonomists would be able to use botanical floras to get out to species until more dendrological books for local regions such as yours for Golfo Dulce are developed. This is personal information about which I would prefer the least publicity possible at the present time. I have set up my outline and have written enough to appreciate the remaining job ahead.

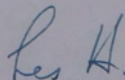
Although, I had hoped to hit that hard during 1958, several other assignments involving travel had turned up and will slow up the process.

Knowing your own interests and your considerable contributions to date to our dendrological knowledge of Costa Rica, I would like to make it perfectly clear that any work of mine on keys is not intended to discourage further work of yours in this country. As a matter of fact, I would welcome and hope that you will go right ahead. I was rather looking ahead to the possibility of your being here this year taking on some dendrological project for a thesis. There seems to be enough work ahead here to keep several technicians busy for several years.

I may get up to Zamorano in early April when we take our students up through Central America. Budowski and I leave Monday the 13th for 2 weeks in Bocas del Toro, Panama where we hope to get better acquainted with the forest.

Was pleased to hear that you had been accepted at the Institute and will be interested to know if you plan to come in June.

With best personal wishes,



L. R. Holdridge
Forester & Ecologist
Technical Cooperation Program
O. A. S.

LRH:ms

January 2, 1958

Dr. L. R. Holdridge
Project 39
San Jose, Costa Rica

Dear Les:

This is just a note to let you know how much I have enjoyed working on your recent fine contribution to our latest issue of Ceiba. This is exactly the sort of thing that I had hoped to do myself for the entire Republic of Costa Rica, and I most sincerely hope that you will find the time to prepare similar keys to other groups having conspicuous vegetative characters. It would seem to me that another very logical group might be those species having digitately compound leaves, or perhaps even the considerably larger assemblage in which the leaves are once-pinnate. This last would require quite a bit of careful work, but I believe it could be done.

As you probably already know, a copy of the latest Ceiba went off to you via air mail a day or two ago, and I am today packing up a batch of 25 additional copies, which will follow by regular mail at a somewhat slower rate. If you would like to have more, we will supply them at cost, whatever that is.

With most sincere regards,

Paul H. Allen
Editor



INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE CIENCIAS AGRICOLAS DE LA O.E.A.

DIRECCION DEL PROYECTO 39

PROGRAMA DE COOPERACION TECNICA

OFICINAS:
Nuevo Edificio Steinworth
Cuarto piso - Oficina No. 29
SAN JOSE - COSTA RICA

November 18, 1957

TELEFONO: 6582

APARTADO: 4359

CABLES: AGROEA

Mr. Paul H. Allen
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Apartado 93
TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS

Dear Paul:

Re yours of the 12th, I had sent my article previously so that I will await your specific comments. Meanwhile I will look around for any interesting photographs that might go with the paper just in case. Your package of reprints moved through the office last week and proceeded to Turrielba. Today, I go there and will find out about the response of the Admission's Committee.

Now, as for your question of acceptance for Ph.D. with an M.A. but without a B.S. or A.B., we have no case exactly of this nature as a precedent. Our master's has been accepted towards a doctorate at Wisconsin, Yale and at least two other places, but in each case these men also had been through a University. Actually, Budowski, now in the process of getting his Ph.D. at Yale, did not get his Ing. Agr. degree in Venezuela, due to not having complied with the thesis requirement there. He had no problem at Yale and completed his course requirements in one year. We also know of the case of Jorge León who received a Ph.D. at St. Louis without having had either a university degree or a master's degree.

As far as I know, in all American education a step attained automatically cancels out the need for having proof of taking a pre-previous step. Thus, one can take eighth grade work, having completed the seventh grade whether or not one actually went through the sixth grade. In my estimation, the U.S. university has no problem in accepting you for a Ph.D. if you have a masters. Turrielba is the point where the real problem arises. As I intimated before, we have to be sure that you have really attained the master degree status in order to protect the school's reputation. That was why I mentioned the possibility of your having to fill up adequately any vacuuae in undergraduate training. This in my interpretation does not mean that you must have all university courses, but that your general knowledge will equal that of the university student also. Experience or personal study of the literature will have covered many of these in your case but there may be some points that you will have to dig into further.

Mr. Paul H. Allen

Page 2

November 18, 1957

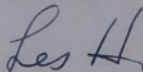
This would be aimed at protecting you, not so much for the general Ph.D. requirements of U.S. schools, but from being loaded down with special requirements by your doctoral committee. When they give the preliminary examination, they roam widely with questions through the University undergraduate fields and I knew of a case at Michigan where a Ph.D. candidate in Botany was made to go back and take Botany I. He still went right on with his Ph.D. work, but such a course meant spending a good deal of extra time on a no-credit but necessary course.

I personally admire you for tackling the whole problem at this stage, and also feel that you have the background and ability to lick the problem in a reasonable period. Our problem, if it is decided that the Institute can take a chance on you, is not so much to run you through a given set of courses, but to help you attain the status of Master, from which point you would be on a par with any other master's degree men heading for a Ph.D.

We will be letting you know very soon as I expect the decision will be made this week at the Institute.

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Sincerely,



L. R. Holdridge
Forester & Ecologist Project 39
Technical Cooperation Program
O. A. S.

LRH:vp.-



INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE CIENCIAS AGRICOLAS DE LA O.E.A.

DIRECCION DEL PROYECTO 39
PROGRAMA DE COOPERACION TECNICA

OFICINAS:
Nuevo Edificio Steinvorth
Cuarto piso - Oficina No. 29
SAN JOSE - COSTA RICA

November 14, 1957

TELEFONO: 6582
APARTADO: 4359
CABLES: AGROEA

Mr. Paul H. Allen
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Apartado 93
TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS

Dear Paul:

.... Have just put the last information on the species of the key together and am sending this along for your examination. Because you have indicated a need for moving this fast, I have taken the liberty of sending the key as mimeographed, edited somewhat, but not recopied.

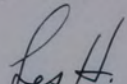
Given time also I could have looked up two points which at the moment I am sending along incomplete. These points concern the acarandas. For J. lasiogyne, I cannot find in my own library the range of the species. If you happen to know that would you please fill it in. If not then we should drop out the whole sentence concerning its total distribution.

Also, in rechecking, I cannot relocate my notes which led me to insert J. acutifolia for the commonly planted species here. Since Standley listed that as J. filicifolia in the Flora of C.R. perhaps that is more correct. Again if you or Molina happen to know which name is correct I would appreciate editing to that extent.

Sorry to trouble you with those points. I hope you find the added notes worthwhile. They not only provide a safety factor for the key i.e. permitting cross-checking with geographical location in the country but also give me a chance to insert some new distribution notes such as the extensions of range of P. macradenium and P. pseudo-tamarindus.

Incidentally, if you permit requests for reprints, I would like to have 30 to 50, and would be glad to pay for any extra expense involved.

Sincerely,


L. R. Holdridge

Forester and Ecologist

LRH:vp.-
Encl.: ✓

November 12, 1957

Dr. L. R. Holdridge
Forester and Ecologist
O.A.S. Technical Cooperation Program
San Jose, Costa Rica

Dear Les:

It would seem to me that your plan to add supplementary notes on size, distribution etc. to your key would greatly increase its usefulness to field personnel and make it a truly outstanding contribution. We will be glad to take anything on the subject up to about ten thousand words and would welcome a limited number of good photographs, if you have them, which will be used insofar as our budget permits. This should be a fine thing, and I am looking forward to seeing it.

It has occurred to me that it might make location of the Taca packet sent to your Registrar a little easier on all counts if you had the Air Waybill number, which is 202-40166. This is mostly a batch of reprints, but includes a copy of my mimeographed "Preliminary Index to the Timber Woods of Panama" which may be of some interest. This is shockingly incomplete, as you will note, but is still about the only thing of any length that has ever been compiled for the entire country.

Since some question has been raised here as to the acceptance of a Magister Agriculturae degree in the United States as a pre-requisite for Doctoral studies, if not backed by an earned A.B. or B.S., I would like to have your considered opinion on the subject, in view of the rather direct bearing that it has on our ultimate objective. If I'm going to have to go back and take a B.S. in any case, I might as well get it out of the way first, before coming to Turrialba.

If all of the above sounds slightly muddled, it will simply reflect the widely differing opinions that we have received from varied sources. Since you have been through the mill yourself, you should be uniquely qualified to judge what our chances might be at the Yale School of Forestry, Cornell or Michigan, if I were to decide to try for a PHD after finishing my work with you. You may be sure that any comments or suggestions will be most deeply appreciated,

Most sincerely,

Paul H. Allen



INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE CIENCIAS AGRICOLAS DE LA O.E.A.

DIRECCION DEL PROYECTO 39

PROGRAMA DE COOPERACION TECNICA

OFICINAS:
Nuevo Edificio Steinvorth
Cuarto piso - Oficina No. 29
SAN JOSE - COSTA RICA

November 8, 1957

TELEFONO: 6582

APARTADO: 4359

CABLES: AGROEA

Mr. Paul H. Allen
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
C. A.

Dear Paul,

I was extremely pleased with your last letter and look forward to the future possibility of many pleasant sessions together. So far reception to the idea of your coming here has been favorable, but at Turrialba this week they had received only a slip from TACA advising of your material. More on that subsequently.

I am working now and should get to you next week supplementary material to go with the key. Even before your letter, I had decided that such would be my contribution to Ceiba rather than the notes on teaching dendrology.

Plans now are to give you an introduction to the key followed first by the key and then by notes on the species. Such notes are not botanical descriptions but occasionally do add data to help support the key. Primarily, though, I wanted to give an idea of size, of distribution within the country and total range plus comments on classification of certain species or groups wherever that seems desirable or helpful. I figured that descriptions and notes on uses are adequately covered in other sources. The main idea throughout is to back up the key and help anyone get out correctly to the technical name of the species.

Whether this will coincide with your own ideas on space available in the next number is up to you. So I will send it along soon for your reaction.

Sincerely,

L. R. Holdridge
Forester & Ecologist
Technical Cooperation Program
O. A. S.

LRH:ms

October 30, 1957

Dr. L. R. Holdridge
Forester & Ecologist
O.A.S. Technical Cooperation Program
Apartado 4359, San Jose
Costa Rica

Dear Les:

My mortal acts, in recent time, such as the composition of the present epistle, tend to be governed by lulls in our more or less constant state of controlled crisis, compounded of arrivals and departures of assorted VIPs, absences of key personnel, failures of vital equipment, examinations, changes in the weather, and other inappropriately termed Acts of God, but I trust that my brief sketch of what might be described as the human condition will be sufficiently familiar to you to need no amplification. To come to the point, I at long last decided, after protracted nail biting, to fill in one of your standard Solicitudes, in spite of varied, and to the orthodox probably glaring lacunae. This, together with a more or less representative batch of reprints went forward to the office of your Registrar today, via Taca, and should be received in due course.

This move would have been taken long ago, had it not been for a number of quite serious obstacles, including the normal pressure of a fairly active life, a lamentable lack of cash, the conviction that most undergraduate schools had little to offer in the way of courses that would further my principal interests, and finally, that I had too little in the way of published material to hope to start much above the basement level. Shaw, in one of his borrowings from classic literature exhausts the ironic aspects of the young man who yearned to play the harp, but whose training began with mathematics, but I suppose we must be prepared to face up to a certain amount of that sort of thing in return for the unquestioned benefits.

Every individual who has broadened his education on his own must have many moments of serious misgivings, but I suspect, from talks with others, that this is a pretty general phenomenon.

There is no question in my mind that I would profit tremendously from a personal contact with Budowski and yourself, since your course is so completely to the point and because of my strong interest in the plants of the region. I would expect to modernize and improve my field technique, broaden my acquaintance with

your rich highland forests and with the literature, bring my ecological terminology up to date, and in general pick your collective brains.

My last formal classes, in which I was on the receiving rather than the delivering end, date back to 1936, so that I expect to have a tough row to hoe, at least in many subjects, and may find it best, as you have indicated, to take supplementary courses at the University of Costa Rica.

This, like pretty much everything else in life is something of a gamble, and I may fall flat on my face in the process, but I expect to gain a great deal from it in any event and return here better fitted for my job.

Since this, if approved, will mean asking for a leave of absence from the Escuela Agricola for at least a year and possibly longer, I would like to have your calculated opinion, as soon as possible as to the general prospects of my acceptance, so as to give Dr. Paddock ample time to line up someone to take over my classes and other duties.

One more point, and I will seek my downy couch for the night. Can you let me have an introductory paragraph or two for your key to the pinnate-leaved trees of Costa Rica in time to get it into this issue of Ceiba? We hope to have this in the mails before the end of the year, and would like to use your material if at all possible.

Most sincerely,

Paul H. Allen



PROYECTO 39, PROGRAMA DE COOPERACION TECNICA

Oficina Central - San José, Costa Rica. Teléfono 6582, Apartado 4359, Cables "PROTEC"

INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE CIENCIAS AGRICOLAS

21 October, 1957

Mr. Paul H. Allen
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Apartado 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Paul,

Thanks for your two letters of October 7 and 8 clearing up the question on "Ceiba" and giving me encouragement on the key.

Your last letter is quite thought-provoking and although I asked Smith to send along some application blanks, I wanted to give the idea a few days thought.

Needless to say my first reaction was enthusiastic as it would be a real pleasure to have you with us. The big question is as to how much credit can be given for your work and studies at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

You do, of course, represent a very special case. You have a great deal of experience in certain fields and therein, your work and published articles have been on the doctoral level. Still from the academic point of view there must be certain gaps wherein you are weak, unless you have done personal studies in such fields. If you were admitted as a candidate for a degree, it might be necessary for you to cover certain of such gaps even to the extent, if necessary, of sitting in on certain courses in the University of Costa Rica.

Looking at the question now without benefit of full information, I am going to try in my own blunt way to present my point of view. First, if you feel that you have earned already the Master's degree and could breeze through our requirements with little trouble, then I am afraid that Turrialba would not be the place for you. If, as I would hope, you want our Master's degree as a stepping-stone towards a subsequent doctoral degree in some other place, then we could very likely work out a program satisfactory to all parties concerned and you would obtain a degree which would have real meaning. This might

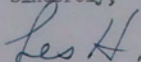
21 October, 1957

mean somewhat more time than normal for the Master's, but then the degree would stand up.

However, there is no need now to discuss details. The first step is to get in your application and data for the Admission's Committee to study and pass on. If that is favorable, then we can consider a program, the time involved and give you more specific information on costs.

With best personal wishes,

Sincerely,



L. R. Holdridge
Forester and Ecologist
Technical Cooperation Program
of the O.A.S.

October 7, 1957

Dr. L. R. Holdridge
Forester & Ecologist Project 39
Apartado 4359
San Jose, Costa Rica

Dear Les:

Needless to say, I am delighted to hear that you have something definite in mind that you would be willing to let us have for Ceiba. Your subject seems to me to be a particularly happy one, since nothing of the sort has come to my attention. I should judge that it would be well received, and probably influence quite a number of people, which should be, by and large, our objective.

My impression is that you are entirely too modest about your key. No work of the sort is ever 101% perfect, and I certainly have no illusions that any of my own things of the sort are, yet each bit is a step in the right direction, and of help to others who are in far worse shape, in regard to useful information than you are. I doubt if Hemsley or Seemann were naive enough to suppose that their Biologia was complete, yet the world would have been poorer without it.

Our files of Ceiba are not easily available to me at this hour (nine P.M.) but I will check the lot and send you the parts that you lack tomorrow.

At the moment I have some proof back for the next issue of our journal, but I would welcome more in the way of manuscript, since what I have now will not print up to much more than 20 pages. My hope is to dress the thing up a bit by using a slick photographic cover and as many illustrations as our budget will permit, so if you can favor us with a photo or drawing or two we would be glad to have them.

Dorothy, at the moment, is slaving away at a drawing of Olmed-
iella Betschleriana which occurs in our cloud forest on Uyuca as a tree 120 ft. in height, which I would not have believed if I had not seen it myself, being something of a doubting Thomas. She joins me in warmest regards to you & yours, and to our friends at Turrialba.

As ever,

Trak



INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE CIENCIAS AGRICOLAS DE LA O.E.A.

DIRECCION DEL PROYECTO 39

PROGRAMA DE COOPERACION TECNICA

OFICINAS:
Nuevo Edificio Steinworth
Cuarto piso - Oficina No. 29
SAN JOSE - COSTA RICA

October 3, 1957

TELEFONO: 6582

APARTADO: 4359

CABLES: AGROEA

Mr. Paul H. Allen
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Apartado 93
TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS

Dear Paul:

Your letter of Sept. 16 brings excellent news re the revival of "Ceiba". I like it very much and consider it an excellent journal.

As for an article on the key alone, I am afraid that it still has too many "bugs" in it and I need to do considerable more field checking. A single variant specimen or a few plants from one locality gives rise to separations which sometimes are not valid for the species as a whole.

However, I have been thinking of an article based on several years experience of teaching dendrology which might be made of interest and might well bring in the key as an example rather than as a technical contribution to stand on its own feet. If you think a writeup on teaching dendrology in the tropics would be of interest, I think I could pull it together in the next two months. As you know, we have forestry students from all over Latin America, so that the challenge of developing methods to give them all something practical and useful at the same time has meant the devising of a course quite distinct from a U.S.A. university course.

Incidentally, I have held up the binding of my 5th volume of Ceiba because I have not yet received the Table of Contents and the Index. Was that put out by chance and I have missed receiving it or is it still to be done?

Hope everything is going well with you and the school at Zamorano. With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Les H
L. R. Holdridge
Forester & Ecologist Project 39
Technical Cooperation Program
O. A. S.

LRH:vp.-

September 16, 1957

Dr. L. R. Holdridge, Head
Renewable Resources Services, O.E.A.
Apartado 4359
San Jose, Costa Rica

Dear Les:

As you may have gathered, via the well-known tropical grape vine, we hope to revive CEIBA in the near future, preferably before the end of the year, and in consequence need good manuscripts bad, as the saying is.

It may be possible that you are otherwise committed in regard to place of publication for the various phases of your work, but if this is not the case, we would feel greatly honored to have you as a (I hope) regular contributor.

At the moment we can use articles on any phase of tropical American agriculture, horticulture, forestry or botany, which can be either in English or Spanish, and of any length up to perhaps ten thousand words. Illustrations, either in the form of line drawings or clear black-and-white photographs are welcomed, and will be used insofar as our budget permits.

It has occurred to me that you might be willing to write an introductory section, to accompany your recent and excellent key to the pinnate-leaved trees of Costa Rica, and let us run it as a sort of trial balloon. I think you would be gratified at the interest shown in such a thing, and it would serve to further a pet interest of my own.

In any event, I hope that this may appeal to you, and that we may hope to have something from your able pen in the near future.

With most sincere regards,

Paul H. Allen



PROYECTO 39, PROGRAMA DE COOPERACION TECNICA

Oficina Central - San José, Costa Rica. Teléfono 6582, Apartado 4359, Cables "PROTEC"

INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE CIENCIAS AGRICOLAS 27 May, 1957

Mr. Paul Allen
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
Zamorano, Honduras

Dear Paul:

I would like to get a description of Pithecolobium glanduligerum which you found in S. W. Costa Rica so that I can work it into a key I have been developing. I checked with Molina but apparently the species has not yet been published. Could you help me out on that?

Attached is the key, I have made for the tripinnate and bipinnate-leaved trees of Costa Rica. You will note that I have been conservative in maintaining Pithecolobium arboreum. In the case of Albizzia filicina, I feel quite sure that it is nothing more than Albizzia carbonaria. However, I am not trying to enter the taxonomic field but only clarify identification for the practicing forester.

I believe you would be interested to know that I am finding some of your southwestern trees on my place at Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí. This confirms my ecological discussion of the distinctiveness of the Tropical Wet Forest in the two opposite corners of Costa Rica. Some examples are Inga coruscans, Sloanea laurifolia and Pithecolobium macradenium.

Was sorry to have missed you during my visit to Zamorano in April and hope you had a pleasant vacation on the north. Your comments on this trial key would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

L. R. Holdridge
Forester and Ecologist
Technical Cooperation Program
O. A. S.

Encl:
LRH:ms

July 24, 1956

Dr. L. R. Holdridge, Head
Renewable Resources Services, O.E.A.
Apartado 4359
San Jose, Costa Rica

Dear Les:

Your request for a copy of the Golfo Dulce rain forest opus has been with me for nearly two months, and I can only offer as an excuse that a new, considerably amplified version has been in press for some time, and has been expected here almost daily.

The original, mimeographed version has been exhausted for several years.

Day before yesterday an authors copy of the new job reached me by air mail, and I suppose other copies will follow soon, since I have asked that a few be sent via TAN airlines for distribution to yourself and other interested individuals.

As you know, this project had a long and discouraging history, and our support was cut off before we were able to realize our original objective, but I hope at least that it may serve as a stepping stone for someone to produce something better.

Many thanks for the reprints, which cover material poorly represented in my files. If you do anything more of the sort, I would greatly appreciate having my name added to your regular mailing list.

With most sincere regards,


Paul H. Allen



PROYECTO 39, PROGRAMA DE COOPERACION TECNICA

Oficina Central - San José, Costa Rica. Teléfono 6582, Apartado 4359, Cables "PROTEC"

INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE CIENCIAS AGRICOLAS

May 23, 1956

Dr. Paul H. Allen
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
ZAMORANO, HONDURAS
C. A. -

Dear Paul,

In discussion with Louis Williams recently, we discussed your work on the trees of Costa Rica and he asked me if I had one of the mimeographed copies of your work. This actually was the first time that I had heard of a mimeographed number.

Although I am hoping that your publication will come out soon in final form, any material such as your mimeographed copy would be of tremendous help in our dendrological instruction here. Thus, I would very much appreciate your sending me one or two of your mimeographed copies on the commercial trees of Costa Rica.

At the moment, I don't have much to offer in return, but I am sending under separate cover two separate reprints of mine on forestry.

Hope everything is going well with you and with best personal wishes,

Sincerely,

L. R. Holdridge, Head
Renewable Resources Services

LRH:vp.-