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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.

JOHNSON, I. M. From Fogg

March 22, 1951

Dr. Ivan M. Johnston,
Associate Director,
The Arnold Arboretum,
Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts

Dear Ivan:

One of the men in our Department of Chemistry has asked whether I could help him to locate an area in which Lithospermum ruderale is abundant. He wants to do some work on an active chemical principle in this species, has an idea that it grows in Nevada and would desire fifteen or twenty pounds of material in bulk with which to conduct his experiments.

In the first place, I do not know what this species is, unless runderale is a synonym of pilosum. Hence I am turning to you first to find out the correct name of this plant, and second to ask you to suggest, if you can, where it grows in abundance and who might be asked to collect it in quantity. I have thought of writing to Billings at Reno but first I wanted to be sure that we were on the right track with respect to the plant which my chemical friend is calling L. ruderale.

I shall be grateful for any information which you can give me in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JAMAICA PLAIN 30, MASS., U.S.A.

April 10, 1951

Professor John M. Fogg, Jr.
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania

Dear Fogg:

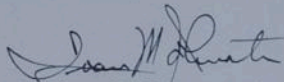
Sorry to have been delayed so long in answering your letter concerning Lithospermum ruderale. My work keeps me pretty closely tied to the Arboretum, and it is rarely nowadays that I can get to the Gray Herbarium for study there. Before I could answer your note I had to go over the large collections of Lithospermum which I have built up at the Gray over the years. I was able to do so last evening.

I would suggest that you get in contact with Ownby or Cronquist at the State College, Pullman, Washington, or with some botanist at Missoula, Montana, or with anyone you know in southern Idaho. Lithospermum seems to be widely distributed and ~~probably~~ common from eastern Washington and Oregon, east across southern Idaho and adjacent Nevada and Utah, and into western Colorado and southwestern Montana. If I were looking for the plant, I would attempt to get it from eastern Washington. As you suggested in your letter, ruderale and pilosum are synonymous. The species is a very distinct one, and I am sure that any botanist with even a general familiarity with the local flora should be able to collect the plant for you. Should you wish it, I would be very glad to have a list of localities drawn up for you. Personally, however, I am inclined to think that, if you get Cronquist or Ownby helping you, you will have no difficulty in getting a bale of the plant in short order.

I have only one request. As you know, I am very interested in the borages, not only in their classification but in all matters concerning them; if your friend gets enough of the Lithospermum for analysis, please do tell him that I would love to have a reprint of the paper he publishes concerning it.

Hoping all goes well with you, and with best regards,

Yours sincerely



Ivan M. Johnston, Associate Director
Supervisor of the Herbarium
and Library

IMJ:U

June 4, 1951

Dr. Ivan M. Johnston,
Associate Director,
The Arnold Arboretum,
Harvard University,
Jamaica Plain 30, Mass.

Dear Ivan:

I hope you will forgive my long delay in acknowledging your letter of April 10th concerning Lithospermum pilosum. I am indebted to you for your helpful suggestions and have written to Ombey at Pullman to see whether he can secure material for us.

You may be sure that if any publications result from this work, I shall see to it that you are supplied with copies.

With best wishes and warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany