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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.

GATES, B.N.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Agriculture

41 Tremont Street, Boston 8

February 11, 1948

Dr. John N. Fogg, Jr.
University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, Penn.

Dear Sir:

Recently in considering a project which I have in process, with Mr. Charles A. Weatherby at the Gray Herbarium, he suggested that you may have ready or would be willing to send me the data. He told me of your intensive study of the plants of Pennsylvania. At Clark University incidentally, I am interested in a similar but much smaller study of the flora of Worcester County, Massachusetts, with Dr. David Potter. Our Herbarium, the Hadwen Herbarium, has now about 21,000 sheets, a fourth to a third of what may be available.

My project for this Department is to map the distribution of *Clethra alnifolia*. The reason for doing it is a study of the source of nectar, a beekeeping problem. This plant occurs in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut in sufficient masses to yield a surplus of honey. The beekeepers have asked, where else does *Clethra* grow. It is my hope to prepare a good picture.

Accordingly, if it is not too great a task, please give me the distribution as shown from your herbarium sheets, not alone for Pennsylvania, but elsewhere? As yet I have no notion how far inland this plant grows. In Massachusetts it appears that it may grow seventy-five to one hundred miles west from Boston. Perhaps you may have some record which will suggest the trend.

Please do not consider this request should it consume too much time. I hope I may reciprocate in some way for you. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Burton W. Gates.

Chief Apiary Inspector

BNG:MEC

P.S. Since I am not regularly in the Boston office at this season, you may reply to my home 24 Charlotte St. Worcester 3.

B.N.G.

from Fogg

March 5, 1948

Dr. Burton N. Gates,
24 Charlotte Street,
Worcester 3, Massachusetts.

Dear Dr. Gates:

I am sorry to have taken so long to reply to your letter of February 11th, but my administrative duties have of late been unusually heavy and not until yesterday did I have an opportunity to check for you the distribution of Glethra alnifolia in our herbarium.

I find that we have specimens of this species ranging from York County, Maine, to Clarendon County, South Carolina. Our largest representation, of course, is from New Jersey, and we have almost a complete pigeonhole of specimens from that State. As might be expected, the species largely parallels the coast, although, as I shall indicate below, we have a few specimens inland.

First, let me give you the distribution of this plant in Pennsylvania, since that is the region with which I am most familiar. Our records show that, as might be expected, the species is concentrated along the low-lying strip of coastal plain, sands and gravels just east of the Fall Line in Bucks and Delaware Counties. In this region the plant usually grows associated with other typical coastal plain species. What is slightly surprising, however, is to note that we have collections from the following counties which lie between the Fall Line and the Appalachian Mountain front. Specifically, these counties are Pike, Monroe, Northampton and Lehigh. The Pike and Monroe County specimens are from an altitude of approximately eight or nine hundred feet. I can find no collection in our State or elsewhere from over a thousand feet in altitude.

Outside Pennsylvania we have specimens of Glethra alnifolia from the following localities:

- Maine
 - York County
- New Hampshire
 - Locality undecipherable
- Massachusetts
 - Norfolk, Middlesex, Barnstable, Dukes

March 5, 1948

Connecticut
New London, Tolland

New York
Ulster

New Jersey
All the counties lying on the Coastal Plain, plus
Mercer and Union

Delaware
Kent, Sussex

Maryland
Talbot, Somerset

Virginia
Accomac, Hansemond, Northampton, Norfolk

North Carolina
Duplin, Moore, Bladen

South Carolina
Williamsburg, Clarendon

I am sure that the plant occurs also in Georgia and Florida,
but unfortunately we have no specimens to substantiate it.

If I can find an opportunity to check the collections at
the Academy of Natural Sciences in the near future, I shall do so and
pass on any additional records which I may find there.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Professor of Botany.

CLARK UNIVERSITY
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

March 11, 1948

Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.
Professor of Botany
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

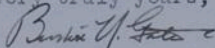
Dear Doctor Fogg:

Your letter of March 5 is greatly appreciated. This is a material addition to the range of *Clethra*.

You may not realize what you may encounter at the Academy of Natural Sciences, because Mr. Neal has written me that there are, in that herbarium, between 200 and 300 sheets, as I recall. I had asked for a listing of these but Mr. Neal says he is without assistance and may not be able to undertake the task at present. Ultimately I shall hope to have these data. These, with your listing of Pennsylvania and adjacent states, are exceedingly important. You may be interested to know that the Smithsonian reported *Clethra* from Texas, which is an extension beyond the already reported Florida habitat. Where am I going to look for the listing of collections in the southern states, as Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, etc.? There must be some collections somewhere. Should you have a suggestion it will be valued. As yet I have no collection record north of Maine. Apparently, therefore, the limits of the distribution are becoming established. How far inland it extends, however, is not yet certain.

Your assistance, as I have said, is greatly appreciated. I hope you will not inconvenience yourself in regard to the Academy sheets unless that should not consume too much of your time. If you should find a focus of a number of collections in a given county, the number of collections might be indicative of the prevalence in that locality. That information might be worthy of record. For instance, in Worcester County we have specimens from practically every township in the county, which is a very good example of the extent and prevalence of *Clethra* in this region. Having been found in the northern townships in the county indicates that it apparently extends beyond Massachusetts into New Hampshire and Vermont. How far inland, however, is yet to be determined. Again, many thanks for your co-operation.

Very truly yours,


Burton N. Gates

CLARK UNIVERSITY
WORCESTER 3, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

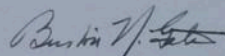
March 15, 1948

Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.
Department of Botany
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Doctor Fogg:

On March 11, in my letter, I inadvertently mentioned Mr. Neale in connection with the Philadelphia Academy. Mr. Neale is curator of the herbarium of the Connecticut Botany Society at Yale. I should have mentioned Mr. Bayard Long, of the Philadelphia Academy.

Yours very truly,



Burton M. Gates

BNG/lkg

March 22, 1948

Dr. Burton N. Gates,
24 Charlotte Street,
Worcester 3, Massachusetts.

Dear Dr. Gates:

On Saturday morning I found myself at the Academy of Natural Sciences with half an hour to spare, so I looked up for you the material of Clethra alnifolia, as I had promised to do. I find that in addition to the counties which I had reported from our own collection, the Academy has specimens from the following:

New Hampshire
Mason (county ?)

Massachusetts
Plymouth Co.

Rhode Island
Newport Co.

New York
Putnam Co.
Suffolk "

New Jersey: In addition to the Coastal Plain counties:
Warren Co.
Bergen "
Morris "
Middlesex Co.

Pennsylvania: I have already reported on the distribution within this state and the only additional information at the Academy is on a specimen from Pike County with the statement that it was collected near Mud Pond at an altitude of 1,300 feet. I had previously stated that there was no locality within the state from over a thousand feet in altitude.

Maryland
Cecil Co.
Kent "
Queen Anne Co.

Dr. B. N. Gates

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March 22, 1948

Virginia

Hanover Co.
 Gloucester Co.
 Henrico Co.
 Princess Anne Co.

North Carolina

Jackson Co.

Georgia

Appling Co.
 Wayne "
 Camden "
 Ware "

Florida

Jefferson Co.

Alabama

Mobile Co.

Also, I found a sheet from the Porter Herbarium collected by Dr. Leavenworth in Arkansas, with no locality given.

I think that what Mr. Long had reference to was the fact that there are a couple of hundred sheets of Clethra in the local herbarium of the Philadelphia Botanical Club, which includes all of southern New Jersey as well as southeastern Pennsylvania. It is true that it would be a chore to record the data on every sheet, but since the counties are all covered by what I have given you from our own herbarium, with the exception of the few which I have noted above, this collection would really add nothing significant to the distributional picture of the species.

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany.

CLARK UNIVERSITY
WORCESTER 3, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

March 30, 1948

Dr. John N. Fogg, Jr.
Botany Department
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 4, Penn.

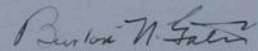
Dear Doctor Fogg:

Your further letter of March 22 concerning *Clethra alnifolia* is here. I am duly appreciative; furthermore, I hope this caused you no inconvenience as there was a mass of material.

Your information as to altitude where *Clethra* has been found is particularly valuable to me because these references are the only ones I have yet obtained. In Worcester County, this state, I know of its growing at about 900 ft. but I am yet to check higher altitudes where it may be found.

Your reference to the sheet collected by Dr. Leavenworth in Arkansas, now in the Porter Herbarium, is a surprise. I have had no reference to its occurrence in that locality. The distribution becomes more and more interesting!

Very truly yours,



Burton N. Gates, Ph.D.

BNG/lkg

CLARK UNIVERSITY
WORCESTER 3, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

September 25, 1948

Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Dr. Fogg:

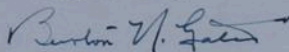
The distribution of *Clethra alnifolia* has shaped up considerable and has been traced all the way to Oklahoma, where we are not yet able to establish that the plant occurs. There are inferences and verbal reports of it on the coastal plain in that State.

You may recall on March 22 you wrote me "I found a sheet from the Porter Herbarium collected by Dr. Leavenworth in Arkansas with no locality given." This information I sent to Dr. Delzie Demaree of the Arkansas State College. He has just written me an important suggestion after having told me that he has no record of *Clethra alnifolia* having been found in his State. Concerning the sheet from the Porter Herbarium, he says, "no doubt (that is, referring to the Arkansas sheet you reported) was from Arkansas territory which extended into a large part of what is now Oklahoma. I have many records of such. Many of the old collectors came through Oklahoma into Arkansas before the States were fixed." Accordingly, if this Arkansas sheet, from the Porter Herbarium, can be established by date, town, locality, or any other means as of Oklahoma, it will be the first record of a collection in Oklahoma. Is Dr. Leavenworth known as a plant collector; is there any record of his collecting trips? Where is his herbarium? It might be possible to establish the station by some means.

When you look up Dr. Leavenworth's sheet, will you send me a full transcription of the label, in order that I may refer this to Dr. Demaree?

This is not alone of interest to me but to the botanists in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Sincerely yours,



Burton N. Gates

BNG:FLH

October 8, 1948

Dr. Burton N. Gates,
 Department of Biology,
 Clark University,
 Worcester 3, Mass.

Dear Dr. Gates:

Since the Leavenworth specimen of Clethra alnifolia is one which I had looked up for you at the Academy of Natural Sciences, I took occasion yesterday to visit the Academy for the purpose of re-examining it. Unfortunately there is practically no additional information to report. The label, which is merely a piece of blue letter paper, bears the following statement - "Clethra alnifolia L. Arkansas. Dr. Leavenworth." The name of the species is in a handwriting which I can identify with a fair degree of certainty as that of Thomas C. Porter, and on the herbarium sheet is the Academy rubber stamp, indicating that this specimen was part of the Porter Herbarium. The words "Arkansas" and "Dr. Leavenworth" are in a different handwriting and one which I do not recognize, nor is it familiar to Dr. Francis Pennell, Curator of the Academy's Herbarium, to whom I showed it. Both of us, however, doubt that it is in Leavenworth's own hand, and this seems logical since he probably would not refer to himself on a label as "Dr. Leavenworth."

I am sorry that I cannot give you more information about the scene of Leavenworth's activities. His dates are 1796-1862, and according to Dr. Pennell, much of his collecting was done in the vicinity of Shreveport. Pennell himself feels that the specimen in question might possibly have come from southern Arkansas where several Coastal Plain species are known to occur. If you desire more information concerning the area covered by Leavenworth, I would suggest that you get in touch with the Librarian at the New York Botanical Garden, asking her to look him up in the very extensive biographical file of American botanists compiled by Dr. Barnhart.

For my own part, I should like to utter a word of warning. During the course of my studies on the Pennsylvania Flora I have examined thousands of specimens from the Porter Herbarium. Many of them before they were mounted. In numerous cases I have found two or more specimens on the same paper with the labels

October 8, 1948

loosely or not at all attached. There is always, of course, the possibility of transposing labels when specimens are mounted and it is my own feeling that some of the errors in Porter's Flora of Pennsylvania, brought out by his nephew, John K. Small, in 1903, derive from this circumstance. I have therefore been forced on a number of occasions to ignore a Porter specimen entirely rather than perpetuate what seemed to me an ambiguity. By this I do not mean that it is not possible for the present specimen to be collected in Arkansas but until some more definite evidence is forthcoming, I should personally be inclined to disregard it in any statement of range which you may be formulating.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Professor of Botany.

CLARK UNIVERSITY
WORCESTER 3, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

October 16, 1948

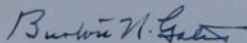
Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.
Professor of Botany
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Dr. Fogg:

Your letter of October 8 again is exceedingly helpful. There remains no doubt in my mind that Dr. Leavenworth's collection of *Clethra alnifolia*, as you found it in the Porter Herbarium, should not be considered, at least as yet, in the distribution picture of this species. Lacking even a date of collection may make it impossible to trace the specimen with certainty. Moreover, there is the uncertainty, which you mention, concerning the possible transposition of collection data.

Please accept my thanks for your careful interpretation of this sheet.

Sincerely yours,



Burton N. Gates

BNG:FLH