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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.

Woodson, Robert E., Jr.

from Fogg

December 5, 1946

Dr. Robert E. Woodson, Jr.,
Assistant Curator of Herbarium,
Missouri Botanical Garden,
2315 Tower Grove Avenue,
St. Louis 10, Missouri.

Dear Bob:

Wherry has turned over to me your letter of November 27th requesting a loan of our material of Asclepias, excluding A. tuberosa, from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. We are getting this material ready for you and it will go forward within a few days. We have a great deal of material on loan at present and may have to wait until one of our regular shipping cartons is returned. At the time of shipment I shall drop you a card notifying you of the number of sheets included in our sending.

I am delighted that you are going to look at this material and assume that you will annotate the sheets. I shall be interested to know what you think of a specimen of A. phytolaccoides which I collected several years ago in northern New Jersey. It has extremely broad leaves with a tendency to a cordate base, and has always struck me as being something worthy of a little scrutiny. Since, however, I have been so busily occupied with Pennsylvania plants for the last few years, I have never gotten back to having a look at it.

I should also like very much to know whether you would be willing some time to look at our Apocynum. I know you have seen some of the material but we have been adding so voluminously to the Herbarium in the last few years, especially in connection with our study of the State Flora, that there is quite an accumulation which I would like very much to have you examine.

With best wishes and warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 5567

December 11, 1946

Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.
Office of the Vice-Provost
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania

Dear Jack:

I was awfully glad to get your letter of December 5th because I had not heard from you for so long.

I shall be very happy to examine your material of *Asclepias* when you can send it and I shall be willing to look at your *Apocynum* too. Notice the difference of the verbs that I use. I loathe *Apocynum*. I always have. The genetic situation must be extremely complicated in the genus and I still do not know how to cope with it by the usual taxonomic methods.

If you must send me the *Apocynum*, of course, I shall be awfully glad to give you the dubious benefit of my opinion concerning them, but I shall have to keep your loan a little bit longer if you send the two genera at the same time. On the other hand I shall be able to return the *Asclepias* in almost incredible speed.

I hope you are going to be at Boston for the meetings because I am planning to be there too and may get to see you.

With best regards.

Very truly yours,



Robert E. Woodson, Jr.
Assistant Curator
of the Herbarium

REW:ts

January 23, 1947

Dr. Robert E. Woodson, Jr.,
Assistant Curator of Herbarium,
Missouri Botanical Garden,
2315 Tower Grove Avenue,
St. Louis 10, Missouri.

Dear Bob:

After much delay and several false starts, our material of Asclepias is at last on its way to you, or should be within a day or two. The first thing that happened was the coal strike, which put an embargo on all shipments. This was followed by the rush of the Christmas season during which time the express company was not willing to pick up any of our material. Since the holidays the drivers have staged an uprising of their own, but at last it looks as though we were going to be able to get things moving.

I am sending you, in two boxes, 510 mounted sheets from the states in which you are interested. Please feel free to make annotations so that we may have the benefit of your critical knowledge of this genus.

The way that I consistently missed you at the Boston meetings was little short of fantastic. Every few minutes, it seemed to me, I was asking someone "Have you seen Woodson?" and the answer was "Why yes, he just passed here a short time ago." I ended up by wondering whether you had grown a long beard so that I would not know you if I met you face to face.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany.

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 8587

January 27, 1947

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

Dear Jack:


The two boxes of *Asclepias* have just come. I haven't started unpacking them yet, but will get to it shortly, because this should finish my records for geographical distribution.

I was disappointed in not seeing you at Boston. I didn't arrive until Friday evening, and missed the taxonomy dinner and didn't get to a taxonomy meetings. But I went to the Gray twice. Where were you ?

Maybe you did see me without recognizing me. To paraphrase the poet, "I wnce was a beautiful doll, dears. . ." Et vous ? Maybe I shouldn't take it so hard.

I've been meaning to tell you that one of our young men in zoology was one of your students. Hampton Carson. He has many good things to say about you. We think a lot of him, too.

As ever,

Robert  Woodson, Jr.

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 5507

January 31, 1947.

Dear Jack:

This afternoon I am returning by prepaid express the loan of *Asclepias* recently received from you. They are a splendid collection, and I am very grateful to have been allowed to see them. I am returning the loan in its original packing.

As ever,

Bob

Robert E. Woodson, Jr.

from Fogg

February 11, 1947

Dr. Robert E. Woodson, Jr.,
Assistant Curator of Herbarium,
Missouri Botanical Garden,
2315 Tower Grove Avenue,
St. Louis 10, Missouri.

Dear Bob:

The *Asclepias* have come home again and I have just spent a pleasant hour or two in going over the sheets which you have kindly annotated. I am glad that you had an opportunity to see this material and hope that the distributional records which you may have secured have been partial reward for your labors in making a critical examination of our specimens.

I recall what you said about being willing, though not eager, to study our *Apocynum*. Frankly, we have so much material "on the road" at present that it would be some time in the natural course of events before this could be sent to you anyway. I may, however, at some later date take advantage of your kindness to the extent of forwarding you our representation of this genus. I should be particularly glad to have your interpretation of the varieties of *A. cannabinum*.

With best wishes and warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany

to Fagg

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 5567

April 2, 1947

Dear Jack:

I have just been over in the herbarium looking for *Polygonum perfoliatum*. Of course we have several hundred of them from North America and I didn't scrutinize them separately. However there is no folder for *P. perfoliatum*, nor do Palmer and Steyermark mention it, so I assume that you have a find in York Co.

Polygonums are bad enough in gardens as it is; here's hoping yours doesn't start on a rampage !

With best regards,



Robert E. Woodson, Jr.

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 5567

November 20, 1947

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

Dear Jack:

I would very much like to borrow for the use of one of my graduate students your herbarium material of *Asclepias incarnata* (including *pulchra*). The work that this chap is doing is along biometric lines and he would probably like to remove from occasional specimens a single leaf for measurement when the state of the specimen permits it. If you do not wish us to do this, just let us know and we will respect your wishes. In any event, however, we will be grateful for the loan of the material.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,



Robert E. Woodson, Jr.
Assistant Curator of
the Herbarium

REW/jwf

* have when packed down!

December 23, 1947

Dr. Robert E. Woodson, Jr.,
Assistant Curator of the Herbarium,
Missouri Botanical Garden,
2315 Tower Grove Avenue,
St. Louis 10, Missouri.

Dear Bob:

I am sorry to have taken so long to answer your letter of November 20th in which you request the loan of our material of Asclepias incarnata. We shall, of course, be happy to send this to you and shall do so immediately after the holidays when it is a little easier to secure cooperation from the express company.

With respect to the removal of an occasional leaf, I should be willing to leave this matter entirely to your judgment or that of your student. I am sure that you will exercise due caution in this regard and my guess is that in the great majority of specimens the loss of a single leaf will be negligible.

I wish I were going to see you in Chicago, but I am so busy here that there seems little chance of my getting away.

With best wishes for the coming holiday season and the hope that I may see something of you soon, I am

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany.

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 5567

February 25, 1948

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

Dear Jack:

I should have acknowledged long ago safe receipt of the 201 sheets of *Asclepias incarnata*. I had intended them for study by one of my graduate students, George K. Richardson, who was making a study along the lines of my recent fling with butterflyweed.

The last thing that George did at the Garden was to verify the account of your milkweeds. He died on February 13, having been struck two weeks previously with cancer. George was such a handsome, strapping, utterly winning fellow, and had such promise, and I had known him so long that I am still in a cloud. I am terribly busy, but I simply must try to finish his work for him. So if I am a bit slow in returning the loan, I hope you will understand and be indulgent.

As ever,

Robert E. Woodson, Jr.

February 27, 1948

Dr. Robert E. Woodson, Jr.,
Missouri Botanical Garden,
2315 Tower Grove Avenue,
St. Louis 10, Missouri.

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your note of the 25th. I am terribly sorry to learn about the untimely death of George Richardson. I did not know him but it is always tragic when a young man of promise is lost to us. Somehow we tend to accept the demise of older people, or even our own colleagues, but the unexpected death of a younger person, as Charles Darwin wrote to Asa Gray, seems such an unnecessary and futile thing that it is hard to reconcile oneself

You are certainly at liberty to keep the Asclepias as long as you want for we shall probably be doing nothing with that group for a good many months. Herb Wahl of Penn State is here again this term helping me with the Flora, but is so deeply immersed in the Composites that I expect he will have his hands full without looking for trouble elsewhere.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany.

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 5567

December 19, 1949

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

Dear Jack:

About a week ago, I finally returned to you the 201 specimens of *Asclepias* which you had lent to us nearly two years ago for study by my student, George Richardson. I am embarrassed not only for having kept the specimens for so long, but for not having written to you at the time the shipment was made. Of course, I had written to you why I was keeping the loan for so long, but you certainly wondered why the specimens had been returned without a covering letter.

Jack, I have just been all out of breath with unusual duties of all kinds. I hope that I will see you in New York, so that I can tell you a convincing story, with appropriate facial expressions!

As ever



Robert E. Woodson, Jr.
Curator of the Herbarium

REW/s

December 21, 1949

Dr. Robert E. Woodson, Jr.,
Curator of the Herbarium,
Missouri Botanical Garden,
2315 Tower Grove Avenue,
St. Louis 10, Missouri.

Dear Bob:

Thanks for your letter of the 19th. I had been meaning to write acknowledging the return of the *Asclepias* which arrived back in good condition a short time ago and which I greatly enjoyed going over before they were re-distributed. No apology is necessary for the amount of time involved in this loan since we were only too glad to have the material in your competent hands.

I shall indeed be at the meetings next week and look forward to seeing you. I recall the amazing regularity with which I missed making contact with you at the Boston meetings two years ago and hope that this time I shall have better luck. I shall be busy with Sigma Xi matters all day Tuesday but expect to attend the taxonomists' banquet Tuesday night and to attend most of the subsequent meetings of the Systematic Section.

With best wishes for a fine Christmas, I am

Sincerely yours,

March 15, 1950

Dr. Robert E. Woodson, Jr.,
Missouri Botanical Garden,
2315 Tower Grove Avenue,
St. Louis 10, Missouri

Dear Bob:

I have filled out the enclosed questionnaire to the best of my ability. The results of this survey should prove interesting and I hope that you or someone is going to make them available for the rest of us after they have been summarized. I am sure my own graduate students would profit by seeing them.

And now may I ask you a question. We are busily engaged in sorting duplicates into sets for distribution as exchanges. In the course of our Pennsylvania work a considerable amount of good material has been accumulated and I should like to know whether the Garden is interested in continuing to receive material from Pennsylvania as well as adjoining states. If so, please bring me up to date by giving me the name of the person with whom to correspond concerning the exchange of herbarium material.

It was great fun seeing you again in New York and I hope that we can get together more frequently in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany
and Curator of the Herbarium

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 5567

March 20, 1950

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

Dear Jack:

Thanks so very much for filling out the boy^{US} questionnaire. They have been having a very good response. Of course, they do not help to answer all questions once and for all but they did want to know other people's opinions.

About the exchange of duplicates, I am going to have to tell you what I have been having to tell practically every body for a long time now. The herbarium is so terribly overcrowded that we have to save space in every way that we can. For example, we are going through the whole collection systematically for the extraction of duplicates which we are removing and we are actually throwing handfulls of questionable sheets directly into the waste basket. In addition to that, we have decided to accept plants of the United States only if they are from very poorly represented areas and I am afraid that Pennsylvania does not fall into that category. You see we feel that "What is the use of us having plants of Pennsylvania to any considerable extent, when we may borrow the fine collection of our friends in Philadelphia".

It certainly was splendid to see you again after such a long time in New York. You certainly looked as though the Vice Provost job agreed with you.

As ever,

Robert E. Woodson, Jr.
Curator of the Herbarium

REW/d

March 28, 1950

Dr. Robert E. Woodson, Jr.,
Curator of the Herbarium,
Missouri Botanical Garden,
2315 Tower Grove Avenue,
St. Louis 10, Missouri

Dear Bob:

Thanks a lot for yours of the 20th. I can quite understand the situation in which you find yourself with respect to the crowded condition of your herbarium, and indeed have been wondering for a number of years just how long we can continue to expand in our present quarters. Our own situation is a little different in that we are concentrating on Pennsylvania material, but we are desirous also of continuing to receive specimens from other portions of the country.

Many years ago in order to save space we were forced to segregate all of our Old World specimens, placing them in sealed cartons where they are practically unavailable for consultation, and the day may come when we shall be compelled to restrict ourselves solely to Pennsylvania material. I hope it never does for there is an obvious advantage in having specimens, especially from adjoining states, available for examination.

Sincerely yours,

Professor of Botany
and Curator of the Herbarium

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 5567

February 11, 1954

Dr. J. M. Fogg
Department of Botany
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Jack:


Mr. Byron H. Wise, at present one of my graduate students in taxonomy, has asked me to write you in support of his application for admittance to your Graduate School and candidacy for a graduate assistantship or fellowship. Mr. Wise has been with us for two years, having come to St. Louis from the University of Florida, where his undergraduate record was very good.

Mr. Wise is seeking to transfer to your university primarily because Washington University and the Missouri Botanical Garden have seen fit, for financial reasons, to curtail their support of graduate study. As a matter of fact, Mr. Wise has had to support himself for the current year. He is very keen to continue his studies toward the doctorate but needs financial assistance.

I cannot say that Mr. Wise is an outstandingly promising graduate student. In intelligence and natural ability I believe that he ranks well above our average. But his background in Florida evidently was rather spotty and (perhaps with good reason) he set himself to correct this during his first year. The result was that he has not, until recently, shown much progress in his research topic, which is the Asclepiad genus *Gonolobus*. An additional factor in impeding him, I am sure, is myself. With curtailment of assistance in the herbarium to an absolute zero, I have not been able to give him needed guidance and supervision. I really believe that Wise might turn out quite well under proper conditions, but unfortunately at present we are not able to provide them.

He is a likeable chap of no apparent bad habits and comes from a cultured family. His father is a professor of Education at the University of Florida.

Sincerely yours,


Robert E. Woodson, Jr.
Curator of Herbarium

G. Shortii

G. obliquus

REW:au

February 17, 1954.

Dr. Robert E. Woodson, Jr.,
Curator of Herbarium,
Missouri Botanical Garden,
2315, Tower Grove Avenue,
ST. LOUIS, 10, Missouri.

Dear Bob:

Many thanks for your letter concerning Byron Wise. I have written to him, as has Dave Goddard, telling him that his application for a teaching assistantship will be very carefully considered at the appropriate time. We, too, are working under an economy regime and I cannot, at this moment, say what his chances will be.

Incidentally, I am keenly interested in Gonolobus, having encountered something of a snag there in the preparation of the manuscript for our State Flora. We have a number of collections from the southern counties which have been referred to as G. Shortii, but which may be nothing more than large flowered forms of G. Obliquus. It would be a great pleasure to have someone here who is interested in this genus, and I have laid the problem aside for the present, hoping I may be able to get some help with it at a later date.

It is indeed good to hear from you, and I hope that we shall be able to get together one of these days before very long.

Sincerely yours,

John N. Fogg, Jr.

JMF:hjb

December 17, 1954

Dr. Robert E. Woodson, Jr.
Missouri Botanical Garden
2315 Tower Grove Street
St. Louis 10, Missouri

Dear Bob:

I expect to be in St. Louis about January 6th or 7th and would like very much to visit your herbarium to look up a few things. I would hope to be able to see you at this time and wonder whether you would be good enough to drop me a line telling me whether you will be there. I shall then let you know more definitely concerning the exact time of my arrival.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Fogg, Jr.,
Director

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

"SHAW'S GARDEN"

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 6-5567

December 20, 1954

Dear Jack:

I am very surprised and pleased by your note of December 17. We shall be very happy to have you visit us about January 6 or 7, and I shall be looking forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Woodson, Jr.

January 12, 1955

Dr. Robert E. Woodson, Jr.
Missouri Botanical Garden
2315 Tower Grove Street
St. Louis 10, Mo.

Dear Bob:

Just a line to tell you how much I enjoyed seeing you last Thursday and how deeply I appreciated your hospitality. I do hope that some of these days you will find it possible to make a trip to Philadelphia and that I may have the privilege of reciprocating your warm reception of me. We have a large home in which there is always room for a visiting botanist and I trust that you will find it possible to take advantage of this before long.

With best wishes and warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.
Director

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

"SHAW'S GARDEN"

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE
ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI
PROSPECT 6-5567

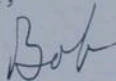
January 14, 1955

Dr. John M. Fogg, Jr.
The Morris Arboretum
Chestnut Hill
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Jack:

Thanks so much for your nice note of January 12. I do wish that you had stayed longer with us and that I could have shown you more hospitality. Ever since you have left I have been thinking of things that we should have talked about - particularly with regard to Rauwolfia. Believe it or not, you did take me a bit by surprise and I didn't know quite what or how much to say, but chiefly my hesitancy was due to general lack of knowledge. I hope that we can get together soon again.

As ever,



Robert E. Woodson, Jr.
Curator of the Herbarium

REW-Jr:C

July 2, 1936

→ Dr. Robert E. Woodson, Jr.
Missouri Botanical Gardens
St. Louis 10, Mo.

Dear Bob:

A correspondent of mine, who has been sending me material of various medicinal plants from Brazil, recently forwarded me an unnamed specimen of what looks to me like a Rauwolfia. Since I possess no knowledge whatever of the South American species of this genus I wonder whether you would be so kind as to name it for me. Unfortunately, I have no information as to the locality where this material was collected, but if the fragment, which I am forwarding under separate cover, has any value for you please feel free to retain it.

With best wishes and warm regards,

Sincerely yours,

John N. Fogg, Jr.
Director

NMF:sfd

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

"SHAW'S GARDEN"

2315 TOWER GROVE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

PROSPECT 6-5567

July 5, 1956

Dear Jack:

Have you received the annotation label for your *Rauwolfia* yet? I just thought I would tease you for having sent the specimen without any note nor information whatsoever.

Anyway, your *Rauwolfia* is *R. mattfeldiana* Mgf., which is an extremely rare thing. As far as I know, there are only two specimens in existence, one from Bahia and one from Minas, and neither is represented in American herbaria. May I keep the piece that you sent me, and also, what is the general locality and the collector?

How is the *Rauwolfia* business with you? It is pretty quiet with me now. Our firm has decided that vomitoria can't be beat and is even growing it in Costa Rica now. Could you send me a little bit of the root of *mattfeldiana*? I have made a key to 25 species of *Rauwolfia* based upon the root anatomy, and don't have *mattfeldiana* of course. The key will be published in a little book which we are publishing. Unfortunately it will be too late to include *mattfeldiana* because the book is already in proof, but it will be satisfying to know what it is like, anyway.

Are you going to Storrs? I hope to go.

Sincerely,

Bob

Dr. Robert E. Woodson, Jr.

July 10, 1956

Dr. Robert E. Woodson, Jr.
 Missouri Botanical Garden
 2315 Tower Grove Avenue
 St. Louis 10, Missouri

Dear Bob:

Okay, you win!

I am delighted to have the identification of R. mattfeldiana, and to learn that it is apparently such a rare and restricted specimen. As I think I told you the only information I have concerning its origin is that it came from Brazil. It was sent by a Brazilian priest to a friend of mine at Squibb's to whom I spoke on the telephone immediately upon receiving your letter. We shall make an effort to learn just who collected it and also to secure additional material including some roots. I shall certainly let you know as soon as I receive the desired information. You are certainly at liberty, as I have already told you, to retain the specimen which I sent you.

The Rauwolfia business is flourishing here, thank you. I told you last year that I was bringing here to work with me a brilliant young taxonomist from India whom I met two years ago in Madras. He arrived here this spring and is hard at work studying the Asiatic species of this genus, of which I really have a fairly adequate representation. He is particularly interested in the relationships of R. serpentina of which we have a strong series from India, Burma, Thailand, and Ceylon, thanks to my second trip last year. He is tackling this problem from the point of view of morphology, histology, cytology, and paper chromatology. The whole problem is extremely interesting and my own suspicion is that the Burmese and Thai material may prove to be a tetraploid. I shall certainly welcome as opportunity to discuss this with you.

I am delighted to learn of the key which you have prepared and certainly hope that you will favor me with a copy. I am constantly receiving material from South America and it will certainly be helpful to have your treatment.

Since I am leaving for Europe on August 4, I shall not be able to attend the meetings at Storrs. One of my purposes in going abroad is to examine Rauwolfia material in some of the European herbaria.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.
Director

JMF:sfd

WOODSON, ROBT.

July 9, 1957

Dr. Robert E. Woodson, Jr.
Missouri Botanical Garden
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Bob:

I have recently gone over your treatment of *Rauvolfia* in the Little, Brown collaboration and would like to ask you a question and offer a few comments. I suppose the answer to my question will be forthcoming when Rao's paper appears and I certainly hope you will see that I receive a copy as soon as it is out.

Here's my query: If what we have been calling *R. hirsuta* (*R. canescens*, *R. heterophylla*) is now to be known as *R. tetraphylla* what becomes of the *tetraphylla* which I have collected several times as a tree in Puerto Rico? I hope Tao is not extending the concept of *hirsuta* to embrace this arboreal species, and am forced to suppose that this is a nomenclatural interpretation. What then is the name for *tetraphylla*? Please don't tell me it's *nitida* (what a mess!).

Incidentally, I must protest against the map in Figure 1. *R. hirsuta* (as I shall still call it until I can find out why it should be called *tetraphylla*) does not occupy all of Mexico up to the Tropic of Cancer. Remind me some day to show you my map of this species from which it is clear that it avoids the Valley of Mexico entirely.

My post-doctoral fellow, Varadarajan, has returned to India after spending a year here working on *R. serpentina*. It is apparent that this species is highly variable and will eventually have to be divided into at least two sub-species or varieties. I can walk through our greenhouses and pick out easily material from Ceylon, India or Burma-Thailand. Varadarajan's studies have taken into account anatomy, growth rates, flower structure, pollen morphology and a number of other factors. In addition, as I suppose you are well aware, the alkaloids of material from Ceylon and India differ markedly from those of Burma and Thailand.

If, from the above, you assume that I am a "splitter" let me hasten to assure you that on the basis of my present knowledge I am inclined to

July 9, 1957

the belief that *aphiochizoides*, *peguana*, *perakensis*, *chinensis* and *verticillata* are all one species and that *verticillata* is the correct name for this assemblage. Merrill's *rivularis* appears to be a good thing. We have most of these in cultivation here and I hope some day you will stop off and see them.

I am assuming, of course, that you are really going to give us a definitive treatment of this genus. I certainly can not trust Rao's work, on the basis of my own field knowledge, and I know that you have on loan a great deal of the Old World material. I found this out to my sorrow last year when I visited the herbaria in London, Paris and Geneva, etc. and discovered that most of the *Rauvolfia* covers were empty because their contents were "on loan to R.E.S., Mes. Botanical Garden."

A final word: I have here on loan four sheets of *R. Canesens* from the Brisbane herbarium. They are a better match for *hirsuta* from South America than for anything which I have ever seen in Mexico or Central America.

I do hope that you are going to bring your critical knowledge to bear on this entire problem and will favor us with a monograph based upon a real insight into the intraspecific taxa as related to geographic distribution.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.

JMF/pt

WOODSON
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
SAINT LOUIS 5, MISSOURI

THE HENRY SHAW SCHOOL
OF BOTANY

July 15, 1957

Dr. J. M. Fogg, Jr., Director
The Morris Arboretum
9414 Meadowbrook Avenue
Philadelphia 18, Pa.

Dear Jack:

I have just returned from a trip west to find your stimulating letter of July 9 about Rauwolfia.

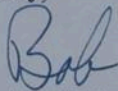
I am awfully contrite that I did not send you a copy of Rao's revision. I am putting a copy in the mail for you today. I think that it is quite a competent job. In it you will find the ins and outs of the tetraphylla-nitida business, which Randle straightened out about the time that I was doing the Apocys for the North American Flora.

The map in the Rauwolfia book that you criticized is extremely generalized, of course, and the fact that an area of it is completely black does not signify that the area in question is a solid carpet of Rauwolfia. I am interested to learn that R. tetraphylla (R. hirsuta to you) has not been collected in the Valley of Mexico.

As far as a "definitive" treatment of the whole genus is concerned, don't look my way. I have no such plans. At least three years ago, after I had borrowed all the Old World specimens, Monachino in New York wheedled them from me for his own use, and the specimens are still with him as far as I know. (Incidentally, "wheedled" is not at all the right word - rather, he established prior claims, as it were, and I retired gracefully, if not thankfully, for I have too many irons in the fire as it is.)

I am interested in your note on the Queensland tetraphyllas that you have. I have seen others from there and they, as well as the Indian "canescens" are more pubescent than the bulk of Mexican and Central American plants. They could have come either from South America or from the Antilles. We have definite records (in Rao's paper) that the Indian plants originally came from the Antilles.

Cordially,



Robert E. Woodson, Jr.

WOODSON

August 14, 1957

Dr. Robert E. Woodson, Jr.
Washington University
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Bob:

Thanks a lot for your fine letter of July 15th. I should have answered it earlier, but I have been teaching a summer school course here at the Arboretum, directing our N.S.F. Summer Institute, and dashing over to England for five days for a UNESCO Conference on the abstracting of scientific literature.

Many thanks, too, for the copy of Rav's paper. I am pretty well convinced that tetraphylla is the proper name for hirsuta et al, but I am still not prepared to admit that the American species have received the full consideration which they deserve and which you alone, in my opinion, can accord them.

As to Joe Monachino, I seriously question whether he will ever "polish off" the Old World Species of Rauvolfia. I see Joe three or four times a year and it seems to me that he has his hands so full of South American material that it will be many years before he gets himself dug out. I took my man Varadarajan over to see him last March and I think they reached some understanding about the future study of this genus. Varadarajan is now back in India where he is continuing his field work. I really feel that he has a very good grasp of the Asiatic species and if Joe is not going to complete his studies on this section of the world, Dr. Varadarajan could doubtless provide us with a very satisfactory treatment. Africe is, of course, a totally different proposition and since Pichon's death I have no idea who is equipped to encompass it.

One thing that I do feel strongly about, Bob, is that in a genus with a pan-tropic distribution like this it is impossible to force everything into specific categories. I am sure that we must recognize subspecies or varieties in order to do justice to genetic variations over wide areas.

I suppose you are going to the Stanford meetings. Unfortunately, I cannot get away at this time, so shall have to postpone the pleasure of seeing you there.

Sincerely yours,

JMF:am

Woodson, Robt. E. Dr.

October 13, 1960

Dr. Robert E. Woodson, Jr.,
Missouri Botanical Garden
2315 Tower Grove Avenue
St. Louis 10, Missouri

Dear Bob:

It was great fun seeing you a couple of weeks ago and I am immensely grateful to you for your kindness in hauling me around. The entire occasion was really most impressive and I was glad to have been present.

I am pleased, also, to have had a little time in the herbarium and garden and want to come back some day when I can stay longer.

Do come see us some day and give me an opportunity to return your hospitality.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fogg, Jr.,
Director

JMF:am

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