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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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON

ECONOMIC AND SYSTEMATIC BOTANY

April 11, 1924.

Dr. Erik L. Ekman,
Consulado General de Suecia,
Amargura 6, Habana, Cuba.

Dear Dr. Ekman:

In accord with the request in your letter to Mrs. Chase I am enclosing a letter to the Consul in Port au Prince, Haiti. I do not know anyone in that country and I merely met him while stopping at the city a few hours. I cannot get an official letter from either the Smithsonian Institution or the Department of Agriculture, because you are not an employee nor working under a special commission, but I take pleasure in writing a personal letter.

I have asked for a requisition for 300 Cuban grasses, at \$10 per hundred, making \$30. I am not sure that I will be able to get this through, but if Mr. Coville can spare the money you will receive the requisition. It is understood this is for grasses already received, so that when it reaches you merely sign it and return it in the usual way. Later a check will be sent.

Mr. Maxon informs me that some time ago a requisition was issued for you to get plants in Haiti. You better write him in regard to this, because if the requisition is not filled, or at least provided for specifically, the money will revert and not be available.

You have sent us such a fine lot of grasses from Cuba that I am hoping you may be able to get an equally good collection in Haiti. I hope that some time you may be able to come to Washington and work up your collections. I am not proposing to publish any of the new species which you have collected for the present. I am hoping that you will be able to do this yourself. If you find this to be impracticable we will take up the matter again on your return.

Sincerely yours,

A. S. Hitchcock

A. S. Hitchcock, Botanist in Charge of
Systematic Agrotopology, Bureau of
Plant Industry.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON

ECONOMIC AND SYSTEMATIC BOTANY

May 20, 1924.

Dr. E. L. Ekman,
Amargura 6,
Habana, Cuba.

Dear Dr. Ekman:

I was very glad to get your letter of May 15th and also the card of same date. I take it that you are about to start for Haiti.

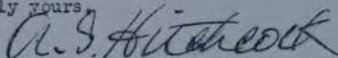
I am very glad that you like the barometer. You are thanking me but really you should thank Mrs. Chase. Our regulations would not permit us to provide you with a barometer and I did not like to lend my new one as I had just had it calibrated at the Bureau of Standards. Barometers here are very expensive. This one of mine cost \$35. So Mrs. Chase said she would provide one personally. She sent \$20 to Dr. Pilger in Berlin, asking him to purchase a barometer and send to you and if there was any money left to give it to German children who were in need. Mr. Pilger writes that the barometer cost fifty gold marks so he has 30 gold marks to give to needy children.

I note that you are preparing to send your main collection of grasses to Washington for safe keeping. I think this is a very good idea and we will store them for you safely. I hope you may be able to come to Washington to work up your grasses yourself. We have ample facilities here and you could do a good job on the work.

I have asked the Museum to send you a copy of Mr. Standley's article on Erythrina.

I wish you the best of success in your trip to Haiti and feel sure that we shall receive a nice lot of grasses from you.

Sincerely yours,



A. S. Hitchcock, Botanist in Charge of Systematic Agrostology, Bureau of Plant Industry.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON

June 18, 1924.

ECONOMIC AND SYSTEMATIC BOTANY

Dr. Erik L. Ekman,
Amargura 6, Consulado General de
Suecia,
Habana, Cuba.

Dear Dr. Ekman:

I have your letter of June 5th and thank you very much for your notes on *Aristida*. My manuscript of *Aristida* went to the Government Printing Office in February, 1922. The next fall it was recalled to add some information Mrs. Chase had brought back from Europe. Proofs of the paper were not received until last fall. In my absence Mrs. Chase read them, but did not wish to assume the responsibility of inserting your new species, though you had generously offered to allow me to publish them. There are some drawbacks to publication by the Government Printing Office. One is the delay-- anywhere from a year to two years elapses between the time the manuscript is submitted and the appearance of the work. Another is that additions or changes in proof sheets are strongly objected to. In *Aristida* nothing received since the first of 1922 is cited. It is unfortunate, but printers are mightier than mere botanists.

As yet I have not utilized the large amount of material of *Aristida* which you were kind enough to send here. Of course, in future publications I shall take account of this. Meantime, I wish very much that you might come to Washington and work up this material yourself, especially the new species. If I described them I should want to use my own specific names rather than the ones which you have attached, or we might publish them together under joint authorship with the names that you have proposed. Of course, what I should prefer is that you should publish them yourself under the names you have used. Then I can utilize this material in any future publication of my own. I do not like to publish for another person. Sometimes I have had to do this because there seemed to be no way out of it. This was the case with *Aristida neglecta* Leon. You are getting such a good hold on the grasses of Cuba that you would be in position to write a supplementary account, describing many new species, not only of *Aristida*, but other genera. If you would come to Washington we should be glad to place at your disposal all our facilities for this study.

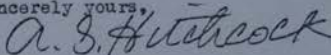
2—Dr. Erik L. Ekman.

The only specimen of *Aristida spiciformis* we have from Cuba is the Britton one cited. This has two panicles from which all the florets have fallen and one very immature one from a basal branch. The aristate glumes and dense panicle agree with the Porto Rico specimen. I should be very glad to see your Cuban form.

I note what you say concerning the accent on Brother Léon's name. In my previous publications I had been accenting the *o* but he wrote me that the proper way was an accent on *e* since this was a French name. We therefore changed this throughout in our manuscript. I hope that we have not misunderstood him in this.

I am very glad to get your notes on localities, etc. I hope that by this time you have gone to Haiti and are getting a nice lot of grasses for us. I appreciate greatly your interest in our work.

Sincerely yours,



A. S. Hitchcock, Botanist in Charge of
Systematic Agrostology, Bureau of
Plant Industry.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON

ECONOMIC AND SYSTEMATIC BOTANY

December 24, 1925.

Dr. E. L. Ekman,
Pharmacie Buch,
Port-au-Prince,
Haiti.

Dear Dr. Ekman:

I was very glad to hear from you through your recent letter to Mrs. Chase.

I am just going away to attend the scientific meeting of the American Association at Kansas City.

In your letter you referred to your Cuban grasses which we have here. There appear to be several new species among these, although I have given no critical attention to them. I have thought that ultimately you would be able to describe these grasses yourself. I naturally would not want to publish any thing on them if you are intending to do so. I hope that when you return from your Haiti trip you will be in a position to take up the publication of your Cuban grasses and also that you may be able to come to Washington and study them in connection with our other collections.

I am wishing you a Merrie Christmas and a happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

A. S. Hitchcock

A. S. Hitchcock, Senior Botanist in Charge
of Systematic Agrostology.

Office address: Smithsonian Institution.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON

ECONOMIC AND SYSTEMATIC BOTANY

February 1, 1927.

Dr. Erik L. Ekman,
Pharmacie W. Buch,
Port-au-Prince,
Haiti, West Indies.

Dear Mr. Ekman:

The latter part of last year I spent a month in Cuba. I visited Pinar del Rio, Soledad, Baraguá, and Guaro. At the latter place I made a trip up to the mine in the Sierra Nipe. Very soon I shall be working up the grasses that I collected on this trip. I have thought that it might be well to look over the whole question of grasses and prepare a paper on additions to the grass flora of Cuba, supplementary to the Grasses of the West Indies. It may be that you have collected the same species, in some cases, that I have found on this trip. It is quite probable that you have several other species that have been found by no one else but yourself. Mrs. Chase has studied your grasses and has reported on them to you but thus far the new species have not been described. I had hoped that you would ultimately be able to do this yourself. I am writing now to ask whether you think it would be well for me to take up the study of your grasses. I note that you and Urban have published a number of new species, crediting them to Urban and Ekman. Possibly, you would like some such arrangement as this in regard to the grasses. I do not want to hurry you in this, and in case you wish to wait and publish them yourself I will pass them by. It is unfortunate to allow them to lie indefinitely without being named, because others are likely to find them and it is especially desirable to have things worked up as rapidly as possible.

I have read the correspondence between you and Mrs. Chase. The grasses that have been contributed or sold to this herbarium are distributed, but the grasses that are stored here are

2--Dr. Erik L. Ekman.

not distributed. They are, however, arranged so that we can get at them easily. We have not yet received the labels for these but they are soon to be sent by Dr. Samuelsson. The latter has sent us two large bundles of your earlier collections that we did not have.

Sincerely yours,

A. S. Hitchcock

A. S. Hitchcock, Senior Botanist in
Charge of Systematic Agrostology.

Office address: Smithsonian Institution.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON

BOTANY

January 27, 1928.

Dr. E. L. Ekman, Care Pharmacie W. Buch,
Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Dear Dr. Ekman:

I have your letter of January 17th with remarks on certain identifications of your last lot of grasses. The collection itself is not accessible at the moment as it has been sent away for mounting.

I note that you refer to identifications by Mrs. Chase and myself at different times. I would say in regard to this that you should not put much weight on differences of identification made at different times. One of us may have changed our opinion in the meantime. For example, you refer to *Aristida roseli*. My recent identification was made on the basis of a revision of North American *Aristida* which I published a few years ago. Mrs. Chase's identification was made before that time and before the genus had been carefully revised and her identification should not be given weight.

In regard to *Panicum chrysopsidifolium* your specimen was certainly not this species. I remember that certain specimens of yours I referred to *Panicum acuminatum*, although the specimens of Haiti are somewhat different from those of Jamaica, whence the type.

I think your judgment on the small bamboos should be better than mine. You are dealing with them as they are growing.

The specimen of *Andropogon* resembling *A. gracilis* and which I referred to *A. gracilis* is somewhat different and we have other specimens like it. I did not feel, however, that the difference was sufficient to consider it a distinct species. I like to have some sort of a definite character by which species can be distinguished.

2--Dr. E. L. Elman.

In regard to *Danthonia* we must have changed our minds. I find that in the herbarium I have *Danthonia schreb.* ^{*shreivi*} only from Jamaica.

I will try and look up the *Sorghum* when the specimens are mounted. I will say, however, that I have given little attention to the cultivated varieties of this group.

Mrs. Chase has discussed the two forms of *Paspalum secans* in the Grasses of the West Indies, page 319. In her Revision of *Paspalum* now under way she has one of these as a variety of the other. Although forms can be distinguished the differences are so slight that she did not feel like making them distinct species. Of course, this is a matter of individual judgment.

Sincerely yours,

A. S. Hitchcock

A. S. Hitchcock, Senior Botanist in
Charge of Systematic Acrostology

Office address: Smithsonian Institution.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON

BOTANY

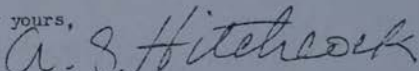
June 7, 1930.

Dr. Erik L. Ekman,
Consulado de Dinamarca,
Calle Colón 15,
Sto. Domingo City, Republica
Dominicana

Dear Doctor Ekman:

Some time ago I wrote you in regard to the duplicates which are stored here. I said that Dr. Samuelsson had asked to have these sent on to Stockholm. I hesitate to do this until I have heard from you. As I have not heard from you in regard to this point it may be that you acquiesce in this disposal of the specimens. At any rate I will send the specimens on to Dr. Samuelsson if I do not hear from you to the contrary.

Sincerely yours,



A. S. Hitchcock, Principal Botanist
in Charge of Systematic Agrostology.

Office address: Smithsonian Institution.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON

BOTANY

September 20, 1930.

Dr. E. L. Ekman,
Cares Consulado de Dinamarca,
Calle Colón 15,
Sto. Domingo City,
Republica Dominicana

Dear Doctor Ekman:

I have your card of September 2nd which reached here just before I returned from England where I was attending the International Botanical Congress. I note what you say in regard to publishing the Cuban grasses together. I will try and get at this at an early date. Since we are retaining a set of the plants it would not be necessary to hold the entire collection. I will look over the duplicates of the new species in order to see that the description covers all. After that I would suppose that I could send on the set to Dr. Samuelsson. I shall follow the International Rules of Nomenclature, which I assume you also support. When I am able to get at the description of the new species I will send a copy to you for your comment.

Sincerely yours,

A. S. Hitchcock

A. S. Hitchcock, Principal Botanist
in Charge of Systematic Agrostology.

Office address: Smithsonian Institution.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON

BOTANY

September 26, 1930.

Dr. Erik L. Ekman,
Consulado de Dinamarca,
Calle Colón 15,
Sto. Domingo City,
Republica Dominicana

Dear Doctor Ekman:

I have your letter of September 10th which reached me about the time of my return from England where I had been attending the International Botanical Congress. The decisions in regard to nomenclature were, in my opinion, very satisfactory. With the modifications proposed, I shall be willing to support the International Rules, and I feel that a large number of American botanists, formerly advocates of the American Code, will do the same. Until the committee publishes the results of the sessions devoted to nomenclature, it will be impossible to give all the modifications that were made. I have not yet had time to go over my own notes to see just what the effect of these modifications will be. I will give two or three of the more important decisions:

The compulsory use of Latin diagnoses was reaffirmed. However, all names published without a Latin diagnosis up to 1932 were validated. It is hoped that some arrangement may be made by which botanical centers will offer to supply Latin diagnoses to those authors who need aid.

The type concept was incorporated into the Rules as a rule, rather than as a recommendation. All later homonyms were rejected except as later generic homonyms might be conserved.

One important action was taken which modifies greatly the whole nomenclature question. A committee was appointed upon which every country in the world shall be represented, so far as the countries wish to be. A part of the members were appointed and a part will be added later. Since this committee would be very large, an executive committee of seven was appointed to take charge of the work. This committee consists of Barnhart, Rehder, Sprague, Ramsbottom, Harms, Janchen, and Maire. To this committee were referred many matters of detail, such as lists of nomina conservanda that were proposed and the list of standard species of Linnaean Genera prepared by Miss Green and myself. The committee also will receive other propositions and make recommendations. In many matters they have power to act and will not wait for the next congress.

2-Dr. Erik L. Ekman

In general, I may say that there was a strong wish to compromise differences and to eliminate friction. There was general satisfaction with the results of the sessions. As I remember it there was action which accomplished much of which you suggested in your last paragraph, that is, the rejection of many names by Adanson, etc. No change was made in regard to duplicate binomials. They are rejected as heretofore. The Congress refused to accept the principle of conserving specific names.

Referring again to the Samuelsson question of returning your Cuban grasses which we have, I take it that there would be no objection to sending him those grasses which are not concerned with the new species. In this case I can return all the others and free our cases to that extent. We are considerably pushed for space.

Sincerely yours,

A. S. Hitchcock

A. S. Hitchcock, Principal Botanist in
Charge of Systematic Agrostology.

Office address: Smithsonian Institution.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON

BOTANY

November 4, 1930.

Dr. E. L. Ekman,
Consulado de Dinamarca,
Calle Colón 15,
Sto. Domingo City,
Republica Dominicana

Dear Doctor Ekman:

I have received from Dr. Urban the sets of your grasses collected in Santo Domingo. He has asked me to identify these. The identifications are now completed and I am inclosing a duplicate copy for you. It is a splendid lot of material. You will see there are several new species, although some of the new species that you had indicated proved to be old species not heretofore collected from the West Indies. This is true of certain of the smaller *Panicums*. Your *Panicum alpinum*, for instance, is exactly *Panicum albemarleense* of our Coastal Plain. In one place you had a note in which you inquired if *Sporobolus indicus* and *S. berteroi* were really different. In my opinion they are distinct species. *Sporobolus indicus* is a native in the American Tropics while *S. berteroi* is introduced. I found the latter species common in Africa, though I did not see *S. indicus* there.

I hope in the near future that Mrs. Chase and I can take up a revision of the grasses of the West Indies. We have many of our own notes to publish, and, of course, will include the novelties that you have found. For this purpose I would suppose that the set of grasses which we have retained for our herbarium would be sufficient and we could send the remaining part, which is the bulk of the collection, to Dr. Samuelsson, as he has requested. If I do not hear from you to the contrary I will do this some time this winter.

I agree with you that *Reynaudia* is not properly placed and needs further study.

In writing a revision of the West Indian grasses we are planning to give Ekman as the author of any of the new species upon which you have indicated a manuscript name.

Sincerely yours,

A. S. Hitchcock

A. S. Hitchcock, Principal Botanist
in Charge of Systematic Agrostology

Office address: Smithsonian Institution.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON

BOTANY

January 2, 1931.

Dr. Erik L. Ekman,
Consulado de Dinamarca,
Calle Colón 15,
Sto. Domingo City,
Republica Dominicana

Dear Doctor Ekman:

I have received a letter recently from Dr. Samuelsson of Stockholm in which he asks me to send the entire grass collection, except for our set, back to Stockholm. I am referring now to the Cuban collections. I hesitate to do this without your permission; so I hope you will write me as soon as possible in regard to this. As I wrote in a preceding letter, Mrs. Chase and I are planning to put out a revised account of the grasses of the West Indies. We have much additional information in addition to the new species that you have collected. If you have no objections we are planning to include all the new species that we recognize as such and upon which you gave manuscript names. These we will credit to you as sole author. Since we have retained a complete set, including these new species, it will not be necessary for us to retain the duplicates of these new species. They can be sent on to Dr. Samuelsson. In picking out our set we have been careful to have the specimens entirely representative. I hope I may hear from you soon as otherwise I shall feel obliged to accede to Dr. Samuelsson's request and send the specimens on to him as I understand that he exercises the actual ownership and responsibility in regard to them.

Sincerely yours,

A. S. Hitchcock

A. S. Hitchcock, Principal Botanist in
Charge of Systematic Agrostology.

Office address: Smithsonian Institution.