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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.

February 4, 1965

Dr. Francis De Vos  
c/o National Herbarium  
Crops Research Division  
Department of Agriculture  
Washington 25, D. C.

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Dear Dr. De Vos,

My colleagues in Berkeley tell me that you are planning to make an expedition to Sikkim next spring. I visited the Darjeeling region of West Bengal to collect the Himalayan species of the genus Corylus last summer. I was hoping to collect some specimens of Corylus ferox Wallich from Sikkim, but no foreigner was allowed to visit Sikkim that time. C. ferox is a rare tree in Darjeeling, but apparently it is not so rare in Sikkim. I wonder if you kindly would collect some flowering or fruiting specimens from Sikkim for me?

By pure chance, I was fortunate to meet Mr. M.M. Rasaily, Chief conservator of Forests of the Government of Sikkim while I was in Darjeeling. Mr. Rasaily was kind enough to offer help and he was willing to collect the specimens for me. I did not hear from him so far. Possibly he could not locate the trees in the mountains of Sikkim.

If you wish, I shall be glad to send you some specimens for the recognition of the tree. I have some branches with nearly mature fruits I collected from Mt. Tonglu near Darjeeling, but I do not have the catkins or young fruits. If you plan to visit Darjeeling or Kathmandu, I shall gladly send you the list of the colleagues in these places who may help you in your project.

Very sincerely yours,

Baki Kasmilgil  
Associate Professor of Botany

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE  
CROPS RESEARCH DIVISION

NATIONAL ARBORETUM

ADDRESS REPLY TO:  
UNITED STATES NATIONAL ARBORETUM  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C. 20250

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February 15, 1965

AIR MAIL

Professor Baki Kasapligil  
Associate Professor of Botany  
Mills College  
Oakland 13, California

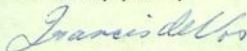
Dear Professor Kasapligil:

We would be most happy to collect flowering and/or fruiting specimens of Corylus ferox Wallich for you. Since we will be in the Mt. Tonglu area in mid-April, we should have no difficulty in getting specimens for you. I have looked at the Corylus specimens from the Smithsonian Herbarium so you need not send me any, but we would appreciate any spare sheets that you may have for our own herbarium.

Our exploration team will be made up of Dr. Edward G. Corbett of the Plant Introduction Station at Glenn Dale, Maryland, and myself. Dr. B. P. Pal of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute will be assigning two Indian botanists to assist us which should be a great help to us. We would, however, be very happy to learn the names of your colleagues in the Darjeeling area.

We have already shipped most of our supplies and equipment to New Delhi, but there are a few items that we still need. Would you have any idea whether air mattresses and mantle-type lanterns that burn kerosene (a type similar to our Coleman gas lantern) would be available in Darjeeling? I am not keen about sleeping on army-type canvas cots or having to work and read by straight kerosene lanterns. If these items are not available in either New Delhi or Darjeeling, we could purchase them in Tokyo. Whatever information you may have on purchasing the items mentioned in India would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



Francis de Vos  
Assistant Director

Mills College  
Biology Department  
Oakland 13, Calif.

Dr. Francis de Voss  
Assistant Director  
United States National Arboretum  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Febr. 28, 1965

Dear Dr. de Voss,

3386 Thank you very much indeed for your kind letter of Febr. 15, 1965. I am delighted to know your willingness to collect some Corylus material for me. Under a separate cover, I am sending the herbarium specimens of Corylus ferox Wallich, C. colurna L. var. chinensis (Franchet) Burkhill and C. colurna L. var. glandulifera A. de Candolle. Unfortunately, I do not have the specimens of C. colurna L. var. lacera (Wallich) A. de Candolle which is native to Northwestern Himalaya and Nepal. You will find the illustrations of this variety in my article I am sending separately. I would appreciate greatly any flowering or fruiting specimens as well as floral or vegetative buds of these species and varieties fixed in 4-3-1 (Abs. alcohol-Chloroform-Glacial acetic acid) or in any other fixative suitable for chromosome studies.

By all means, you would be on the safe side if you do your purchasing in Tokyo. The Japanese have good and inexpensive equipment for field work. The University supply houses around the campus of the Tokyo University carry a considerable variety of field equipment. Likewise, you may find air mattresses and kerosene lanterns in department stores of the Ginza district of Tokyo. I was mighty glad to have some assorted sizes of polyethylene bottles and vials from Tokyo. Such items are hard to find in India.

Here are the names and addresses of botanists and foresters who assisted me during my trips in India and Nepal last summer:

- 1) Dr. A.K. Sarkar, Government College, West Bengal, Darjeeling (Taxonomy & Physiology)
- 2) Prof. J.C. Gangulee, Head of the Botany Dept., Govt. College, Darjeeling (Bryology)
- 3) Mr. B.N. De, Conservator of Forests, Darjeeling.
- 4) Mr. J.B. Roy, Assistant Forest Officer, Darjeeling (a very cooperative young forester)
- 5) Mr. Kaloo Singh Lepcha, Botany Dept., Darjeeling Govt. College (Collects plants for classes, has no formal training but knows the plants of Darjeeling and Sikkim. He is a native of Sikkim, a friendly and helpful boy)
- 6) Mr. N. B. Basnet, Divisional Forester, Kathmandu, Nepal (He was the most helpful person during my stay in Kathmandu)
- 7) Dr. M.L. Banerjee, Superintendent, Botanical Survey of Nepal, Kathmandu (an Indian botanist from the Univ. of Kalyani, who knows a great deal about the plants of Nepal)
- 8) Prof. B.D. Pandey and Dr. D.D. Bhatt, Botany Dept., Trichandra College, Kathmandu.
- 9) Professor B.M. Johri, Head of the Dept. of Botany, Univ. of Delhi, Delhi 6, India

If you plan to visit Northwest India, such as Simla and Kashmir, the staff of the Forest Research Institute in Dehra Dun may be helpful to your project. Unfortunately, I did not visit that region because of the monsoon season. Here are the names of the new staff members in Dehra Dun: Mr. M.A. Rehman, President of the Forest Research Inst. and Hari Singh, Chairman of the same institute.

The mountains of Nepal and India are infested with land leeches during the monsoon time, please be prepared to protect yourself against the leeches if you stay in the Himalayan region during summer.

Do you have some living specimens of the genus Corylus in the National Arboretum. I have viable seeds of the Japanese, Tibetan and Turkish filberts. I shall be glad to send you the seeds if you are interested in raising them in Washington.

Sincerely yours,