



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Contact: Archives
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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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.

Hitcham, Bildeston, Suffolk.

23 July

1855

Dear Madam,

On my return home I found
the Probanches - which are attached
growing as I should have expected they
might be - to the roots of a *Diogledarum*
plant. From what I see of them I
am inclined to believe these are rather
to be considered as *O. major*, but that
possibly they would be regarded as *O.*
clatun by those who consider this form
a distinct species, rather than a var.
of the former - However I am too busy
today to look very minutely at them.
We are all liable to mistakes and

misapprehensions - & until proof positive
to the contrary can be shown, I shall consider
your informant has fallen into the
very excusable error of believing the
brocade was attached to the Brakes, as
well as to the Fuzes; from not knowing
the extreme improbability (not to say
impossibility) of such an attachment ever
taking place - Where roots are inter-mixed
(if I may use the expression) it is very diffi-
cult to feel certain to which or particular
fibre may belong - I was puzzled for 2 or
3 years to which trees in my shrubbery
I ought to refer some curiously developed
excrecences, found on the extremities of
small fibres - till at length I ascertained

they belonged to the Laburnum, & were only
a modified form of the (so called) Enostomes,
found in roots of Leguminous plants -
They occurred in the youngest plants
of Laburnum, & could be distinctly identified
with the larger coral-like bunches I found
among the roots in *S. plantaginifolia*. It may
be as well to add to your list of Errata &
Corrigenda, some notice to this effect.

{ * The Orobanchae clavis said to be attached to *Trachea*,
is now believed to be a mistake - It is probably *O.*
major ~~attached~~ & was attached, as is usual, to the
Furze.

I have good examples of *O. major* attached to the
Broom, & shall make a specimen of the one
you have sent, as a good example of
attachment to Furze -

Mr W. speaks of *Centaurea* & *Centaury* as if
they were synonymous; but the latter is the

English name of Erythraea centaurium, & of a different
form of form. The species of Robancha
are ill defined, & very probably ^{one of them is} ~~these~~ growing
on different plants may be modified into
distinct var^s. regarded as distinct species.

Believe me
Very faithfully
J. S. Henslow

J. S. HENSLOW 1796-1861