



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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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.

Rose cottage April. 25th. 1896.

Answered May 4, 1896.

Dir. No. 743.

Prof. L. H. Dewey
assist. Botanist.

In answer to your
letter I have to say that
I was under the idea that
Lactuca scariola was a native
of Texas or at least introduced
long ago. about twenty years ago
I sent to Harvard College a
complete collection of plants
growing in our neighborhood.
among them two Lactuca.
Doct. A. Gray reported one
as L. scariola & the other
as L. canadensis var. elongata

but now, I have real Scariosa.
it is the true Scariosa. I
have seen it since I am
in the country. (1856). it
grows generally in shady, rich
places and has never proved
a bad weed. the french
colonists used it as food.

if it is not the true Scariosa
I am not aware that
the true type, has ever been seen
in this country. (though it
may, having not being very
active lately).

along with this letter
I will mail a few specimens
no 1. is the L. Scariosa
in question

no 2. is another and
distinct species, growing along

with it

N. 3. is a new introduction
in Dallas county. its spread
with great rapidity on broad
spaces in the prairie and
seems to be a good forage.
undoubtedly it is a medicine
from Europe of which I
will be thankful for the
right name.

the third species of lactuca
growing here is L. graminifolia
(in sandy woods).

If you want more complete
specimens of these lettuce (stems
and seed,) I will send them
to you

Cordially yours.

J. Reverchon.