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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.

in the fire. — How greatly surprised with disappointed one. I looked for an elaborate explanation of Cryptogamic ferns, & beheld a mere list of names.

And now, my paper being about filled (it will be well if your eyes do not say too closely filled) that my Entomologico-Botanical synopsis is far from abundant.

W. J. Hooker Esq
Norwich

I enclose same by Dundee

Dryport 29 Oct. 1808

Yours most faithfully
William Spence

Pray do you know when the next vol of
Linn Trans: appears? I have not heard from
him for some time.

The handwriting of Mr. Spence, joint author with Mr. Kirby of the Introduction to the study of Entomology. -

My dear Sir I was gratified by tracing on the map the route of your Scottish tour which your favour from Edinburgh announced to me, & fancying the enjoyment you would derive from the romantic & stupendous natural scenery which must have been by passed before your eye; but I was not a little disappointed to learn that the land of mountains & caves is not the region of "creeping things"; that Stiff & Ronalds he however put forth in his zoological productions are very barren of Entomological objects. Not to find one new insect in the many hundred miles you traversed was indeed remarkable, & is in fact what I could not have conceived possible. Paykull's Fauna & the travel of Aschbi prove that the insects of Scotland are productive of several new insects, & I always made myself sure that there & many new ones, were to be found in the north of Scotland from your exploration of which I gilded my self with the hope of some splendid acquisitions to our Dutch list. You may judge therefore of my surprise to hear of your unsuccessful researches. I can only explain this enigma by taking into account what you interested & what indeed by our experience has proved - that rapid travelling is incompatible with that very close going which our pursuit requires. You may often in vain year after year beat the heath of a district where you are spending a day or two & then (as happened to me at a neighbouring village the past summer) if you chance to stumble on a half grown fly, half day, June-born Sand pit, you may in one sunny day find in the space of a few square feet, more novelties than you have got before in as many miles. You could have no time to search for these favorite haunts, & I can well help the few remaining of opinion that there must be some new insects in the north of Scotland. Your experience however is sufficiently disconcerting to a tourist & I already feel my desire for exploring Wales & Ireland a good deal quenched. - Nevertheless your unique discovery Canebris glabratus was worth going some distance for & I shall be much obliged for a specimen as well as of Cyrtocephalus & postulator & your supposed new Chrys which to so small a genus is a valuable addition. Clatris cupreus too? I shall also thank you for as I have not received them from Mr. Dalton & may do not forget to put aside for me a specimen of Can. arenaria if your friend in Wales has plentifully supplied you.

My Entomological excursions this summer have not been numerous or distant. A few days about home, and a few days in the country; & a few days in the mountains.

distance include them all. Of course my acquisitions are not very multitudinous; yet are so that I could well expect from such a confined circle. You shall hear them. In a sand pit which I have alluded to above in a district that I described & explained by 3 or 4 years successive search. Some morning found the following novelties, 1st. In great plenty the minute black Cistela which Mr Kirby tells me you have also found & referred to Pag as Trox dubius 68.5 As it is doubtful whether this singular species be that as the thorax is diff. marked (though only very near it) I call it Cistela areolaris; from the peculiarity in its economy of walking about concealed under a coating of grains of sand. This with Cistela maritima & another species Mr K has certainly forms a very good distinct genus. If you are scantily supplied with specimens I can furnish you with more. — 2^d. Cuc. purillae, Kirby nearly related to C. floralis Pk & C. alliarum — 3^d a new Scaphite, allied to S. thoracicus, but plainly distinct. — 4th. A Lincolia new to me of the family of Chamaele with striae approximated in pairs. — 5th. Staph. divisa E.R. (an Oxytelus & St. praticornis of Pk.) 6th. Oxytelus lucidus K (S. praticornis Pk) very distinct from 5 & very rare Mr K having no British specimens. — Not far from this putrid habitat I found Cuc. confusum Pk (C. angulatus E.R.) In saltatorious Cuc undescribed is any author I have access to; in a Brook bed by on the under side of stones, lying in it I took three species of Elm. I think you once told me you had four species of this genus. I wonder therefore whether yours be the same with mine for I have also since found a fourth species. I shall be able to send you 3 of mine so that we can ascertain how far our acquisitions agree. In the mean time you may perhaps form some guess from the following descriptions. — My largest species is Oxytelus Volkmeri Pang. Chrys. Rufestoides, E.R. Queens, thorax with 2 longitudinal lateral furrows but no transverse ones. Elytra without elevated striae. This is rather scarce & is Lincolia Volkmeri of Muller who has described 8 species is a very good Trox graph. My second is rather less than the preceding — much more abundant indeed the commonest fall, the thorax with a transverse furrow near the base connecting the two lateral ones, Elytra with elevated striae. This is L. Queen of Muller. My third is L. lobulatus Mill. The statura of Volk but scarcely $\frac{1}{2}$ the size is thin long thorax Queens with two lateral furrows or ridges which unite with 2 elevated striae on the Elytra. There are flavo Queens with darker lines & 2 obsolete tubercles at the base. — 14 to 16 to 18 to 20 to 25 to 30 to 40 to 50 to 60 to 70 to 80 to 90 to 100 to 110 to 120 to 130 to 140 to 150 to 160 to 170 to 180 to 190 to 200 to 210 to 220 to 230 to 240 to 250 to 260 to 270 to 280 to 290 to 300 to 310 to 320 to 330 to 340 to 350 to 360 to 370 to 380 to 390 to 400 to 410 to 420 to 430 to 440 to 450 to 460 to 470 to 480 to 490 to 500 to 510 to 520 to 530 to 540 to 550 to 560 to 570 to 580 to 590 to 600 to 610 to 620 to 630 to 640 to 650 to 660 to 670 to 680 to 690 to 700 to 710 to 720 to 730 to 740 to 750 to 760 to 770 to 780 to 790 to 800 to 810 to 820 to 830 to 840 to 850 to 860 to 870 to 880 to 890 to 900 to 910 to 920 to 930 to 940 to 950 to 960 to 970 to 980 to 990 to 1000 to 1010 to 1020 to 1030 to 1040 to 1050 to 1060 to 1070 to 1080 to 1090 to 1100 to 1110 to 1120 to 1130 to 1140 to 1150 to 1160 to 1170 to 1180 to 1190 to 1200 to 1210 to 1220 to 1230 to 1240 to 1250 to 1260 to 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sure they all have reddish just dark) being found in a very dif-
ferent habitat viz under stones in still water is I dwell on
detail. — In examining some of my unsettled specimens I
have discovered one or two plants which I was not aware
of before: viz Aphrodium fetidum Mill. Cantharis dyptera
Lk. — Care Plantaginifolia Linn. just Lk. — Care atrovirens Pk
various Carex allied to C. vidua Mill or perhaps a var of
that.

Several of the above I shall have the pleasure
of sending you specimens when I have finished my house
of Platanus which I have seriously taken in hand, though
a more arduous business than I calculated upon, before
to finish before many weeks are elapsed. I think
I shall be able to muster about 18 distinct species.
If you possess any of this genus which you suspect to
be rare I should be glad if you would entrust
me with them for that case you would send
them to me by sending them straight else you may have
for me by Garnett as early as your convenience will
allow. — Any botanical novelties will be accept-
able & not many rare things but are among my
desiderata. When I send a box I will trouble you
with a list of my wants. — I rejoice to hear
that you are about to give the world a work on the Brit-
ish Impatiens, of which to my shame be it spo-
ken or rather to the shame of my ^{own} most-hostile district
I know not one single species. I have never yet seen one
in fruit! You see what a cryptogamist I am. When your
work appears (taken by the bye any we expect it?) I shall
let "doggedly to work" to investigate such leaves as the
neighbouring banks afford, of which I never could
make any thing by withering. When does D. Smith's
4th volume of Flora Brit. appear? He seems to take a
long breathing time. I fear the Juniper better him it
will weary them. I guess he has rather too many leaves