



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.

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New York, Sept. 24th 1853.

Dear Sir.

Your letter of the 19th inst. reached me yesterday.

I have examined the drawings of *Polygoni* that you sent me, & compared them with specimens in my herbarium, as well as with descriptions in the books.

No. 1. is, I think, *P. cilinod* which often occurs erect.

No. 2. seems to be, as you suspect, a state of *P. Orientale*. I have seen it very nearly like your drawing.

The ochreae are so peculiar, that the plant is not likely to be confounded

with any other species, notwithstanding
ing a difference of foliage & habit.

Your observations on the parasitism
of *Comandra* & *Gerardia* from
- communicated by Dr. Gray to Silliman's
journal, I was told of by the Doctor
before the article was published.
If you have specimens (bits pre-
served in alcohol would, I suppose
be the best) that you can spare,
I should like to see them, &
exhibit them to my class in
the Medical College.

The article just alluded to, is
wholly included in the two pages
of printed matter sent to you by

Dr. Gray. He receives extra copies
from Prof. S. of all the botanical
papers that appear in the Journal
of your City was one of them. If
you wish the entire number (No. 47
of Vol. XVI n. ser. as I understand you) it
will be necessary for you to apply
to the editor, as I am pretty sure
that Dr. Gray could not get one in
any other way himself.

I shall write to Prof. Henry, &
inform him that you did not
receive Dr. Ledebur's paper. Did you
receive my memoirs on Bates, &
Darlingtonia, ~~sent~~ with W. H. Hemont?

It will always afford me pleasure
to hear from you.
With kind regards,
J. Torrey