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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.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX PARK (FORDHAM BRANCH P. O.)
NEW YORK, N. Y.

October 6, 1937.

Dr. C. R. Ball
3814 Jocelyn Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

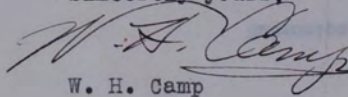
Dear Dr. Ball:-

I spent about three months last winter in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, and wonder whether in the near future you could find time to determine the Salicaceae. If so the first and complete set will be sent to you through our regular loan channels. As soon as the complete collection is determined and the labels written I will then send you as many duplicates of your group as are available.

Wherever possible I collected in sets but owing to the fact that I was there in winter during the height of the dry season I was forced to collect a few things only in unicate. In most cases however these unicates represent specimens of the same species collected in sets from the same general region.

If you do not have easily available the account of my trip which came out in recent numbers of our Journal and would care for them I would be more than glad to send them to you.

Sincerely yours,


W. H. Camp

Assistant Curator.

WHC/BP

Extension Service, U.S.D.A.,

October 8, 1937

Dr. W. H. Camp, Asst. Curator,
New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park (Fordham Br. P.O.)
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Camp:

I am much interested to know that you have been making collections in Oaxaca, Mex., during the past winter. One of my great regrets in trying to obtain a knowledge of the willows of America is that so few collectors work in Mexico and it remains our salicological terra incognita.

I will be most happy to determine your willows at your convenience. If you care to send duplicates later, I shall be pleased but my willingness to determine material is in no way conditioned on receiving duplicates for my ~~own~~ own herbarium. I have only willows, and an inventory just completed shows 12,094 sheets, nearly all American.

I am in and out of Washington but seldom gone more than two or three weeks at a time. If you will send the material to ~~me~~ me at the Extension Service, U.S. Dept. of Agric., it will be safe in a fire proof building in case it arrives when I am away. I keep my own herbarium there, altho in steel cases.

Practically all species and many varieties of willows can be determined from vegetative characters so that willows may be collected safely when not in flower or fruit, altho the latter are highly desirable.

If you have available copies of the articles describing your trip, I will be glad to have them.

Cordially Yours,

Carleton R. Ball
Executive Secretary

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Extension Service

March 10, 1938

Dr. W. H. Camp,
N.Y. Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park (Fordham Br. P.O.),
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Camp:

Herewith my preferred address for the Taxonomic Index.

I have only one specific suggestion, after a rather hasty scanning of the first issue.

It would seem that, in the case of a treatment of a genus, as in the item under H. Harold Hume, there might be some indication of the character of that treatment, as:

"General discussion, with keys", or
"Keys and full descriptions of species and vars."

Separately I am sending a copy of my just-issued paper.

This is for the Garden Library, as I assume that you receive Castanea among the other bot. journals.

Cordially Yours,

Carleton R. Ball

P.S. I note that I have not sent separates to the Garden Library recently so am sending several.

Sent + enclosed

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX PARK (FORDHAM BRANCH P. O.)
NEW YORK, N. Y.

March 14th, 1938

Dr. Carleton R. Ball
Extension Service
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

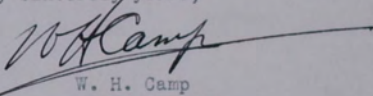
Dear Dr. Ball:

I wish to thank you for your interest in the
INDEX and the suggestions which your letter contained.

The reprints came this morning and after looking
over them and enjoying them I turned them into our library where they
are being filed in the special "Ball--Salix" folder of reprints.

We thank you very much for them and wish to assure
you that even though your articles have appeared in various magazines,
and are at present in our library, we greatly appreciate having these
separates so that they may be filed in special folders and thus become
more readily available for reference.

Very sincerely yours,


W. H. Camp
Asst. Curator

WHC/LB

April 17, 1940

Dr. W. H. Camp, Editor,
The Taxonomic Index,
New York Botanical Garden,
Fordham Station,
New York, New York.

Dear Dr. Camp:

In about three years I expect to begin preparation of a monograph on American willows. Preliminary survey indicates that material from Mexico, Central American and South America is relatively scanty and our knowledge of distribution of species in that area is very incomplete.

I am wondering if you could include in the supplement to the Taxonomic Index the enclosed copy of a notice to collectors and institutions sending expeditions. In addition to sending this notice, I am writing to several of the larger botanical gardens and other institutions which send out expeditions from time to time. In the three years or more ahead there should be some results.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball,
Executive Secretary

17-IV-40
W. M. Camp

Dr. Carleton R. Ball, Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., plans a monograph of the willows of the Americas, three years hence. Material from Mexico, and Central and South America is relatively scanty and knowledge of distribution incomplete. In Mexico, there are several little-known mountain species of which more material is greatly needed. The lowland species are better known but distribution is uncertain. In Central and South America, only one species, *Salix Humboldtiana*, occurs but in two or more varieties. It is widely planted and the chief problem is to determine where it is native and where introduced.

The assistance of private collectors, institutions, and expeditions is requested. Practically all species can be determined from vegetative specimens, so that collections may be made at all times of the year. Determinations will be made promptly.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX PARK (FORDHAM BRANCH P. O.)
NEW YORK, N. Y.

April 18, 1940.

Dr. Carleton R. Ball,
Extension Service,
U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D.C.

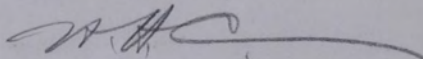
My dear Dr. Ball:

Your notice pertaining to *Salix* came this morning.
It will go into the next Tax. Index.

Also, it reminds me that I have a few Mexican willows here which need identification. I would, of course like to be able to send you the duplicates at this time, but unfortunately, due to moving they are now buried and not easily available. Therefore I am taking the liberty of sending you the *Salix* as a loan, hoping that they will prove of interest. They may be returned express collect.

Should any of them prove to be of more than casual interest necessitating additional material of the same number, I can make a special effort to get at the duplicates. You will, of course, get a complete set of duplicates as soon as they become available.

Sincerely yours,



W.H. Camp,
Assistant Curator.

WHC/AM

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

BRONX PARK (FORDHAM BRANCH P. O.)
NEW YORK, N. Y.

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April 19, 1940

Dr. Carleton K. Ball
Extension Service
Dept. of Agric.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Ball:

We are mailing to you today nine (9)
sheets of the genus *Salix* of the Camp collection from
Mexico. Dr. Camp would appreciate your identification
of the plants.

Very truly yours,

G. L. Wittrock
G. L. WITTROCK

Custodian of the Herbarium

GLW:MH

April 25, 1940

Dr. W. H. Camp,
Assistant Curator,
New York Botanical Garden,
Fordham P. O. Station,
New York, New York.

Dear Dr. Camp:

Replying to your letter of April 18, I am delighted to receive your Mexican willows and have given them as prompt determination as possible. Determination labels have been attached to each sheet and the list of determinations is enclosed.

I think that Schneider in his treatment of the Mexican willows (Bot. Gaz. 65:1-41) recognized more species than occur. His *S. Shaffneri*, which is one of the *lasiolepis* group, probably is the same as the older *S. Hartwegii*. His *S. Howlesi*, by which he represented Howles's *S. Pringlei* because the latter was founded on an uncertain mixture, apparently is based on a hybrid. The parents probably are *S. paradoxa* Kunth and *S. Hartwegii* Benth., both represented by specimens in your collection. His *S. oxyplepis*, which he himself regarded as of doubtful value, probably is a large-leaved expression of *S. paradoxa*. These are not final conclusions.

On looking over my appeal for more material from Mexico and Central and South America, I would like to change it at one point if there still is time. Accordingly, I enclose a new draft. The change merely separates Central America from South America and gives it status intermediate between that of Mexico and South America as to the occurrence of species. This is a more accurate statement of known facts.

Cordially yours,

Carlton E. Ball,
Executive Secretary

P.S.: I will be delighted to receive duplicates of these critical specimens when available. CEB

May 25, 1940

Dr. W. H. Camp,
New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park, New York.

Dear Dr. Camp:

I have just received the Taxonomic Index with its inclusion of my announcement regarding Mexican willows. I greatly appreciate your having inserted this. Already I have heard from a mountain climbing student at Oberlin, Mr. Mace, who will be a member of an expedition climbing at least six major peaks in Mexico this summer. He wishes to sell collections in order to pay his college expenses, and I have told him I will be glad to buy any willows he may get.

I am not returning the questionnaire regarding summer field work because I am not able to make definite plans this year owing to the pressure of official work.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball,
Executive Secretary

3014 Jocelyn St., N.W., Washington 15, D.C.

Dear Dr. Camp:

Sept. 21, 1948

Remembering with pleasure your paper before the taxonomists here, on the colorful variations in *Amelanchier*, I thought of you when a note by Dr. Carl D. La Rue of Michigan U., came under my eye today.

It can be found on page 145 of *Science* for August 15, 1947, and discusses change in prevailing color of flowers of the dogwood (*C. florida*) in the spring of 1946 but the reverse of my observation on the prairie phlox in northern Iowa.

Cordially yours

Carleton R. Ball

Dr. W. H. Camp,
N. Y. Botanical Garden,
Bronx Park, Fordham Br. P.O.,
New York, N.Y.

Dr. W. H. Camp,
Academy of Natural Sciences
of Philadelphia,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

3814 Jocelyn St., N.W.
Washington 15, D.C.

17 November, 1951.

Dear Dr. Camp:

I have just read your discussion "On the proposed Check List of South-eastern Plants". (Castanea 16: 112-115, Sept., 1951).

For clear thinking, logical statement, and sequential presentation, it will be hard to beat. It is timely and much needed. The task is enormous.

Let us hope that the seeds will be widely distributed and germinate rapidly, and that the plants will grow vigorously and bear abundant fruit.

I have labored over some of Small's almost non-understandable vagaries. Fernald, always a splitter, did some lumping in the New Mamel. He reduces *Salix tristis* Aiton, long and universally accepted, to the status of a variety under *S. humilis*. He absolutely rejects the historical *S. petiolaris* J.E. Smith as an American species, altho I gave him the full facts after his first paper on it appeared.

With all good wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

The ACADEMY of NATURAL SCIENCES
of PHILADELPHIA

FOUNDED 1812
NINETEENTH AND THE PARKWAY
PHILADELPHIA 3, PA.

Department of Experimental Botany
and Horticulture
WENDELL H. CAMP, Curator

TELEPHONE, Rittenhouse 6-7622
CABLE ADDRESS, Acadsci Philadelphia

December 5, 1951

Dr. Carleton R. Ball
3814 Jocelyn Street, N. W.
Washington 15, D. C.

My dear Dr. Ball:

I wish to thank you for your kind words in your recent letter,
which was on my desk on my return from England.

One almost had to work with Small to gain an idea of the nature
of his vagaries; they were many. Even as you, I have puzzled greatly
over some of Fernald's decisions. It is obvious that, today, no one
man can tackle the flora of so large an area and hope to "make" sense
in all groups. And Fernald was not a man either to take the decisions
of specialists in groups, or even confer personally with them. On
various occasions I tried to sit down with Fernald and talk over the
problems of groups with which I was fairly intimately acquainted. The
Manual indicates that he had a perfect genius for contrariness and an
innate desire to be at variance with other workers. He often accom-
plished this by ignoring things which were completely obvious, even
in the materials on deposit in his own institution. But then, none
of us are perfect in our judgments.

With best wishes,

Camp,

WHC:jm

*PS: To keep the ball rolling, why
don't you write to Core, stating your ideas
on this matter of a check-list for the S.E.U.S.*