



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
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.

April 8, 1937

Prof. Henry Lee Dean,
Department of Botany,
State Univ. of Iowa,
Iowa City, Iowa.

Dear Professor Dean:

I have just noted, with much interest, your paper on gall formation following attack by *Cuscuta*. I am especially interested in the willows, from the taxonomic and ecologic standpoints.

I have noted dodder on *Salix* several times but have not made observations on the galls produced. In my willow herbarium I have two sheets bearing dodder-infested *Salix* and both show small galls.

One is *S. Hindsiana* Benth., from Yosemite Natl. Park in California. The other is a plant cultivated for basket-making under the name "Patent Lemly" (probably *S. lucida* Muhl., of the Eastern United States.

Both specimens show only the small branchlets of 3 to 6 or 7 mm. diameter. Both show small secondary galls. That on the Calif. specimen is a short swelling, just well started. That on the cultivated plant is elongated, about an inch long, and increases the diameter by about one half.

If you would be interested in additional specimens and notes I will be glad to report whatever I find in the field.

If you have a sufficient supply of separates I would be glad to have one for my files. I have a very full *Salix* library.

My own papers are mostly on the taxonomy. If they will interest you I will be glad to send what are available. My first offense, some 40 years ago, was on the willows of Iowa. I send you a copy of that separately, but it is far from complete, in the light of present knowledge.

Cordially Yours,

Carleton R. Ball
Exec. Secy., Coordinating Committee
U.S. D.A., T.V.A., and Land-Grant Colleges.

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY, IOWA

April 12, 1937

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

Dear Dr. Ball:

Under separate cover I am sending the reprint you requested, also some other separates relating to *Cuscuta* and *Salix* that might be of interest to you. As other articles, now in press, are available I shall be glad to send reprints of these also.

I am always glad to find persons interested in *Cuscuta*. You know it has quite an unsavory reputation in many places and so is sometimes looked upon with scorn. However, I have found this plant to be extremely interesting and have many problems relating to it that I am eager to attack. Parasitic seed plants in general have long held my interest, and I hope someday to be able to gather material from the tropics. Of course, our own country has many parasites, and I probably will have to be contented with these forms. There is much to be done in this field and I hope to work out some of the problems as conditions permit.

The data you sent about your willows is of great interest to me and I will be very grateful if you can favor me with any additional findings as you run across them. My friends lately have found quantities of galls etc. practically everywhere they have found dodder. This spring I hope to collect certain critical stages to complete the data for another paper. The local C.C.C. boys set that study back a year or two by cutting out all the willows and other plants along our river here. I had several hundred plants tagged and recorded for observation and they were all cut out. However, I hope to fill in the missing parts soon.

I would be very glad to have such separates as you have on hand. The taxonomy of the willows is a problem, and anything that helps clear up the group is indeed welcome. I have a quite healthy interest in Taxonomy too; fostered by working with P.D. Strausbaugh, of West Virginia University, whom you perhaps know. Your work in Iowa of 40 years ago will be of great interest because of its age and also it gives a starting point for anyone interested in going farther with this group. Our own Professor

Shimek, recently deceased, was probably well known to you and you to him. We all regret his passing and prize the many collections he left us.

Last fall I had occasion to do some work along the Mississippi near Muscatine. I suppose you are familiar with the role of the willows in forming islands ect. in this river. If you do not have citations I would be glad to send them. The would be of much interest to you ecologically.

In all fairness I should confess that I am not entitled to the title of Professor by which you addressed me. I received my Ph.D. last June and just missed getting a job. Familiar story these days. I have had a temporary appointment here during the past year, but my real status is that of a young botanist searching for a job.

This letter is perhaps unduly long and perhaps tiresome to you so perhaps I should close. Your observations are much appreciated by me and I am glad that we find a common meeting ground with *Cuscuta* and *Salix*.

Sincerely Yours,

H. L. Dean

H. L. Dean

(over)

May 1, 1937

Dr. Henry L. Dean,
Department of Botany,
State Univ. of Iowa,
Iowa City, Ia.

Dear Dr. Dean:

I wrote you earlier today, sending you the carbons of three letters which I took the liberty of writing to units of government which might possibly have future need for your services, at least for temporary summer jobs.

I would suggest further that you get in touch with the State Dept. of Conservation at Des Moines, and if you go over to the Agricultural College that you see Prof. Drake of the Dept. of ~~Entomology~~ Zoology and the State Conservation men who have their headquarters in his Dept.

I am glad to have the reprints you sent. The three containing data on willows I have indexed and filed. The fourth, dealing with the infection of ferns, etc., I gave to Dr. Wm. R. Maxon of the U.S. National Herbarium, the fern specialist.

As I write to the different collectors hereafter, I will suggest that they collect any infested willows they see, especially collecting the galls formed. Some of them probably will find something.

I cannot quite understand why the CCC boys were cleaning out willows from the river. Unless they did an unusually good job they will be right back (the willows, I mean) and you will have a vigorous growth.

Under separate cover I am sending you a few reprints. The one on shrubby willows of Indiana will illustrate most of the species occurring in Iowa. Sorry I do not have any more now,

I just happened to have to come back to Washington for a few days. Am leaving at once and expect to be in Iowa within about 10 days. Probably will not be in Iowa City.

Cordially Yours,

Carleton R. Ball

April 30, 1937.

Dr. H. L. Dean,
Department of Botany,
The State University of Iowa,
Iowa City, Iowa.

Dear Dr. Dean:

I am writing at the moment with reference to that portion of your letter of April 12 which relates to your botanical and ecological experience and desire for regular employment. I enclose copies of three letters which I have just written to officers in the Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, and National Park Service. I have no idea as to whether or not anything will come of this action, but at least it will do you no harm to get in touch with them and it is possible that some of them will get in touch with you.

The State Coordinator of the Soil Conservation Service is at Iowa State College at Ames, and if you are in that section, I would suggest that you get in touch with him. If I can get his name I will insert herein. The Service has a conservation nursery at the College under the direction of Mr. Arthur D. Slavin.

These lines of activity may be outside your interest, but I am giving you the benefit of the doubt.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball
Exec. Secy., Coordinating Committee
U.S.D.A., T.V.A., and Land-Grant Colleges

CRB:MMB
Enclosures

P. S. The name and address of the State Coordinator for Iowa are J. L. Boatman, Ames, Iowa. C.R.B.