



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

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

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.

BAILEY HORTORIUM
NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

L. H. BAILEY, *Director*
G. H. M. LAWRENCE } *Taxonomists*
H. E. MOORE, JR. }
ETHEL ZOE BAILEY, *Curator*
MARION E. RUFF, *Illustrator*

Address:
BAILEY HORTORIUM
SAGE PLACE, ITHACA, N. Y.

2 December 1949

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

Dear Dr. Ball:

For many months I have been devoting spare time to a manuscript of a text to be titled "Taxonomy of Vascular Plants," a work the Macmillan Company has contracted to publish and to whom the completed manuscript is to be delivered by next May.

In one section of the book I am accounting for about 255 families, selecting those represented by species growing indigenously or as exotics anywhere in North America north of Mexico. For each family I have given the usual technical description, and separate paragraphs on size and distribution, distinguishing characteristics, opinions of authorities on internal and external phylogeny, economic importance, and these terminated by a selected bibliography.

I write this to you to inquire if you would be interested and willing to look over my treatment of the Salicaceae family and give me the benefit of your valued opinion and criticism. Rough-copy of this portion of the manuscript is now ready for such critical appraisal. In return for your assistance I propose to give full acknowledgment in the Preface, but at the same time will make it clear that the responsibility for all statements is my own. Naturally, I wish this work (to be of about 900 printed pages) to be as accurate and useful as reasonably possible and I feel that this can be achieved only by enlisting the aid of specialists such as yourself. Your reaction is awaited with interest.

Sincerely yours,

George Lawrence
George H. M. Lawrence (over)
Professor of Botany

Prof. George H. M. Lawrence,
Bailey Hortorium, Sage Place,
Ithaca, N.Y.

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

Dear Professor Lawrence :

I have your letter of 2 December, and note with interest the projected work on "Taxonomy of Vascular Plants". That sounds like a real job and one which should be useful to both amateurs and professionals.

If you care to send the portion dealing with Salicaceae, I will be happy to study it and make any suggestions that seem desirable. This, of course, with the full understanding that you will deal with them as seems best to you.

Separately I am send a few recent reprints, which will illustrate what I am trying to do with the genus, in certain aspects of the problem. I have completed the write-up of the willows for the new Illustrated Flora (Britton and Brown), and am busy on that for the Alaska-Yukon (and northern B.C.) species and varieties. All of this is basic to a monograph, and my conclusions are coming out in successive papers, as shown by the reprints on *S. petiolaris* and on Schneider's 3 new species from the Hudson Bay area.

One paper I would have liked to send you is out of stock. It expresses my philosophy and suggested method of taxonomic study. It is entitled: *More plant study: Fewer plant names*, and appears in *Journ. Arnold Arboretum* 37: 371-385, Oct., 1946 (Merrill Memorial Issue).

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

BAILEY HORTORIUM
NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

L. H. BAILEY, *Director*
G. H. M. LAWRENCE
H. E. MOORE, JR. } *Taxonomists*
ETHEL ZOE BAILEY, *Curator*
MARION E. RUFF, *Illustrator*

Address:
BAILEY HORTORIUM
SAGE PLACE, ITHACA, N. Y.

13 December 1949

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

Dear Dr. Ball:

Your willingness to look over my manuscript of Salicales for the forthcoming textbook is deeply appreciated and I enclose a rough copy of it for your review. Enclosed with it is a sheet explaining the character and scope of the book, as well as a self-addressed "sticker" and return postage.

You will note that the treatment is rather routine with no discussion of the internal classification of the family. Because of the general dissatisfaction with the Engler system and the "outdatedness" of the Bessey system, I have given some space in the treatment of most families to their presumed phylogenetic relationships. Please feel free to mark up the copy as you see fit and call to my attention any pertinent bibliographic entries - especially your own - that have been omitted.

Cordially yours,

George Lawrence
George H. M. Lawrence

lm

Enc.

P.S. I intended to suggest that you give taciturn its real English plural, instead of the Greek (or Latin) taxa. This inaccuracy makes our difficult English language just that more difficult and its all so needless. Had the college trained persons who habitually use data and agenda do not know whether these forms are singular or plural. Plurons are given away trying to keep manuscripts straight in proof and they fail at that, for you see data used as a singular frequently in scientific papers. I published extensively on this in American Speech some 20 years ago. Am sending several reprints but lack one you may be interested in. It is entitled "More Plant Study: Fewer Plant Names", and was published in the November 1929 issue of the Journal. Around 1930 about two years ago.

Dr. George H. M. Lawrence,
"Baily Hortorium,"
Sage Place, Ithaca, N.Y.

3814 Jocelyn St., N.W.,
Washington 18, D.C.

21 December, 1949.

Dear Dr. Lawrence:

Your letter of 13 Dec. and the manuscript of *Salicales* were promptly received and I have just found time to review the ms.

A few minor changes are indicated on the different pages. Some others are discussed below, as well as notes on some of those inserted.

P. 216. Leaves alternate, and ~~obovate~~ filaments distinct or basally connate. In *S. purpurea* (a common basket willow of Europe and widely grown here), the leaves are normally subopposite and occasionally truly opposite. This species also has the two filaments united for their entire length (sometimes the anthers also). Complete union of filaments occurs in some American species, as *S. sitchensis*, but not universally so.

Where two glands occur with one flower, 1 is below the pedicel (between it and the ~~bract~~), and the other is above the pedicel. Are both subtending?

In line 10, occurs "short-stipitate". In several species of *Salix*, the pedicels run to 4 mm. long. In *S. lebbiana*, they run from 7-10 or more mm. long, or longer than the capsule.

P. 217. One species of *Salix* occurs in the Philippines, but I don't know if they are included in the Malaysian Archipelago.

I have suggested change in the use of "by" in the paragraph on distinguishing characters of the family. The changes introduce each of the three separations with the word "by", and deletes its confusing use in the middle of one item.

I have made no studies of the subtending cup in *Populus* and the usually slender glands in *Salix*. But I have the impression that the cup of *Populus* is reduced to a mere rim around the base of the pedicel in *Salix*, and that the glands of *Salix* are a different type of structure and comparable to the glands which occur so commonly on the margins of *Salix* leaves and on the upper side of the apex of the petiole in *Salices* of the Section *Lucidae* or *Pentandrae*. This includes *S. lucida*, *S. lasiocarpa*, *S. caudata*, and *S. serotina*, and their varieties, in No. Amer.

Now as to the citing of any papers of mine, I have no way of knowing which if any would be germane. The one you have cited contains three new species, one re-described species, and three new varieties. Other papers contain novelties also, as did many papers by Bobb, Rydberg, et al.

Treatments of *Salix*, by me, in floras include Abrams' Fl. Pacific States; Dean's Shrubs of Indiana; Coulter & Nelson New Man. Rocky Mtn. Bot., and those of other States and areas, either by myself or in cooperation with another.

One paper (joint author) deals with the pruinose wax on *Salix* twigs and buds. Another poses an ecologic problem in distribution widely under different conditions.

Some discuss the principles to be observed in studying the species taxonomically. There are some 40 or 50 in all, and of course you wish few if any. One is concerned with a summary of the uses of willows by man and animals.

I will send you, separately, reprints of a few which will show the scope and will be glad to know just what you wish.

Cordially yours,
Carleton R. Ball

He has in re Salix for plants

from G. Lawrence

BAILEY HORTORIUM
NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

L. H. BAILEY, Director
G. H. M. LAWRENCE } Taxonomist
H. E. MOORE, JR. }
ETHEL ZOE BAILEY, Curator
MARION E. RUFF, Illustrator

Address:
BAILEY HORTORIUM
SAGE PLACE, ITHACA, N. Y.

22 February 1950

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

Dear Dr. Ball:

This is a belated acknowledgement of your return of the Salicaceae mss. destined for my textbook and sent you for your review. It came in about Christmas time and I have been swamped with work and just have not taken the time to write the thanks I have felt within but have not passed on to you.

I do thank you for your helpful notes. In the bibliographies that follow each family treatment I have more or less limited the selection to those that were (1) monographic or revisionary, (2) dealt with the morphology or phylogeny, or (3) were of cytogenetic aspects. I have, in general, omitted those that dealt primarily with descriptions of new species.

Your suggestion that we relax from our adherence to classical usage of Latin words (taxons instead of taxa) and to anglicize them is noted with interest. I had not read your earlier paper until you brought it to my attention. Frankly, I take the view that scientific writing is world-wide in scope and is read by scholars of all languages and to all of whom the rudiments of Latin are known. There seems to be the exception that many Americans in the applied sciences do lack any background training or experience in the classics and a majority of them (judging from their published writings) are unable to express themselves well even in English. Personally I deplore the situation and go out of my way to insure that my students (undergraduates in college) have some appreciation for and discernment of well-written scientific articles. It is true that many Americans do not know the difference between datum and data, or between nomen nudum and nomina nuda, but I do not think this is true of scientists of other countries, nor of most professional taxonomists in this country. While I am in no position to be egotistical, I do feel that if the student cannot find terms used according to accepted usage in a text or reference book that he will justifiably resign from trying. Too, I would be subject to fair censure from my more erudite associates here and abroad if I rejected what has been established as good form. Your point is appreciated, but I do not think it appropriate to take up the crusade in a textbook. (over)

Prof. George H.M. Lawrence,
Bailey Hortorium, Sage Place,
Ithaca, N.Y.

3814 Jocelyn St., N.W.,
Washington 18, D.C.

14 April, 1950.

Dear Prof. Lawrence:

Your letter of 22 July has remained long unacknowledged, partly because Mrs. Ball and I have had glorious sessions with the epidemic virus flu, from which we now are about completely recovered.

I wholly agree with you that a textbook is not the place to "crusade", even if one were so inclined. However, I must dissent on the expressed view of the standards of "professional taxonomists".

If there is any science under heaven which has no standards of any kind, it is taxonomy. Any person, with full preparation or none whatever, may enter its ranks and publish whatever he sees fit, and it stands for a million years against all comers, no matter how punk it is. All he has to do is propose new species and varieties to insure that his name remains on exhibit forever, whether the entities have any value or not. Others do all of the work and bear all of the burdens, including his ignorance and cupidity.

Doctors, lawyers, teachers all have to study long, and pass examinations by a jury of their peers before they can practice at all, and even then may be ousted or forbidden to practice, if they do wrong. Even plumbers, electricians, and other technicians must undergo similar examination for fitness and suffer the same penalties if they do not meet the requirements. But taxonomists! No requirements whatever, no supervision whatever, and a fiat that their work must be considered "published" and therefore to be reckoned with permanently by all other in the profession, whatever its actual merits.

You may wish to search the Hortorium and University libraries for copies of "Biological Leaflets" by one Leon Kelso. There were 38 of them in 1947, probably several more now. They are privately printed, with out any address, and apparently without mailing lists or being put on sale anywhere. They contain oodles of new species and varieties ~~mostly~~ largely of willows.

Their author was once in the old Biological Survey of the U.S. Dept. Agric. (now Fish and Wildlife Service). He was crazy and presently fired for complete inefficiency and insubordination. He wrote crazy taxonomic articles which the Dept. refused to let him publish, so he had them published in Rhodora and elsewhere in his wife's name as "E.H. Kelso (Ranice or Eleneor Henderson)". Then, after being fired, he began the Biological Leaflets. I doubt if they really are "published", as noted above. But the taxonomists steadily refuse to consider the matter because they do not want any one ever to question any of their precious publications. No standards: NO controls! Some day they will decide that because 5 out of 40 issues are in their library, it must be a publication. Then they can shift all of his names to new combinations and get their names in print. So it goes.

He collects widely in the Rockies, distributes no duplicates, and allows no one to see his types, so it is impossible to know what he has, if he really has it. He is much like Dr. Jepson, late of California Univ., in that. For 20 years I have been trying to see some of his undistributed types of willows but without success. Now he is dead, but his estate is in litigation and still no access to his herbarium and no knowledge of his published entities. Aint taxonomy wonderful?

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

Again, many thanks to you for your help and I believe you will note the reflection of your comments in the accounting of the willow family.

Sincerely yours,

George Lawrence
George H. M. Lawrence

lm

BAILEY HORTORIUM
NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

L. H. BAILEY, *Director*
G. H. M. LAWRENCE } *Taxonomists*
H. E. MOORE, JR. }
ETHEL ZOE BAILEY, *Curator*
MARION E. RUFF, *Illustrator*

Address:
BAILEY HORTORIUM
SAGE PLACE, ITHACA, N. Y.

19. April 1950

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

Dear Dr. Ball:

Thank you for your informative letter of the 14th. It was of particular interest to me because back in 1936 your friend Leon Kelso was a student in a class I was teaching (identification of trees and shrubs) here at Cornell.

He was a quiet retiring chap, who never quite revealed whether his reluctance to participate in discussions was due to smugness or ignorance. He had a wife and small child at that time and his primary interests were vertebrate zoology. I later saw one or two of his papers in *Rhodora* and the *American Midland Naturalist* and often wondered what happened to him. I wonder now if his death was by suicide. Can you give me his wife's address? I should like to write to her to learn of the availability of any of his privately published papers.

Naturally I have no sympathy with the short-comings of self-styled taxonomists and agree whole-heartedly with the views you expressed. The situation has always existed, I suppose we will always have *our* Rafinesques, and unless the system is radically changed by international accord, we can hope for no relief. In the case of Kelso's privately printed stuff, it would seem clear that his names are all illegitimate since he did not conform with the rules governing effective publication. They become curiosities and serve as an illustration of how not to do it.

I appreciate your bringing his case to my attention and I would like to contact his widow.

Sincerely yours,

George Lawrence
George H. M. Lawrence

Prof. Geo. H. M. Lawrence,
Bailey Hortorium, Sage Place,
Ithaca, N.Y.

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

21 April, 1950.

Dear Prof. Lawrence:

Your letter of 19 April is just here and gave me quite a shock. I have no knowledge that Leon Kelso is dead, for I have seen no notice of it, either in the press here or in any scientific magazine.

If I gave you that impression it was wholly unintentional. I have had no contact with him since 1947 when I began correspondence with him in an effort to help him and to get to see some of his *Salix* types. I failed, and merely got cussed out in his leaflets, as a worker in the totalitarian U.S. Dep. Agric.

He called himself a specialist on owls and published new species, but apparently his job in the Biol. Survey was to determine the plant contents of bird stomachs.

His address here when I looked him up was 1370 Taylor St., N.W., Washington 11, D.C. I have just looked in the telephone directory and there is no Leon Kelso listed now, nor any Mrs. Kelso at that address. I don't know if he still had a wife and family then.

I have just called Telephone Information and they tell me that a L.F. Kelso is listed at 1005 So. Columbus St., Arlington, Va. (Phone Jackson 2-4292), and that the Taylor St. phone, which is Taylor 2733, now is listed in the name of a Mrs. Henderson, which I believe was the maiden name of Mrs. Kelso.

If you want me to look further into this, please let me know.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball

BAILEY HORTORIUM
NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

L. H. BAILEY, *Director*
G. H. M. LAWRENCE
H. E. MOORE, JR. } *Taxonomists*
ETHEL ZOE BAILEY, *Curator*
MARION E. RUFF, *Illustrator*

Address:
BAILEY HORTORIUM
SAGE PLACE, ITHACA, N. Y.

24 April 1950

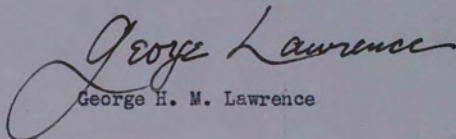
Dr. Carleton R. Ball
3814 Jocelyn St., N. W.
Washington 15, D. C.

Dear Dr. Ball:

Thank you for your prompt reply to my comments on Leon Kelso. I misinterpreted the last paragraph in your letter, believing you were writing about Kelso being dead whereas you were referring to Jepson.

Today I am sending a cordial letter to Kelso in the hope of receiving a reply, but if he is as eccentric as Jepson (with whom I had a pleasant visit back in 1943) the letter may never be answered. I'll let you know if I hear from him.

Cordially yours,


George H. M. Lawrence

lm