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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.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

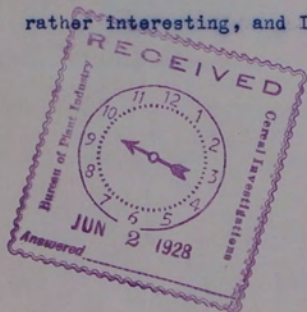
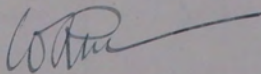
May 31, 1928.

Dear Ball:

Rose

In going over some of Doctor's effects I came across the enclosed letter written him by M. S. Bebb in December, 1893. It is rather interesting, and I think you will be glad to have it.

Sincerely,



(Copy)

926 Grant Ave.
Rockford, Ill.
Dec. 12/93

My dear Mr. Rose:

I apprehend some mistake in assigning the section of wood you sent me to No. 338 S. rostrata - or to any other number representing the same species. To begin with, the billet is numbered 166, while the leaves said to be of the same are numbered 338. While I was astonished at first by the size it did not seem altogether past credence that S. rostrata might attain such dimensions by little accretions added up through a long series of years. But when I came to observe, as I have just done this morning, that in some places there is shown an annual growth of $1/4$ of an inch for 4 consecutive years, making an increase in diameter of two inches in that time, I must conclude that no S. rostrata ever grew that way. The wood most likely belongs to S. amygdaloides.

You probably knew nothing at the time of the excitement which Gov. Furness, of Nebraska, got up over the Diamond Willow - "grew to a size large enough for railroad ties" in an incredibly short space of time and the "wood as durable as red cedar," "splendid for fence posts" and all that. Well, it turned out in the end that the Diamond Willow - "as durable as red cedar" - grew about $1/16$ of an inch diameter per annum - and rarely exceeded 2 - 3 in. in diameter - while the big and rapid growth all had relation to S. amygdaloides, the only tree willow of the region. But it took several years to get the matter straight (the more as there came to be money in it) and I received dozens of letters from Europe even, making inquiries regarding the wonderful discovery.

It is the recollection of this experience which emboldens me to question the present association of wood and herbarium specimen.

Of course if you yourself saw the tree cut down, and took the leaves from the specimen actually felled, that settles the matter - and we must learn a new lesson as to how fast Salix rostrata can grow under favorable conditions. But your No. 338 does not betoken a strong growth.

Yours cordially

M. S. Bobb

Mexico
in U.S. Nat. Herb.

April 24, 1940

Dr. William R. Maxon,
Curator of Plants,
National Museum,
Smithsonian Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Maxon:

Recently I received a collection of Mexican willows from the New York Botanical Garden for determination. In order to be able to deal with them satisfactorily, I borrowed what I then counted as 46 sheets and left a list of them on Mr. Killip's desk at the National Herbarium yesterday afternoon.

After renaming some of the specimens and reassembling all of them, I find that I have 50 sheets, as follows:

Salix Bonplandiana	7
Salix Hartwegii	2
Salix Humboldtiana	4
Salix jaliscana	3
Salix Mexicana	6
Salix oxylepis	3
Salix paradoxa and var.	10
Salix Rowleei and var.	8
Salix Schaffneri	1
Unnamed	6

Evidently I miscounted yesterday or else I overlooked one cover in counting.

Casual survey of this Mexican material would indicate that Schneider created more species and varieties than are warranted by the material. For example, *S. Shaffneri* Schneider appears to be a synonym of *S. Hartwegii* Benth. Certainly the characters given in his key (Bot. Gaz. 65:4, 1918) are not sufficiently different to separate the two species when based on only one or two specimens.

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S. Rowleei Schneider, like *S. Pringlei* Rowlee, which Schneider's name replaces, appears to be based on some exceedingly variable hybrid material and mixtures.

S. oxylepis Schneider, which was a new name for the non-valid *S. latifolia* Martens and Galeotti, apparently does not differ appreciably from *S. paradoxa* Kunth, a fact partially recognized by Schneider himself. In his key he separates these by the shape of floral bracts, but the differences he indicated often can be found in a single ament of either species.

These are not final conclusions but they are strongly indicated by the material in hand.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball,
Executive Secretary

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dupel in Maxon + Hartwegii

Mexico

September 13, 1940

Dr. William R. Maxon,
U. S. National Herbarium,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Maxon:

I am returning herewith the four Mexican and three United States willows transmitted for identification with your letter of August 30. I am especially glad to have seen this Mexican material and to know that it will be available in the National Herbarium because there has been much confusion regarding the mountain species from Mexico, owing chiefly to lack of material. Recent collections will make it possible to monograph the Mexican mountain species presently.

4063 *S. Rowleei* Schneider. Slender trees to 25 ft. tall. Catkins to 1½" long. Leaves ½" broad covered with soft, silvery hairs. On open slopes at edges of Pine woods and close by small streams. Desierto de los Leones, 9500 ft. Mexico D.F. 3/28/38

4188 *S. oxylepis* Schneider. (Belongs here by the long and acute flower scales of Schneider's key, but he was doubtful of the validity of his species, admitting that it might be a variety of *S. paradoxa* Kunth) Oval, pointed, shaped trees, in young stages of very uniform shape to 15 ft. tall. On steep open slopes, among shrubs and scattered pine trees. Paraje Provincial, Popo, Mex. 11,300 ft. 4/13/38.

4215 *S. oxylepis* Schneider. (Same as 4188) Flowers white 3/8" diam. Flattened squat habit. On dry banks, among shrubs etc. part shade. Paraje Provincial, Popocatepetl. Mex. state. 11,000 ft. 4/14/38.

4378 *S. oxylepis* Schneider. (Same as 4188) White reverse to leaves. Bushy, slender trees to 15 ft. tall. Growing in barranca, on steep banks. Lomogrande, Mt. Orizaba, Ver. 8,900 ft. 4/28/38.

All collected by Edward K. Balls.

Cordially yours,

Carleton R. Ball,
Executive Secretary

dupl in file + 2 sps

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P.S. On noting the description of 4215 after it was copied in the letter, I can see that it does not refer to a willow. By consulting the typed label on the sheet I find that this number was assigned to a *Fragaria* or wild strawberry. I am wondering if the number and locality given for this *Fragaria* are correct for the willow. I will be glad if you will check up and let me know what data should go with this willow specimen.

GRS

March 27, 1947

Dear Carleton Beals,

alias Cui bono,
alias Kibono!

Greetings! Likewise thanks for the clipping ["cutting," if you are British-inclined] enclosed with your letter of the 23rd. It is the first time you have been kind enough to do this sort of thing, & it is appreciated. Incidentally, I am particularly glad to have that short article, & will tell you a story more closely related to it when our trails cross next time.

Yes; there have been various changes about W. A. H. I. There have been ill most of the time since returning from Mexico in October, & hence I have been able to put in much time at work. But I'm hoping to do better with warmer weather — if it ever comes!

Best regards, as always.

W. A. H. I.

Terra Ceia, Florida
Nov. 5, 1947

Dear Ball,

We left Washington Saturday morning and got here yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon - much better time for the 1000-mile trip than expected. It was just fine!

Thanks for the reprint. I shall be on the look-out for Salix floridana. Please give me the precise locality-data for the plants collected (or studied) by Dr. A. Merrill; I may very likely be able to revisit those places.

Incidentally, what is the correct name?

I have several sheets of it for you, - if you want it.

With best regards,
Sincerely, yours

W. R. Maxon

William R. Maxon

Salix caroliniana
(5 longipes Shuttleworth)