



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.

November 29, 1927.

Dr. Orland E. White,
Biological Bldg.,
University, Virginia.

Dear Dr. White:

On my return from a recent field trip, I find your package of separates and thank you for sending them. Those dealing with genetic problems I have given to some of our expert geneticists in this office. As I am not a geneticist, I do not keep these papers. I trust that this disposition of them is satisfactory to you. If you take me off your mailing list for such separates, it will be all right with me. If you prefer to continue sending them, I will give them to men who will make direct personal use of them.

In glancing through your paper on plants in reference to cold resistance, I was interested in your statements regarding Salix, on pages 6 and 7. Your characterization in the last paragraph on page 6 is completely accurate. The one in the next to the last paragraph on page 7 is almost opposite in meaning, and I am wondering if the genus Salix is not listed there by error. As a genus it is not common in the tropics, though one or two of its many sections penetrate through the warm temperate into the tropical. The genus, as a whole, is of exactly opposite characteristics, as you have noted on page 6.

Very sincerely yours,

Carleton R. Ball,
Senior Agronomist in Charge.

MILLER SCHOOL OF BIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

UNIVERSITY, VA.

Nov. 29, 1927.

My dear Mr. Ball

Strictly speaking you are correct. The genus *Salix* should not have been listed on page 7, since as you point out, it is mainly temperate, and its tropical representatives are few as species, though common enough as individuals. I was thinking of the ^{subgenus} family Salicaceae on page 6.

Can you tell me whether the tropical South American species of *Salix*, such as *S. Humboldtii*? etc. are the most primitive of this genus?

Thanks for your letter.

Sincerely,

Orland E. White,



December 22, 1927

Dr. Orland E. White,
Miller School of Biology,
University of Virginia,
University, Va.

Dear Dr. White:

Your letter of November 29 has been scandalously neglected.

I have been buried alive with corn borer trouble in addition to my regular work and the necessity of getting a paper or two ready for Nashville.

I have not had time to look into the beliefs of botanists on the subject of the relative primitiveness of characters in the Salicaceae, but will try to do so after I return on December 30. I do not have personal knowledge of this subject, nor can Dr. Berry give me any assistance from palaeontology.

Sincerely yours,

C. R. Ball
Sr. Agronomist in Charge

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