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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.

RESEARCH UNIT

State of Hawaii  
Department of Health  
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96727

July 1, 1981

Dear Otto and Isa:

Enclosed now is our trail guide for Kalopa State Park, specifically for the native forest area. It remains to be seen if we can educate a few who will carry on the work in this area, fast enough so that our projects will expand rather than diminish in time.

The more I see of the 600 acres at Kalopa, the more I am convinced that all that was necessary in the CCC days was to fence the remnant forests against cattle and other intrusions. The tree planting was a decided error in any forest which had a trace of ohia and other native species standing.

I am gripped with the realization that I did not express my thanks a year or so ago with the arrival of yet another set of about a dozen of those fine zinc plates. My plan with some of them is to provide a table of them, in the manner you have suggested, for my botanist son, Michael. No matter that he is a beekeeper, he does <sup>have</sup> such appreciation for the Hawaiian flora.

It is my regret that I have not called on you. At the 1980 Science Conference you were mingled with the crowd and I was unable to reach you on my short period of attendance at the sessions.

With Sincere Good Wishes,

*Quentin Tomich*

P. Quentin Tomich  
Animal Ecologist V

Early draft

Dear Quentin: Isa & I attended the XII International Botanical Congress in August in Sydney. As Australia was comparatively close to New Zealand & Tasmania, we spent some time there too. We were interested in comparison of those three floras with that of Hawaii. We feel we are closest to that of New Zealand, but that is just an uneducated opinion that could be checked easily with the florists of each place. Just compare the genera of each as they are listed in the indexes. We lack the floras & don't have the time, but it would be fun.

We are so surprised that at least for us the XII Congress in Keningrad was superior. The average people were charming, and sincerely so. We had no guide to watch over them or us. I would no more blame the average Russian of Keningrad, Moscow & the Caucasus (where we lived) for objecting to us than they can blame Isa & me for having a truck by Dicky, criminal President like Nixon. Bureling Castro with the Olympics was the greatest possible blunder as it was a slap in the face of the average Russian friendly to Americans. It certainly must have turned many against us and more naturally with their objectionable rulers.

We met a charming group of Cairns Nature Club members & shall mail your excellent letter to Forest Nature Trail to them as an inspiration for them to follow. After seeing Tasmania we are violently opposed to planting forests of eucalypts on Hawaii. We have mailed our letter of protest to H. Tolmie, Herald, & hope it will be printed. A small fire from a cigarette for instance in such a forest suddenly volatilizes the oil on the leaves, sets the entire resulting forest fire practically exploding and destroys entire villages and even jumps the beam to set fire to offshore islets!

I am writing you now as I am wading through the stack of letters that have accumulated at Waialua & Volcano since we have been away.

I was so influenced by Maurice Maeterlinck's "Life of a Bee" (or some similar title) when I was a juvenile. Has your son read the book or is it too old-fashioned? I shall follow Isa next week to Waialua. Her mother there had a little attack of angina pectoris. I always carry a vial with me, but so far have not had the occasion to take one of the pills.

Aloha  
Otto & Isaac



Drs. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 134  
Volcano, Hawaii  
96785 U.S.A.

July 1, 1981.

Dear Don:

I want to thank you & Lyn for taking such good care of two ladies living at Mokuleia far distant from the Smith Kuliiana. I don't worry so much with you living on Oahu.

I doubt Doc Torrey really corresponded with botanists as he was interested in developing students rather than in Botany as Bot. He was a superb teacher. I remember his telling me that Botany was the medium or tool he used for teaching, & that he could have used Zoology just as well. Of course, I don't remember his words; but I do remember his attitude as I was so surprised at it.

Do you remember Dave Potter who was the Dept.'s Graduate Assistant? He would have good impressions. He had been a realtor before returning to Botany, so he may have died of old age by this time.

Thanks to the Alumni Bulletin, Charles Raymond Vinton of my Class of '22 wrote me amusingly. He is now retired presumably from the National Park Service, and lives at 33 Water Street, St. Augustine, Fla. 32084. Why not write him?

I believe I mentioned Horace Clay to you, and that you got little information. Did Dr. Clay take more than one class from Doc. Torrey? He is really more of a practical Horticulturist, rather than a botanist. Should there be any Torrey correspondence, I would think it would have been with Jeffrey of Harvard - probably all has been destroyed long ago.

We uns will be seeing you this month,



BOTANICAL MUSEUM  
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI  
Unioninkatu 44  
SF-00170 HELSINKI 17  
FINLAND

Helsinki, July 5, 1981

Drs. I. O. Degener  
P.O.Box 154  
Volcano  
Hawaii  
U.S.A

Dear Drs. Degener,

Thank you very much for the last shipment of Hawaiian plants (18 vascular plants and 4 algae), received several days ago. They will be added to our herbarium, and a corresponding amount of specimens will be sent to NY. Thank you also for reprints, deposited to our library.

With best regards

Yours sincerely

*Pertti Uotila*  
Pertti Uotila  
Associate curator

# 72  
Rec. 4/1/82



*Hale Degen*

Dec. 6, 1981.

WAILUA, OAHU, HAWAII

Dear Skip:

After our writing you, your interesting reprints were forwarded from Volcano to Mokuleia where Isa & I happen to be living now. One of our tenants is moving & we must find a replacement. So only "God" or the "Fates" know when we shall return to Volcano.

Of course your *P. tectorius* in Haw. Nei interests us the most:

Whether a plant was described in very general or in technical lingo before (pig) Latin became a mandate is unimportant. Anyway, who decides what is what? Hence we off hand consider any kind of description for such earlier times as valid.

Furthermore, we can quibble whether hyphen between generic-specific names should invalidate a binomial by considering the hyphen a sphale., typographic error.

Furtherstillmore, ~~for~~ *Pandanus tectorius* (J.P. du Roi) Deg. & Deg., is actually a combination novus. Did you ever see (J.P. du Roi) Deg. & Deg., combined before? We did not write "*Pandanus tectorius* comb. nov., (J.P. du Roi) Deg. & Deg., but P. t. ( ) Deg. & Deg. c.n.

Furthermore, you can't justly ascribe ignorance to Parkinson and ascribe the scientific binomial to Banks and/or Solander if they were busy or disinterested to get off some nest & lay a pandan phalange.

Furtherstillmore, if we want to quibble, what about "du Roi" being two words & "St. John" an abbreviated word with an unabbreviated follower. Sheriff, in fun, used to translate this into "Sanctus Johannis" or nautilly the "Celestial Biped".

Still furthermore, you state on your second page, that "St John - - - found that the printer had set all the botanical names without hyphens. Is this not actually an unauthorised without hyphens. The author wanted it. This should be considered a misprint and hence we should consider (we repeat for emphasis) the unhyphenated binomial actually hyphenated. Or should we follow some shyster, unearth the printer's name and call the plant *P.tectorius* followed by "the Printer's Devil" & actual author followed by an "ex"?

The article appeared in "Der Naturforscher" with page & date. What argument is there that it is not available in particular in countries where German is spoken as in Austria & Germany? Look at Taxon for location of the Journal. I give it in the Artocarpus "Masterpiece" I just mailed you.

You suggest that the poor plant when cited with authorship, should be written thus "- - -". Do you realize that this consists of 75 letters & punctuation marks!. Soon, instead of brief binomials, we will go back to pre-Linnean nomenclature and name a plant by a full sentence.

By the way, should your new combination *Pandanus tectorius* var. *levigatus* (Martelli) B.C. Stone be considered valid with the typesetter printing part of name in italics? If he made one error, did he possibly make a second?

Getting down to brass tacks, the brute is actually one group of names according to one author or authors, and something else according to others. We let workers take their pick. According to the XIII Int. Congress specific names can now be included in nom. cons. As Isa & I stated before: "who knows what botanists 1,000 years hence will do."

But in summary, is it not soothing for us that the names or initials of the most famous botanists, such as L., are in modern Floras so often cramped between parentheses? If there are hundreds of "(L.)", why can't there be a dozen "(Deg.)" & half a dozen "(Stone)"?

Now that you are no longer foaming at the mouth in anger after we accept your valid opinion on a pair with ours, we want to touch on a different matter: We collected South of the Tropic of Capricorn a relative of Thismia which we hope to name Stonea rupicola Deg. & Deg sp. nov., with a brief, near inadequate Latin diagnosis. To save printer's cash we might leave everything in ms. We have dried (as you can see) & pickled material of it. Do you want to work it up scientifically, the correct name according to your findings becoming -- --? -- rupicola (Deg. & Deg.) B.C. Stone? It would be fun. Give the word, and the material will reach you post haste.

We are impressed by your publications & pleased you are getting Borneo plants worked up. Incidentally, my cousin, the late MIMI Caroline Degener, a striking beauty of Jewish ancestry and the niece of the late August Heckscher of Anaconda Copper, married my cousin Rudolf Degener. Carolin's sister married a Sarawak Brooke years ago. I believe it was his father who in disgust abdicated as Rajah of Sarawak. You may know more about it than I. Caroline was for years an officer of the Heckscher Foundation on Fifth Avenue, Manhattan, which spilled under the avenue into Central Park. Another relative of Caroline's was high up in Park Administration in New York City.. He more recently changed the spelling of his name.

Isa & I wish you & your Homo sapiens Family as well as the Pandanaceae a Merry Christmas and an interesting 1982.

Aloha,

P.S. Should you not have the date of publication on the Pandanus reprint you kindly mailed us. It is from your Dept., at the Univ. of Malaya.



When we contemplate that perhaps a hundred different kinds of plants native to different regions of the World are known in different languages as "mayflower" simply because they bloom primarily in May, we can understand botanists must try to untangle the confusion. To do so they have found it practicable to give each kind of mayflower a specific, more or less Latinized name. Such naming for precision, however, must follow the precepts published as the "International Code of Botanical Nomenclature." Naturally it is somewhat "legalese", and the 1966 edition before us in English, French and German, all liberally sprinkled with Latin, comprises 402 pages.

Moreover the name in English of members of the genus Pandanus, according to Kelsey & Dayton in their 1942 edition of "Standardized Plant names," is "screwpine". In the Hawaiian vernacular it is "hala", a name so commonly used by all residents and tourists alike that it deserves to be Anglicized with its proper place in our dictionaries. We wish to emphasize that calling a screwpine "lauhala" is an error. "Lau" in Hawaiian means "leaf". "Lauhala" is the plant's leaf so useful, after removal of its prickles, for plaiting into floor and table mats. It is not the name of the plant itself.

Beautiful Waimea Valley, Oahu, State of Hawaii, has been rescued from neglect and destruction by becoming an arboretum catering to both residents and tourists. Its grounds are beautifully landscaped with native and exotic plants, properly labeled, presently \*\*mauka to a waterfall one mile distant as the crow flies from the beach. In and about these beautiful grounds grow various kinds of hala. According to Harold St. John's "Hawaiian Flowering Plants" (1973), he records the following as native and/or even endemic: Pandanus chamissonis first described by Gaudichaud in 1841; P. douglasii Gaud., 1841; P. menziesii Gaud., 1841; P. odoratissimus L. f., 1781 var. odoratissimus, var. levigatus Martelli, 1930, and var. oahuensis Martelli, 1930; and P. tectorius var. sandvicensis Warb., 1900.

Realizing how the Science of Astronomy has advanced due to better contemplation and the invention of better instruments and even floating laboratories penetrating interstellar space, we must expect the same advance in the Science of Botany. Although we have already so many earlier opinions, changed usually for the better due to the study of chromosomes, chemical composition and scanning electron micrographs, we must expect still greater advances.

Because of present uncertainty and differences of opinion regarding even scientific names, the Code solves this problem. Depending on priority, with certain rare, useful exceptions, the first person describing and naming a taxon scientifically appends his own name after it. Hence, for example, Linnaeus called the common pineapple Bromelia comosa in 1754. This is not necessarily the correct name of the plant. But it is the name of the plant ACCORDING TO THE OPINION of Carl Linnaeus. Then Merrill in 1917 called the pineapple "Ananas comosus". As this combination of two words "belongs" to two authors, we would write the binomial "Ananas comosus (L.) Merr.". Anyone can take his pick between Linnaeus' and Merrill's opinions. One of us having known Elmer D. Merrill (1876-1956) personally and how acute he was, is convinced his knowledge of the pineapple in 1917 was superior to that of Linnaeus in 1754. So we follow Merrill, but who knows what botanists 1,000 years hence will do! Some even today prefer Ananas comosus (Stickm.) Merr., for the pineapple, but that is another story.

After this brief lesson in the scientific naming of plants, we want to tackle the scientific name of one of the hala listed by us above, and called in some modern literature "Pandanus tectorius Parkins. ex Z".

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\*Authors and/or publishers of "Flora Hawaiiensis or New Illustrated Flora of the Hawaiian Islands", Books 1-6, 7 in print; "Plants Haw. National Parks" (paperback); "Naturalist's South Pacific Expedition: Fiji"; and articles like this one. For prices write to Box 154, Volcano, Hi. 96785.

\*\*Mountainward or inland in contrast to makai or seaward.

(C) Deg., & Deg., 1991.



As we have explained in our article "Outrageously Presumptuous - - -", appearing in *Phytologia* 39(3):143-146. 1978, the letter "Z" has no standing according to the Code. Who is this mysterious "Mr. Z" anyway. As we remarked on page 144, basing our knowledge on the researches of Herman Manitz in 1976, "Z" is actually Johann Philip du Roi (6/2/1741-12/8/1785). Du Roi worked over a manuscript of Sydney C. Parkinson, a companion on Captain Cook's tour of the Pacific in 1768 to 1771. Du Roi was Court Physician in Brunswick (Braunschweig), Hannover, Germany. Like all physicians of his time, he was acquainted with "simples" - did not God create such vegetables to possess a virtue, and constitute a simple remedy; and did he not according to the Doctrine of Signatures help the physician select the right one? The red-juiced bloodroot, if we are not mistaken, was for curing the maladies of the blood, and the liver-shaped leaf of the hepatica for curing the liver - Obviously du Roi was a keen botanist for his time, corresponding with the famous son (Linnaeus filius or L. f.) of the illustrious Carl Linnaeus, Sr. According to the Code, du Roi was responsible for publishing the scientific name of the hala, collected in Tahiti, under the binomial Pandanus tectorius. For modest reasons of his own, he eschewed signing his name and, instead, merely signed "Z". As this is contrary to the Code, we immodestly are correcting according to our opinion the name. By the way Wilhelm Degener, the father of Otto, was born in Brunswick May 23, 1844. He never knew Johann Philipp du Roi, who was born over a hundred years earlier and had died in 1785. Nevertheless, the two were so-called "calabash cousins" who, had they lived concurrently in the Hawaiian Islands, would have been worthy of serving themselves out of the very same family poi bowl. Finally having ended with the above verbosity, we here officially publish what we consider the correct name of a taxon of Pandanus, to wit:

PANDANUS TECTORIUS (J.P. du Roi) Deg. & Deg., comb. nov.

Syn. Pandanus tectorius Z in his "Die Pflanzen der Insel Outahitië, aus der Parkinsonischen Reisebeschreibung gezogen, and mit Anmerkungen erläutert von Z.". *Der Naturforscher* 4: about page 240. 1774.

But who knows what botanists 1,000 years hence will do!



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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 7, 1981

Drs. Otto & Isa DeGener  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii

Dear Drs. DeGener:

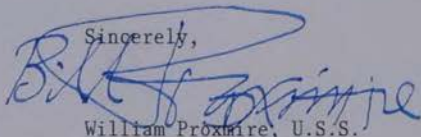
Thank you very much for sending me your nomination for the "Golden Fleece of the Month Award."

I certainly will consider it seriously and sympathetically along with the other nominees I have received.

I am glad there are concerned people such as yourself helping members of Congress reduce waste and inefficiency in government.

I deeply appreciate your taking the time to share your ideas with me.

Sincerely,



William Proxmire, U.S.S.

WP:msc





from the desk of S. TAUSSIG

CCI

P.O. BOX 88041 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 U.S.A.

Dec 14 81

Dear Isa and Otto :

I tried for weeks to reach you in Waialua and Volcano. There was no answer in Waialua and in Volcano I got a taped message that your phone was changed. Then I called Volcano and the operator said that she does not know what happened to your phone.

To make a long story short: we wanted to see you for a long time and were unable to get in touch.

Please call as soon as you get back. We would like to hear about your trip to

It isn't how LONG you live

It's HOW you live long

Australia and how you are.  
We would like to see you. It's  
unimportant where, how and  
when; you are important.

We will be in San Francisco  
between Dec 29 - Jan 7th

We wish you a Merry Christ-  
mas and a Happy and Healthy  
New Year, and the same  
to Mrs Kühle.

Affectionately

Susan & Steve

SEASON'S GREETINGS  
SEASON'S GREETINGS  
SEASON'S GREETINGS  
SEASON'S GREETINGS  
SEASON'S GREETINGS  
SEASON'S GREETINGS  
SEASON'S GREETINGS  
SEASON'S GREETINGS





The Doctor Legener

Box 154 Volcano

Hawaii 96785

Gift 15 years  
old of Hihicahale  
ancient giffardii  
Legener



Dear Lisa and Otto -  
We're still both happy and  
kicking about various things  
we'd like to see changed.  
But things could be worse.  
We've not been to Volcano for  
a long time, but one of these  
days we'll make it. Going  
to Maui this Holiday Season  
for a few days in the old  
stamping grounds. Our best!  
Dorothy and Howard [Powers]

**FIELD MUSEUM**  
**OF NATURAL HISTORY**

December 17, 1981  
Order No. 81256

Drs. Otto & Isa Degener  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii 96791

Dear Drs.:

Please consider this letter our Purchase Order (No. 81256) for the following:

FLORA HAWAIIENSIS  
Book VI \$15.00  
Book VII \$15.00

Kindly invoice in triplicate and address:

LIBRARY - ORDER DIVISION  
Field Museum of Natural History  
Chicago, Illinois 60605-2498

Please let us know as soon as possible if you cannot supply.  
Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

*Alfreda Rogowski*  
Alfreda Rogowski  
Acquisitions Librarian

[Strange! After Dr. Earl & Sherry's death in 1966, I was informed not to mail field any more specimens from Hawaii!]  
OO.

68-617 Crozier Drive  
Waialua, Oahu HI 96791

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HERBARIUM

NORTH UNIVERSITY BUILDING  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48109, U. S. A.

18 December 1981

Dear Drs Degener,

Many thanks for your letter of 19 November and the file cards of Topping's fern collections, received today. As I may have mentioned to you previously, I am keeping a file of Topping's Philippine collections. But I have not attempted to do so for his gatherings from anywhere else. So I have gone over all the Philippine cards comparing with my own, and have written a few nomenclatural updates and/or identification corrections directly onto your cards. I have not done so for the non-Philippine cards. I am very glad you sent these to me; and I am returning them to you immediately, with this letter.

The Ferns of Topping of the American Fern Society herbarium, now incorporated in the U. of Mich. herbarium: there is no indication on any of these that they were ever handled by you, such as a stamp reading "ex. herb. O. Degener" that I have seen so many places. So I believe that these must have been sold or donated to AFS before Topping settled in Hawaii. And none of them are Hawaiian collections. The total number is 790 Topping Old World ferns from AFS to MICH according to the accession records.

Tryon's monotypic Pteridium: You may be interested to know that Holttum and Wagner both believe that there should be more than one species recognized. But it also seems to me that merely taking Tryon's 12 varieties and making 12 species will not be a satisfactory solution as some of the varieties are closer together than others; ~~xx~~ (how could it be otherwise?). So perhaps some should rank as species, others as subspecies, and maybe a few can remain as varieties. When I lived in the Philippines, it was immediately evident to me that the two Philippine "varieties" were as distinct as two species ever ~~xxxxxx~~ <sup>needed</sup> to be. The Hawaiian plant is quite similar to others on the west coast of the U.S., but you know it better than any other person, and your judgement that it is distinct enough to rank as a species should be respected.

I had not heard that nomina conservanda specifica were sanctioned by the last IBC. They can't even keep with the families and genera! How could you have allowed that to happen? I am with you and 100% opposed! You should punish them by submitting some comic examples pretending they are in earnest.

Ben Stone told me he was born in China of American parents if I remember correctly.

Yes, John Mickel is a fine person and a good scientist.

And thank you again for the long letter, which I take as a compliment, and which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Warmest regards,

Aloha,

*Michael Price*  
(M.G.Price)

over please.....



19 December 1981

After writing the letter on the other side, I checked with the Secretary of IAPT, Dr Edward Voss, who is here at MICH, as you probably know. He said he too fought against the concept of conserving specific epithets, and lost, but that the battle is not over. Committees can recommend all they wish but no specific epithets will be conserved without the action of the next Congress which is six years away. So we have six years to campaign for a reversal.

Dec. 28, 1981

Dear Dr. Golub:

Our good friend & distant neighbor Don Smith gave me your letter to read, as it applies to our most wonderful teacher & friend Doc. Torrey. My reaction to your letter is the following. Of course, it is a quick reply, and after musing I might very probably alter it:

1. I have specialized in the Hawaiian flora with Mrs. D., for years to such an extent that I would be incapable of doing justice to a revision of anything outside our narrow field.
2. To revise or edit any work whatever, the individual must have access to an up-to-date bot. library. We live on the Island of Oahu thirty miles from the nearest one, and depend on our work on our own private one limited to Haw., systematics - descriptions of local species.
3. Knowing what a shrinking violet Doc. Torrey has always been, I fear he would snort in disapproval in having his name "cheapened" by being in a title such as "Ray Ethan Torrey Systematic Botany." To me & Mrs. D., particularly (born in Berlin), it would be in poor taste and harmful to the project.
4. The title on the cover, WE FEEL, should be an impersonal title such as "Systematic of the Plant Kingdom", or "- - - of Phanerogams", or whatever it may be, with "R.E. Torrey" beneath. There were two other Torrey botanists, so we must distinguish between the three.
5. On the title page I should like the more specific "Ray Ethan Torrey, in collaboration with Sam Golub, Harvard, Ph. D., 1950? John Doe, Berkeley, Ph.D., - - - - -, ?Günther Buchheim, Berlin, Ph. D., 19\*\*?". Of course the list should be on different lines in proper "artistic" arrangement.
6. The above to us at least seems more dignified.
7. Then devote one sheet with a photo of Doc. Torrey at his desk - one is available - at top of page, and the rest with his biography. NEXT, the reader should turn the page and be able to read the biographies of each collaborator in a single paragraph each. This automatically will give credit where due AND show automatically to the instructor hunting for a textbook to use in his next term that the Torrey book is up-to-date for 1982!!!!!! The sheet will properly show that the main author was a genius actually ahead of his time.
8. If some of Doc. Torrey's ideas encompass too many Hinduisms for the average instructor & student, don't stubbornly kill the proposed book, but add them in an explanation via footnote. I feel it better to WIN a battle 80% than to give up in disgust & be DEFEATED 100% by having the dusty ms., eventually discarded by some "efficient" librarian spring-cleaning library shelves to make place for volumes in current use.

I hope, Dr. Golub, you will excuse this brutally frank letter. Remember, it is simply my private opinion, which certainly contains flaws. I don't expect a 100% grade on it.

I herewith enclose a study by a local Botany student that I happened to come across. I, unlike Doc. Torrey, am not a shrinking violet anymore. We try to plug Mrs. D's., & my books as it helps us buy our daily ~~fish & poi~~ fish & poi.

Mrs. D., & I wish you and your family an interesting 1982.

Aloha,

Otto Segeur, M.C. '22

NATHANIEL PRYOR REED

December 30, 1981

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Degener  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
Waiialua  
Oahu, Hawaii 96791

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Degener:

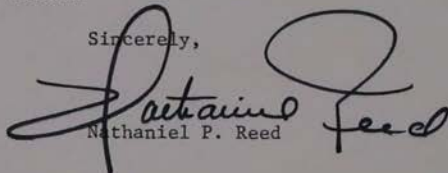
Aloha  
and thanks for a perfectly fascinating book on one  
of my most favorite national parks.

I am honored by your inscription and will devour  
the book on my next plane trip.

Hopefully, I will have another chance to meet with  
you and thank you in person.

Warmest best wishes.

Sincerely,

  
Nathaniel P. Reed

NATHANIEL P. REED  
Jupiter Island - Box 375  
Hobe Sound, Fla. 33455 6

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68617 Crozier Dr.  
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C. J. Davis

EXPÉDITEUR / AFZENDER

c/o Mrs. J. P. van Erp  
Kiesdorp 37  
2461 BF Ter Aar  
Netherlands

NIETS INSluiten!

GEEN ADRESSTROKEN, SLUITZEGELS, PLAKBAND, ENZ. GEBRUIKEN.

[Clifton Davis is our neighbor at  
Volcano, Hawaii. He was an ento-  
mologist with the State of Hawaii,  
and traveled extensively to in-  
troduce & test foreign insects  
for biological control of plant  
pests in the State. He is now  
retired, Oahu.]

RUIMTE VOOR  
KLEP

RUIMTE VOOR

→



Ter Aar,  
Hetherlands  
31 Dec 1981

Dear Otto + Lea + Elly

Your letter arrived yesterday and we were surprised but happy to hear from you.

Hope you had a nice Xmas and that the New Year will be a great one for you all.

Up until yesterday we were snow bound and of course had a white Christmas. We arrived in a snowstorm and it was a beautiful sight driving through the snow to Ter Aar which is a 30 minute drive from the Amsterdam Airport.

It has been very cold with temperatures in the  $-7$  to  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  range and the Canal in front of the house (about 100' away) was frozen until yesterday. We watched the birds and adults skate daily and the children certainly enjoyed sledging and skating while it lasted.

To day the Country side is green again (grass) and the wild ducks, birds and sheep are working overtime foraging. Ter Aar is largely a farming community and while there is a super market and a number of small stores close by, heavy shopping is done in Alphen about 15 minutes from here. Alphen is larger than Hils but at the moment don't have figures for comparison.

We are quite envious - so many nice things you can get here that you can't get at home. Yesterday we took a day's leave to Alphen in the morning and it was ready in the afternoon (at about half the cost in Hils!)

Glad you met our house and dog sitters we have a story to tell about Oly when we next see you. Happy New Year, Elly + Mally.  
We depart here 16 Jan.

272  
Rec 19/1/82

Enclosure 7-11  
in Hunt folder

12/30/81

Here attached, Otto, is a Xc  
of the item that you wish to send along to  
Golub. I'll return "original" later ----.  
Also will have run off half-dozen ccs of  
yr ltr to Golub, so that you can send to  
Hunt, NY Bpt., St. Louis, etc. ----

Will --- intend to 'phone --

Saturday, Jan. 2 -----

And for 1982:

In the meantime a quiet BANZAI! to you  
and with the wish for much courage  
and strength to Isa and to Elly.

Aloha from 67-263 Kahaone Loop,

Ginn and Company

101 Spring Street  
Lexington, Massachusetts 02173  
Telephone (617) 850-1600  
Telex 91-1111-1111

Don

[Smith, retired from  
Ginn & Co.]

XEROX

## NO HALA HALLUCINATION!

\*OTTO &amp; ISA DEGENER

When we contemplate that perhaps a hundred different kinds of plants native to different regions of the World are known in different languages as "Mayflower" simply because they bloom primarily in May, we can understand botanists must try to untangle the confusion. To do so they have found it practicable to give each kind of mayflower a specific, more or less Latinized name. Such naming for precision, however, must follow the precepts published as the "International Code of Botanical Nomenclature." Naturally it is somewhat "legalese", and the 1966 edition before us in English, French and German, all liberally sprinkled with Latin, comprises 402 pages.

Moreover the name in English of members of the genus *Pandanus*, according to Kelsey & Dayton in their 1942 edition of "Standardized Plant names," is "screwpine". In the Hawaiian vernacular it is "hala", a name so commonly used by all residents and tourists alike that it deserves to be Anglicized with its proper place in our dictionaries. We wish to emphasize that calling a screwpine "lauhala" is an error. "Lau" in Hawaiian means "leaf". "Lauhala" is the plant's leaf so useful, after removal of its prickles, for plaiting into floor and table mats. It is not the name of the plant itself.

Beautiful Waimea Valley, Oahu, State of Hawaii, has been rescued from neglect and destruction by becoming an arboretum catering to both residents and tourists.

-----  
\*Authors and/or publishers of "Flora Hawaiiansis or New Illustrated Flora of the Hawaiian Islands", Books 1-6, 7 in print; "Plants Haw. National Parks" (paperback); "Naturalist's South Pacific Expedition: Fiji"; and articles like this one. For prices write to Box 154, Volcano, Hi. 96785. © Deg., & Deg., 1981.

Its grounds are beautifully landscaped with native and exotic plants, properly labeled, presently \*\*mauka to a waterfall one mile distant as the crow flies from the beach. In and about these beautiful grounds grow various kinds of hala. According to Harold St. John's "Hawaiian Flowering Plants" (1973), he records the following as native and/or even endemic: *Pandanus chamissonis* first described by Gaudichaud in 1841; *P. douglasii* Gaud., 1841; *P. menziesii* Gaud., 1841; *P. odoratissimus* L. f., 1781 var. *odoratissimus*, var. *levigatus* Martelli, 1930, and var. *oahuensis* Martelli, 1930; and *P. tectorius* var. *sandvicensis* Warb., 1900.

Realizing how the Science of Astronomy has advanced due to better contemplation and the invention of better instruments and even floating laboratories penetrating interstellar space, we must expect the same advance in the Science of Botany. Although we have already so many earlier opinions, changed usually for the better due to the study of chromosomes, chemical composition and scanning electron micrographs, we must expect still greater advances.

Because of present uncertainty and differences of opinion regarding even scientific names, the Code solves this problem. Depending on priority, with certain rare, useful exceptions, the first person describing and naming a taxon scientifically appends his own name after it. Hence, for example, Linnaeus called the common pineapple *Bromelia comosa* in 1754. This is not necessarily the correct name of the plant. But it is the name of the plant ACCORDING TO THE OPINION of Carl Linnaeus. Then Merrill in 1917 called the pineapple "Ananas comosus". As this combination of two words "belongs" to two authors, we would write the binomial "Ananas comosus (L.) Merr.". Anyone can take his pick between Linnaeus' and Merrill's opinions. One of us having known Elmer D. Merrill (1876-1956)

-----  
\*\*Mountainward or inland in contrast to makai or seaward.



personally and how acute he was, is convinced his knowledge of the pineapple in 1917 was superior to that of Linnaeus in 1754. So we follow Merrill, but who knows what botanists 1,000 years hence will do! Some even today prefer Ananas comosus (Stickm.) Merr., for the pineapple, but that is another story.

After this brief lesson in the scientific naming of plants, we want to tackle the scientific name of one of the hala listed by us above, and called in some modern literature "Pandanus tectorius Parkins. ex Z".

As we have explained in our article "Outrageously Presumptuous----", appearing in *Phytologia* 39(3):143-146. 1978, the letter "Z" has no standing according to the Code. Who is this mysterious "Mr. Z" anyway? As we remarked on page 144, basing our knowledge on the researches of Herman Manitz in 1976, "Z" is actually Johann Philipp du Roi (6/2/1741-12/8/1785). Du Roi worked over a manuscript of Sidney C. Parkinson, a companion on Captain Cook's tour of the Pacific in 1768 to 1771. Du Roi was Court Physician in Brunswick (Braunschweig), Hannover, Germany. Like all physicians of his time, he was acquainted with "simples"-did not God create such vegetables to possess a virtue, and constitute a simple remedy; and did he not according to the Doctrine of Signatures help the physician select the right one? The red-juiced bloodroot, if we are not mistaken, was for curing the maladies of the blood, and the liver-shaped leaf of the hepatica for curing the liver-Obviously du Roi was a keen botanist for his time, corresponding with the famous son (Linnaeus filius or L. f.) of the illustrious Carl Linnaeus, Sr. According to the Code, du Roi was responsible for publishing the scientific name of the hala, collected in Tahiti, under the binomial Pandanus tectorius. For modest reasons of his own, he eschewed signing his name and, instead, merely signed "Z". As this is contrary to the Code, we immodestly are correcting according to our opinion the name. By the way Wilhelm Degener, the father of Otto,

was born in Brunswick May 23, 1844. He never knew Johann Philipp du Roi, who was born over a hundred years earlier and had died in 1785. Nevertheless, the two were so-called "calabash cousins" who, had they lived concurrently in the Hawaiian Islands, would have been worthy of serving themselves out of the very same family poi bowl. Finally having ended with the above verbosity, we here officially publish what we consider the correct name of a taxon of Pandanus, to wit:

PANDANUS TECTORIUS (J.P. du Roi) Deg. & Deg., comb. nov.

Syn. Pandanus tectorius Z in his "Die Pflanzen der Insel Outahitee, aus der Parkinsonischen Reisebeschreibung gezogen, and mit Anmerkungen erläutert von Z". Der Naturforscher 4: about page 240. 1774.

But who knows what botanists 1,000 years hence will do!

#### EDITORS NOTE:

As a member of the horticultural fraternity that sometimes laments the 'changing of plant names', it is interesting to see from the above article, some of the complexities that botanists face in their efforts to standardize the naming of plants.

It is the opinion of some botanists that since the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature permits the correction of orthographic errors, it would be sufficient to replace "Z" with "J.P. du Roi", in which case the new combination outlined above would not be necessary. However, Dr. Otto Degener, in a letter dated April 24th 1981, states:

"We Degeners can understand that if "Degener" or "Williams" appears in print, these variations would be orthographic errors, needing correction. But you can't convince us that replacing "Z" with "J.P. du Roi" is correcting an orthographic error. According to my Dictionary,

6.

orthographic pertains to the SPELLING of words. No average person including us Degeners, would consider the switch of a single letter for a full name an orthographic correction".

Keith R. Woolliams

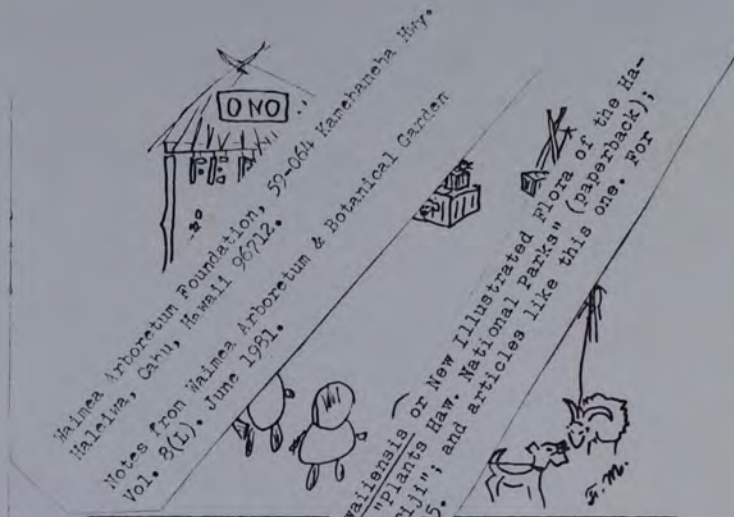
# MOUFLOON SHEEP AND KAU SILVERSWORD

\*FRANK MITCHELL

The mouflon sheep introduced into Hawaii in 1973 have now become very noticeable in the area of the Kau silversword on Mauna Loa, Hawaii. From two ewes and a ram introduced in 1974 ("Notes", Vol.2 No.1; June 1974) the population has grown to more than one thousand. At the present growth rate the population will be five thousand by 1984, probably causing irreparable damage to the area.

Mouflons mature ready for breeding in seven months and produce young every seven months, more than half of which are twins. Their normal life-span is ten years. They were brought here in 1973 by the Hawaii State Division of Fish and Game because "Hybridization suggested itself as a means of changing the nature of the sheep on Mauna Kea quite economically". (Walker, Roland L.--The Hybridization of the Mouflon with Hawaiian feral sheep. HSL RH 599. 735 W). No sheep or goats are to be seen in the area of south Mauna Loa where these mouflon were released.

-----  
\*Mr. Mitchell is an avid hiker, plant explorer and photographer of Hawaii's Flora. He has contributed considerably to the living collections at Waimea. Ed.



## LOOK AT THOSE COCONUTS

The new Brodiaea collection has just been planted below the dwelling site and is heavily shaded with coconut husks. This garden is the setting for countless pictures and visions of those walking past. Visiting harsher climates where coconuts are common in the husks are drawn to this obvious heaven where they pose themselves in the bed of coconut humus. Others take their pictures and have been stopped by perplexed tour guides at the dwelling site as they tried to leave this "coconut garden". One visitor even overheard commenting that his "stand a little more to the right and get a plant in the picture, too". His returning visitor will be fully amazed and amazed at the bloom and color his "coconut garden" has taken on since this year's pictures were taken.

Shirley Gerum  
Tour Guide Training Coordinator



July 7, 1981



Dr. Otto Degener  
P.O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Re: NO HALA HALLUCINATION

Dear Dr. Degener:

We have received your application Form TX for registration of the claim to copyright in the work entitled "No Hala Hallucination" along with 2 copies of the work and a \$10.00 registration fee. Although you did not give a date of publication on the Form TX, the nature of the copies deposited leads us to inquire whether publication in the copyright sense has taken place.

Section 101 of the new copyright law defines publication as "the distribution of copies or phonorecords of a work to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or by rental, lease, or lending ..." Where publication has taken place at the time the application for registration of the claim to copyright is submitted, the application should give the month, day, and year of publication as well as the name of the country in which the work was published, being certain that the date of certification in space 10 is later than the publication date.

We are returning your application; if publication has taken place, please add this information to Space 3, complete Space 7, and return the form. Also, please forward an additional copy of the best edition as published. If publication has not taken place, please let us know and return the form unaltered.

If published, please make certain that the date at space 10 comes after the date you will provide at space 3 part 2. If it does not, kindly add a new date at space 10.

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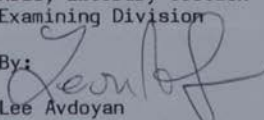


Dr. Otto Degener  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

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Nancy H. Lawrence  
Head, Literary Section  
Examining Division

By:

  
Lee Avdoyan  
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DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
Waiialua, Oahu, Hawaii  
967 July 1, 1981.

Dear Mr. Avdayan:

I am sorry I messed things up regarding Central Number 1-182-o302-D.  
I guess it is old age.

According to the cancelled cheque from the First Haw. Bank with which I paid for xerox 409 copies at the University of Hawaii Library in Hilo, Hawaii, my wife & I made the copies May 27, 1981. As Mrs. Degener & I were christening a plant with a new scientific name, it was necessary according to the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, to distribute copies before some one else might do so & have HIS name validated because of priority. Hence I put a dozen or so copies into the Volcano postoffice May 28, 1981 the following day "to Effect Publication". During a month or so I distributed a total of almost 100 copies by mail, all to botanical institutions and/or botanists throughout the World listed in the "Index Herbariorum" by Holmgren & Reichenow, 1974. One of these institutions was of course the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

IN SUMMARY, date of distribution was May 28, 1981, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ and my correction is one month late.

Aloha,

*Dr. Otto Degener*

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If the answer to either of these questions is "Yes," see detailed instructions attached.

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Dr. Isa Degener

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H. J. P. 11/11/81

7/6/81

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J. Wang

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DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 134  
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I sell ~~each kind of book~~ three copies of each kind of book wholesale for a total of \$30 plus a State Tax of 1/2 of 1% or \$15 cents.

Thus far, as I see it, you purchased one book and owe me ~~for~~ \$15. + 60 cents and a little more than 15 cents postage. So, please, accept this letter as your formal bill of \$15.75 for Book 1-4.

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I just filled wholesale orders for a Hilo bookstore, and may not have any more Book 5 on hand here at Volcano. But I have copies on Oahu ~~and~~ presently out of reach. We are leaving for the International Botanical Congress to be held in Sydney, Australia next month (August) so perhaps I won't receive your letter in time to fill any other orders before



returning home <sup>in Sept.</sup> We have never  
been in Australia and being so near,  
plan to include a contracted tour  
to Tasmania. We hope to come  
~~back~~ all in one piece. They seem  
to have lots of poisonous snails  
there, so plan taking along boots.  
If you are interested in herbs -  
perhaps eating many that are  
~~very~~ wholesome - have you ~~seen~~  
~~of~~ seen a copy of Dr. Harold  
Arnold's Poisonous Plants of  
Haw. in the Public Library? That  
should help you get plants getting  
sick. I illustrated it years ago.  
We can't identify your  
plant with certainty from the  
dried scrap you sent. Can it  
be Tradant in margin's her  
Book 7?  
Aloha,

THE BOTANICAL MUSEUM  
UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

GOTHERSGADE 130 . DK-1123 COPENHAGEN . DENMARK  
Telephone 01-11 17 44

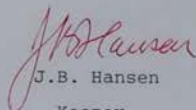
July 10, 1981  
hl 5,8-4.7

Dr. Otto Degener  
P.O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii  
96785 U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Degener,

Thank you very much for the 22 spec. of Phanerogams and Algae from  
Hawaii, which you have been so kind to send us as a gift.

Yours sincerely,

  
J.B. Hansen  
Keeper

June 12, 1961.

Dear Prof. Taniguti:

Mrs. Degener & I remember your "A Map of Marine Vegetation in Japan (2)."

We live on two different islands, moving from one to the other. As I am 82 years old, Mrs. Degener & I want to clear our houses of bundles of herbarium specimens that have accumulated after 1922. So we are writing labels quickly, usually only to the genus so that leading botanical institutions such as yours at Mie can assert them properly. Sooner or later, when we have probably died of old age, some monographers probably not yet born, will study them. We want to spread our botanical treasures widely because some have already become extinct AND THAT MEANS FOREVER!. If some silly politician starts World War III, perhaps some Degener plants from Hawaii will survive the holocaust in Mie or Stockholm or Nara or Graz or elsewhere.

Mrs. Degener & I made a mistake with some algae: We labeled some we had on the Island of Oahu, and distributed them. Now we find we have a second plastic bag of practically the same collection on the Island of Hawaii. Even though they are mostly the SAME collection, I labeled them a little differently - I forgot the wording I used before them on Oahu - and gave them a different number. I am mailing everything to you to get it out of our house where it will be useful. Please identify them eventually and scatter duplicates to institutions that will value them.

To get the cheapest US postage rate for Japan, the package must not weigh more than two pounds. So don't be surprised if a taxon with the same label number comes to you in two packages.

Do tell me what (cladophora?) the green is that we collected & preserved in a jar. As soon as you mail me the identification I will dry it properly and mail it away to almost 100 bot. gardens in the World.

Will you be at the XIII Int. Bot. Congress in Sydney. Mrs. Degener & I hope to meet you there.

Aloha,



HUNT INSTITUTE for BOTANICAL DOCUMENTATION  
Carnegie-Mellon University · Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

Archives

Telephone (412) 578-2437

8 June 1981

Dr. Otto Degener  
P.O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Dear Dr. Degener:

The packet of letters, clippings and cards arrived last week. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Anita T. Karg  
Assistant Archivist

ATK:km

MVS for Mrs. Karg



June 13, 1981.

Dear Mr. Koltz:

Mrs. Degener & I don't know how to thank you and Miss Scanlan adequately for your past kindnesses regarding the two articles published about us, a botanical team.

We have been casually meeting and lunching with the Entomologist Frank Howarth in our community of Volcano, Island of Hawaii. I guess he is in the early thirties.

When a lava flow rushes down a mountain, the outside becomes cold and congeals, while further inside the liquid lava continues to flow in a stream. Should the outburst at the vent stop, the liquid lava already extruded simply continues to flow, leaving a subway-like tunnel with usually various branches, even up to a couple of miles long. Such "lava tubes", depending on how many hundreds or even millions of years old they are, can have more or less collapsed ceilings and sides. Quakes are the main cause.

Mrs. D., especially and I are worried concerning acquaintance Howarth. He specializes in exploring these dangerous tunnels without informing anyone beforehand where he intends to go. He is famous for discovering and describing remarkable blind cave animals in such caves. We fear he will perish when some little earthquake perhaps blocks his return forever to an opening - no one would know where to look for him. This profession should really be reserved for bachelors, hardly for a man with loving wife and children.

I am writing you the above because we were so surprised when Howarth waved your article about us a few days ago while we were eating lunch at the delightful mess of Kilauea Military Camp. How could we have guessed that he is a Graduate of U. of Mass.? I don't know ~~his~~ class, but estimate it may have been about the middle '60s.

We feel that an article about courageous Howarth by you may be appropriate. He is the entomologist of the Bishop Museum, P.O. Box 1900-A, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817. As he seems rather reticent, we wonder how much information you could drag out of him.

The welcome tearsheets just arrived, and we wish at least to reimburse "Contact" for the postage. But should you as "publisher" not use "Library Rate", costing 21 cents for the first pound, 8 cents for each additional pound up through 7, and then 5 cents per pound? We constantly use that rate, being publisher (not printer) of our books and pamphlets.

By the way, Mrs. D. & I plan to attend the XIII International Botanical Congress to be held in Sydney this August. We have signed up for conducted tours in Australia and even one in Tasmania. With the U. of Mass., in mind (in addition to the New York Bot. Garden & some other institutions), we have applied for collecting permits. Hence the Bot. Dept should expect a goodly assortment of herbarium specimens from that southern region around Jan. 1982. AND, AND, AND, can you believe it, such herbarium specimens do not go as parcel post; but by the inexpensive "LIBRARY RATE"?

Mrs. D., joins me in aloha to Miss Scanlan and to yourself,

*Mrs. C. H. Degener*



The wildflowers in the  
Apennine mts. crossing  
Italy were glorious. Nam  
Had 5 intense days of meetings  
in the Academie Nazionale dei  
Scienze (Galileo's society).  
Participants (30) discussed "mechanisms  
of speciation". Then we crossed  
in ferry to Corfu. Lovely place  
& then to Patras and rented a  
car and drove to Delphi, where  
at the ancient "navel of the earth"  
we drove up Parnassus & at  
edge of snowbanks found crocus  
and many flowers. Now in  
Athens after a 3-day island  
cruise we enjoy the museums  
& the glorious Acropolis. Home

HELLAS



ΕΛΛΑΣ HELLAS 14

Dr. & Mrs. Otto Degener

Box 154

Volcano

Hawaii 96785

U.S.A.

PAR AVION



ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟ ΔΕΛΦΩΝ, Ομφαλός  
MUSEUM OF DELPHI, Omphalos (Navel of the Earth)  
MUSEE DE DELPHES, L'Omphalos  
MUSEUM VON DELPHI, Omphalos (der Nabel der Erde)

Beat wishes & hope your Australian trip fine

HAROLD H. MOLDERKE  
303 PARKSIDE ROAD  
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY



HISTORIC PRESERVATION USA 10c

Dr. Otto Degener

P. O. Box 154

Volcano, Hawaii 96785

© USPS 1978



July 13, '81

Dear Otto,

Thank for your letter and enclosures. I NEVER "discard" reprints or journals -- all get sent to correspondents or bot. libraries. We will be happy to publish your two pages on Hürmann in the next issue of PHYTOLOGIA. We just closed Vol. 48 today, so your paper will have to be in the first issue of Vol. 49. Your letter "with ashe" has never arrived. No, Andy now ONLY has small parttime jobs with the Natl. Parks Service and with the U.S. Dept. of Forests; Alison still has her lab job at U. of Oregon at Corvallis. No connections with Austin or Aarhus. My connection with the latter now is only exchanging stamps with Kai Larsen (who will be on the Tasmania field trip, he says). We are sorry to hear you have bad hiatal hernia attacks -- Alma gets them VERY often, usually in the late p.m. or at night, Her heart condition is still bad, with daily fibrillations that the pacemaker and her pills don't control. We are happy to hear that yours is "rather favorable for my age". The MDs say there is nothing more they can do for hers. It is a constant worry. With all best wishes, in haste, *Harold*

GARY HART  
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
BUDGET

*United States Senate*

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 13, 1981

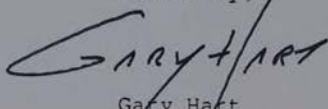
Dr. Otto Degener  
P.O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Dear Dr. Degener:

Thanks for your quick response to my earlier letter about the issues you raised. I appreciate your continuing interest in this issue.

Again, thanks for your letter and suggestions. I will certainly keep your views in mind as pertinent legislation is discussed. Let's keep in touch.

Sincerely,

  
Gary Hart

THIS STATIONERY PRINTED ON PAPER MADE WITH RECYCLED FIBERS

FINANCE FACTORS, LTD.

KING AND ALAKEA STREETS  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

July 14, 1981

HIRAM L. FONG  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

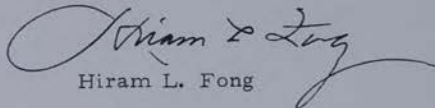
Dr. Otto Degener  
P. O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Dear Dr. Degener:

Thank you for your letter of June 29, 1981.  
As I am engaged in the physical aspect of my garden at  
the present time I have not had the time to dwell on  
some of the more important aspects of botany. I do hope  
that when I am through with the first phase of my work,  
I would have need for your publications.

The next time you are in Honolulu, please  
drop in and visit my garden. It is on Pulama Road,  
just four roads from Hygienic Store in Kahaluu.

Sincerely,



Hiram L. Fong

HLF:hy



THE LIBRARIES

GRAY HERBARIUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY — ARNOLD ARBORETUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY

22 DIVINITY AVENUE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138 U. S. A.

July 14, 1981

*Copy for O.D.*  
Donald Hartwell Smith  
Box 548  
Waialua, Hawaii 96791

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Semi-Historic files of the Gray Herbarium Archives contain two folders of letters from Edward Charles Jeffrey: 1 folder of 37 letters from 1896-1919 and a second folder of 38 letters from 1920-1932. These letters are mostly to M. L. Fernald and B. L. Robinson of the Herbarium staff. According to the letterhead, Jeffrey was associated with the Biological or Botanical Laboratories of Harvard, which, I believe, functioned as a separate entity from the Herbarium in spite of a loose connection. It is unlikely that any letters from Jeffrey to people other than Gray Herbarium staff would be found in the Gray Herbarium archives.

There is a small folder of letters from Ray Ethan Torrey in the Herbarium archives, but they are all addressed to Herbarium staff, and there are none to Professor Jeffrey.

I called the University Archives to ask about any Jeffrey papers they might have and was told that they had a box of scattered correspondence for Jeffrey. If you desire more information on this point, I suggest you write Harvard University Archives, Pusey Library, Cambridge, Mass. 02138.

I hope this information is helpful to you. For future reference, you may wish to know that Lenore Dickinson has retired from the Gray Herbarium Library.

Sincerely,

*Lynn McWhood*

Lynn McWhood  
Temporary archivist

*Ans's  
"... No ACTION"  
7/21/81*



# The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220-8700

June 15, 1981

Drs. Otto and Isa Degener  
P. O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Dear Dr. Degener,

Thank you for your letter of 28 May and  
for the publications and other information.

I believe that we are up-to-date on your  
publications.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Clark T. Rogerson".

CTR/bw

CLARK T. ROGERSON  
Senior Curator

Lanai  
16 July 1981

Dear Isa & Otto

How dear of you to think of us  
and send us the article on you  
from "The Alumnus" April-May 1981.  
Don't think it "too flattering" as  
you say - interesting & Sapporo  
is more like it.

Also thank you for the Tribune-  
Herald article on the drought &  
its affect on milk production &  
dairying in general.

It was so good to get together  
once again with you after so  
many years. We've been going to  
the Francis Brown golf tourna-  
ment at the Volcano golf course  
for 8 years now and we are so  
happy we could finally get together.

Years ago we spent a fun day at  
Waikapuna. Joe Surao was the  
dairy manager then - Adolph caught



2) a couple of papia which we threw  
on the grill. Some of the others  
gathered opihia - & Joe threw his  
net & caught a net full of fish.  
It was a beautiful day - no  
wind & low tide so the grand-  
children could swim. Most en-  
joyable.

Hope this finds all well, Take  
Care. A hui hou.

Aloha pumehana  
Edna

[Part-Hawaiian lady, interested in plants & wife of  
part-Haw., engineer of Island of Lanai,  
who now lives in his home in Lanai,  
in Lanai in 1963. The collecting was  
so outstanding on this little-is-  
land which that we then bought a  
cottage & moved on Lanai in  
about 6 months. C.D.]

Mrs. Adeline H. Deane  
P.O. Box 741  
Lanai City, Hawaii 96763

ON HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S

DEGENER  
14 JUL 1981  
P.O. BOX 154  
VOLCANO, HAWAII 96785  
U.S.A.

By air mail  
Par avion

THE HERBARIUM  
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS  
KEW RICHMOND  
SURREY TW9 3AE  
ENGLAND

13-7-81

YOUR REF: *Parcel June, 81*

OUR REF: *H 928/81*

We acknowledge receipt of your *AT*

*29 specimens*

A further communication will  
follow in due course.

*J. Rosvall*  
for DIRECTOR

中国科学院植物研究所

北京西直门外大街141号

INSTITUTE OF BOTANY, ACADEMIA SINICA

141 Hsi Chih Men Wai Ta Chie, Peking, China

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER

July 20, 1981

P. O. Box 154

Volcano, Hawaii

96785 U.S.A.

Dear Drs. Otto & Isa Degener :

I have a great pleasure, indeed to acknowledge with many thanks the receipts of the specimens and publications which you kindly sent to us recently. With your help we have had a better understanding of Hawaii plants. All the material you spared us are a valuable asset to our herbarium. They will be perfectly preserved. Though the communication with you, I have come to understand that you have made a great contribution to botany, especially to the floristic studies of Hawaii plants. Indeed, you have provided a very valuable information to phytotaxonomists all over the world for their study of Hawaii plants.

Last year you write me a letter, in which you mentioned that you intend to sell your house property, I did promptly contact our Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They thought it is too small ~~as~~ our consulate, in spite of its good geographical position. So they made a decision not to buy it. I am sorry I did <sup>not</sup> inform you about this in due course, because of the pressure of work.

I would be glad to tell you that our National Herbarium is under construction. Its total area will be 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The establishment of this herbarium will furnish superb conditions for this development of taxonomy in this country, and wide collections of world plant material. It is scheduled to be completed next year.

If you have any request for chinese plants, please do not hesitate to let me know. I will try my best to meet with your requirement.

Wish both of you good health and a long life.

Yours sincerely

Cao zi yu

John

These plants have been in my hands for a long time. I have been very happy to have them in my hands.



Oct. 18, 1981.

Dear Dr. Cao Zi Yu:

Do you know why Mrs. D., & I have not answered your July 20 letter before this? We attended the XIII International Botanical Congress in Sydney. As New Zealand and Tasmania are so close by airplane, we visited there from Australia also. Hence we have been away from home for about two months ~~roughly~~, and found your letter (with many others) for us at the post office waiting for us.

*before* We still have a mass of plants - I collected in the Haw., Islands as early as 1922 - lying about our homes and want to get them safely housed in leading botanical institutions. I should die of old age. I am rather well BUT over 82. I don't want the "widow Degener", who has a doctorate & was botanist in Berlin-Dahlem until our marriage in 1953, to spend the rest of her life with the drudgery of writing labels. That is why we are mailing you and almost 100 other institutions material from time to time. We have a very limited private library, and so we identify mostly only to the genus so the plants can be properly put into the cabinets for monographers, EVENTUALLY to study critically.

We try to keep the packages below two pounds as the postal rate is then the cheapest. I have had no paying position - want none - since 1929 and feel proud that ~~Capitalists~~ like us Degeners (without pension or old people gifts) can live by the sale of their books, by rent from a few houses built with their own money, by fee as a very rare botanical consultant, and by income from investment in some business like a chewing gum factory. Please, Dr., buy Wrigley's gum and chew, chew, chew all day. Then we shall have money to print more about Haw. plants, instead wasting your time with this letter. Also, if Peking wants to buy any of our Flora Haw., and other books with Government money, we shall be glad to sell copies to China. But if you personally want them in spite of your Government's refusal to buy, we shall be glad to send you copies as gifts that are a bit damaged & not salable to customers.

Because we lack a safe place - we have had the ocean three feet in our beach home several times during tsunamis - we have no personal herbarium. We mail our original set to the New York Botanical Garden, a wonderful institution that has helped us with funds for collecting, secretarial work, etc., etc. If you have plants to ~~send~~ <sup>share</sup>, especially those that originally inhabited the Arctic and now have relatives in North America, those should be of special value in New York. Should we get any, Mrs. D., & I would ~~send~~ <sup>share</sup> them as OUR property to New York. It will interest you to know that our taxes per year are very high. But if we give Chinese & other plants to a US Government institution like N.Y.B.G., I can SUBTRACT their value from my tax bill! Thus the plants are just as good as money. Of course, there is a limit how much one can give away for credit per year. But it is really quite liberal.

But our Government is not interested if plants go to other Nations. So our modest gifts to Peking, Berlin, Leningrad, Tokyo, Stockholm & about 50 others is "for the advancement of Science", and to make sure that some of our collections will escape destruction in case ~~foolish~~ such as a Clemenceau, Churchill, Hitler, Stalin & the second Roosevelt drive ordinarily nice, kindly Homo sapiens mammals into vicious, destructive dragons via the mob ~~force~~. I have lived through World Wars I & II, and Mrs. Degener lived in Berlin when the British bombers with US help destroyed the fantastic Bot. Museum. My earliest plants, some now extinct, went up in smoke. I had sent them there for a set of Engler-Prantl Pflanzenfamilien. Please note that the "horrible" enemies of World War I became the most sincere & loving friends in War II.

Do you expect that conditions will be different, we don't, with World War III, IV, V, ad infinitum if birth control is not efficient enough, such ghastly holocausts will arise to help reduce human population pressure for a short time. We are convinced that out of 100 institutions to which we mail Haw., plants, a certain percentage will escape for probably thousands of years. The wider amalgam of Homo taxa, superior because of hybrid vigor, living on an Earth covered with cultigens and vigorous weeds will thank the long dead Degeners for having saved for them as Herb. specimens some of the native flora of Haw., & Fiji. Just think how many yet unborn bot. friends we shall have! How about you & Colleagues in Peking emulating us.

over.

July 21, 1981

Dear Otto,

You can tell Isa that her mother will be going shopping with Lyn this coming Thursday, the 23rd. I dropped around yesterday with a papaya, that I understood later became Ellie's lunch, but at the time of my visit Mrs. K. was on the beach --- a/c to a later 'phone conversation.

I have a couple of unacknowledged notes from you. One dated "Bunker Hill Day" (June 17), and the other more recent, July 1. I appreciate your comment about Doc Torrey's relationship with the profession that gave him his livelihood, and I'm inclined to think that his lack of self-deception, (for want of a better expression), in thinking that the sun rose&set on only matters botanical, might be, or become, a factor in anyone that <sup>would</sup> take in pen-in-hand to write about RET.

I remember mention of Dave Potter -- also someone by the name of Gustafson(?) -- (Williams College). I still haven't check'd out Horace Clay, nor have I written to Vinton, and this I intend to do.

The windfall that the nephew sent to the UMass. Archives has me changing direction a bit with my studies re RET.

In an attempt to find out whether there might be any Jeffrey-Torrey letters I rec'd a reply yesterday (will send you Xc later) from the Gray Herbarium at 22 Divinity Ave., Cambridge. There are Torrey letters to the Herbarium. And Pusey Library does have some Jeffrey papers; among them there may be some Torrey letters. The letters that Doc T. wrote to the Herbarium were to staff members. All this reminds me, once again, of Doc's letters to you. I would like your explicit-written consent, Otto, to send copies of the 20 letters that I have to Mrs. Emerson at the UMass. Archives. I know that you've considered them in the public domain, for they are on hand at the Hunt, etc. Nevertheless, if you'd returned the enclosed, I'd feel much better about this arrangement. (See how easy I'm making it for you -----).

Please do not skip into and out of Mokuleia enroute to the Frrrrrrrrr East without dialing 637-5175.

Aloha from Kahaone Loop,

enc. (1)

PS: You may r-call that R.H. (over) went to school with Doc Torrey ---



I remember when . . .

Gold (Miss) Reader p. A9 6/6/8

## . . . women had to accept changing lifestyles

By RUBY M. HEMENWAY  
Recorder Columnist

How different customs are in different parts of the country.

A high school classmate of my sister's (1905), who lived on Taylor Hill in Montague Center, later married a farmer from the middle West. Like all farmers everywhere, he was very busy in the spring, but he plowed and fitted the garden plot near the house ready for planting. She wondered if he had the seeds ready, and why he didn't plant them. Then one day soon, he said to her, "Won't you be a little late with your garden unless you start it very soon? I fitted it ready some time ago."



"What! Do I have to plant the garden and take care of it out here? I never did it in my life."

She learned their customs, but never did have a garden to equal that of the natives. She did find some things were better. She remained a Yankee at heart, however.

It's no wonder the women from small New England farms, where mountains surround them and every road had stone walls beside them and little hills and curves and ferns galore, were homesick and pined away and died. They missed every familiar thing so much.

For a very neat housekeeper, a sod house often was irritating. Dirt drifted down from the ceiling into their food and

onto themselves when the sod dried, unless they had sheets or blankets or some cloth to nail up to latch it.

Kate wrote to her cousin that they had a big sunflower growing out of the sod roof. Just as soon as they possibly could they replaced "the soddy" with a wooden building, but they were not as warm in winter nor as cool in summer as their old "soddy."

When she was middle-aged, she sent a photograph of herself and a little grandson about 3 years old, both with mops of beautiful curls, which Aunt Julia said made her look natural. Both women were born in the 1830s and used to play together in the pasture above the road at the Hemenway place. Aunt Julia used to tell us how they put dirt on a shelf on the front of a big rock (made by some being split off). It made a nice little garden for wildflowers, and my sisters and I did the same thing in the late 1880s and early 1890s.

Folks who visit a place familiar in their youth, 60 or 70 years later, say some houses have fallen down, some new ones built, the old trees are gone, the pastures are grown up to brush. The sprout land is all big trees. Most of the stone walls are there but tumbled. The entirely unchanged familiar things are the rocks. They endure forever.

Have any of you Yankee readers ever eaten "fiddlehead" greens or soup? It is supposed to be an old New England dish. Certainly the supply on every road in the woods is endless, but I never heard of eating them until a few years ago when a friend gave me some she had gathered and frozen. They were spring greens, and asparagus flavor, but I couldn't taste. The soup I had in a restaurant lately was very good flavor, but not distinctly "fiddle head."

The very earliest settlers here must have had to search out and try anything that seemed to be edible and nourishing until they could raise corn and other food enough to live on. Utensils and tools were just as scarce. Some families had no dishes and had to make do with a split log with some bowl shaped hollows to hold their food, and with some slanted stick legs to hold it up.

When we see such primitive makeshifts in museums, we wonder how they survived, but the Indians lived before they had metals or pottery, so our explorers and earliest settlers did, too.

You must have seen at Old Deerfield, or at some other museum, those very handsome burl bowls so painstakingly hollowed out and polished, made from a burl on an oak or other tree. A big hollow stump of a tree often served as a container to use when cracking corn or wheat by pounding. Covered, it could be used as a storage bin.

Many of the earliest houses had no closets at all. Clothes were hung on wooden pegs or stored in chests. I have seen a very early handmade clothes hanger for a man's overcoat judging by the size, made from an ash stick, whittled to an even thickness and then curved to shape, the same as they made the bow backs on the old Windsor arm chairs. Ash wood didn't split nor splinter. There is a notch in the center to hold the string hanger in place.

If you want to be thankful to be living today instead of 200 or more years ago, just go to a museum showing the very, very primitive living of our ancestors. The contrast will make you feel very fortunate.

Happy day. Think of what you have and enjoy it.

COP - For  
O.D.

July 22, 1981

Charles Raymond Vinton, UMass. '22  
33 Water St.,  
St. Augustine, Florida 32084

Dear Mr. Vinton,

You may be asking yourself: "--- why is Don Smith writing to me, and why he using the op-side of a Xerox copied article about Ruby Hemenway for letter-writing paper?"

First, I'm writing to you as a UMass. '34 man who lives a few miles from your MAC classmate, Otto Degener, who, however, at the present time is on the Big Island at his home in Volcano.

Next, I have a project with regard to <sup>the</sup> retrieval of information about the life & thought of Ray Ethan Torrey who, I imagine, you had in botany in 1919. And Miss Hemenway went to grade school and to high school with Doc Torrey. And what an example she sets for all of us ---- . She writes a good legible-clear longhand, a declarative sentence, and I've received some interesting letters from her.

Otto wrote to me from the Big Island a few weeks ago that he had rec'd a letter from you about that Profile of his in THE ALUMNUS. And makes some mention about you and the National Park Service. In connection with this -- and with Otto -- I'm going to include a Xc of a recent newsclip that will be self-explanatory. Both may be of interest to you. By "both" -- I mean re Kipahulu and the Conservancy -- and O.D., in the last paragraph.

I imagine that Otto wrote to you that Isa, his wife, and he are going to Australia next month for the Int'n'l Botanical get-together. Otto has permitted me to make copies of some 20 letters that Torrey wrote him during the years 1922-1956, the year that Doc died. From these letters I have garnered a number of leads and some information. It is my purpose to support, sustain, and encourage a Torrey Collection of memorabilia in the UMass. Archives. Mrs. Emerson, the Archivist, has been extremely cooperative. Just within the last month she rec'd a windfall, a shipment of Torrey items from the end-product of that particular branch of the Torrey lineage, a nephew, 75 yrs old, living in Indiana.

Now, with some reflection, it may be that you did not have Torrey in botany after all(?). For you entered MAC in 1918(?), and I don't think that Doc started teaching freshman until 1919. I suppose Otto knew Doc for he majored in Botany (as you may have, too?), and became acquainted with the freshman course as a lab assistant while a Jr-Senior. And later as a grad student.

Nowwwwwww --- if you have the memory of a Hemenway(!) -- see over -- you'll perchance have some recollections about Torrey and/or Stone and your days in Amherst. If so, I'd certainly appreciate hearing from you.

Aloha from Hawaii,

*Don H. Smith*

Don H. Smith, UMass. '34  
PO Box 518, Waiailua,  
HI. 96791

enc. (2)

PS: My classmate, and room-mate, in 1933-34, was a Greenfield Tucker Chase who went into the National Park Service, I believe. He's now living in the Saranac Lake region. Did you ever meet him -----?

*No. After the Bot. Lab. had started  
Dr. Torrey came to MAC and  
Prof. McC. Rayph...  
I was taking the course  
as a regular Freshman  
in 1918.*



Dr. - 41 1/2 1/2 1/2  
DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii  
96785 U.S.A.  
July 23, 1981.

Dear Harold & Alma:

We got your postal. Presently we are too busy getting ready for our hejira to Oahu & then onto Australia, Tasmania & the north island of New Zealand/ to hunt up the missing *Heliotropium cur.*, from South Point.

I just want you to know that I never realized some one could have heart fibrillations WITH a pacemaker. I thought that trouble would be in the past for me after I got my gadget about five years ago. You know what! Isa was not home at the time - perhaps in Honolulu because of the rental unit. I was alone & perhaps subconsciously a bit nervous when I woke in the morning. Out of bed & standing up, my heart fibrillated, an action I had never experienced before. Actually it interested me, and I really enjoyed the sensation. I knew, however, this should not be. \$00000000 I firmly exclaimed "stop it, stop it", and my heart immediately got back to normal thumping. Evidently my malfunction was caused mentally. I have had not fibrillations since.

I own a little gadget about the size of a book because we live far from cardiologists on Oahu & Hawaii. What about you in your home? Thus far I have not had the occasion to use it. It is 9406 Teletrace, EKG Telephone Transmitter. Address: Med-tronic Inc., 3055 Old Highway Eight, P.O. Box 1453, Minneapolis, Minn., 55440. Why not write for a circular? Should I show unusual symptoms, I merely place the thing-a-ma-gig on my chest and the phone mouthpiece over it, and dial my cardiologist. He listens, and then can inform me what pills I should take that I have in my med. chest or whether Isa should drive me quickly to a neighboring physician or whether she has time to drive me to the cardiologist 39 miles distant.

Would this little instrument not be worth having in your home? Why not write Minn., and the next time you see your M.D., approach him with the circular? The instruction booklet was printed in 1979, so perhaps this is a new, useful invention.

In haste,

Aloha,

Otto

-7981-2



68-617 Czajewski.  
Ubielna, #1 96791

Dr. Otto & Isa

DEGENER

P.O. Box 154

Volcano, Hawaii 96785

U.S.A.

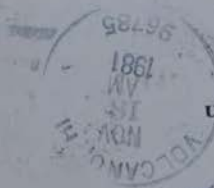


100円

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii  
96785 U.S.A.

ハワイ アメリカ

Air mail  
航空



INSTITUTE OF BOTANY  
JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY  
UL. LUBICZ 46, 31-512 KRAKÓW, POLAND

Date: 31/07/1981

Dear *Dr. Degener*,

Thank you very much for the ~~reprint(s) of your paper(s)~~  
*herbarium collection of 20 specimens of Hawaiian*  
*plants (+ *Sageneia vitiensis*).*

*We are very thankful for this extremely interesting*  
*material.*

Sincerely yours

DUJ 652/74. 2006

*Jan Kornas*  
Prof. Dr. JAN KORNAS

Prof. Dr. Moritosi TANIGUTI  
Karasugi-cho 413-2  
Hisai-shi, Mie prefecture  
JAPAN 514-11

*Aug. 3 1981*

*letter and marine algae.*

Many thanks for the ~~reprint~~ of your paper.

*I don't go to Sydney.*

*Thank you, very much.*

Yours sincerely,

Dr. M. Taniguti

*Dr. M. Taniguti*

〒 514-11

日本国三重県久居市島木町 413 番地の 2

谷 口 森 俊 *博士*



~~15553333333333333333~~

Dr. Otto Degener  
P. O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785



Landing of Rochambeau, 1780

Dr. Otto and Isa Degener  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
Waialua, Oahu  
Hawaii 96791

© USPS 1980



July 30

Dear Otto, Just a hurried card as I have been ill the past week and am still very woozy. Your paper is going to the printer tomorrow. Its citation is PHYTOLOGIA 49:51-52. 1981. If all goes well it should be in the mails to all subscribers one month from today and you should get about 4 comp. copies from me.

Have a grand trip - wish we could go with you. Re the pacemaker -- it takes care only of bradycardia. Alma has both bradycardia and tachycardia, the latter controlled only PARTIALLY by powerful medications with nasty after- and side-effects. Yes, we have one of the gadgets, too, that enables her to let the MD read the heart-beats relative to the pacemaker. We have it on loan (really, rent, I guess) from the local hospital.

With all best wishes, as ever

MAROLD N. MOLDENKE  
/ 303 PARKSIDE ROAD  
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY

*Harold*

The WaiKamoi *Gunnera* and many *Cyanea* spp. were a delight. But you should see the marvels of Kue Sylva's Maui Bot. Garden! He sends greetings to you.  
Hello dear Otto and Isa.

We returned on time Friday night and there was Toyota "Jane" waiting for us. Mahalo, mahalo for your help, the parking fee and gas -- far more than your share!! Barky flew in Saturday and what a joy to see her looking great after all the labor of closing down an apartment in S.F. We can't answer all those questions on the geology book, but they are well raised. Aloha from us all. Mae

In the extensive rainforest surrounding our home 10 miles, feral pigs eat and slovenly the starch by pits of fallen *Cibotium bartramianum*, leaving a trough-like cavity filling with rainwater. These water-tight containers, up, due to remains of starch hold a red "soup." Here lava & pupae of the introduced mosquito flourish practically to the exclusion of all other places in a lava porous soil. These exotic mosquitoes are the vectors of the exotic avian malaria to which endemic birds

PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Cooperative National Park Resource Studies Unit at the University of Hawaii, the Natural History Association, and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park will present a one-day conference on

have not acquired resistance. Hence the bird population except THE FERAL PIG IN HAWAII for many introduced birds carrying malaria + harmlessly, is dropping alarmingly. At

August 7, 1981

THE FIELD RESEARCH CENTER

HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

The objective of the conference is to discuss all of the issues associated with feral pigs, their management and their significance in Hawaiian lifestyle. The conference will be in two parts. In the morning research will be presented on the impact of pigs in various native ecosystems, including food preference, population and home range studies. After lunch, there will be short presentations on various management options, public health problems, the hunter's concerns and the role of the pig in Polynesian society.

Papers will be by invitation only. Adequate time for discussion of papers will be available.

The program will be released in late June.

There will be a small registration fee to cover the preparation costs, refreshments, etc.

#72  
Rec. in HI 18/10/81



# The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220 8700

August 7, 1981

Dear Otto and Isa:

The real regrets that we have for not going to the Australian meetings are that we will not see our Hawaiian friends. We would like to cuddle the koala and see kangaroos, but we're not going to try to pick up antipodal clusioids - there are too many of them in tropical America for me to get to know, even with Celia's sharp eyes.

I suspect that some little tax thing might be worked out, but it would be the initial wallop that would get us - even though the thirteen people coming from the Garden are to receive assistance in different amounts. As a matter of fact, while you botanists are on the way to enlighten the professional world in Australia, we'll be down in Najayo trying to grind out some of the small details of our own efforts.

And, Otto, do keep in mind that this sort of thing will keep botanists going for many long years. We expect to continue here for a long time. We are planning our own work by the decade. We have two in the offing right now!

We well remember your fine place on the sea. We, too, have a stretch of beach. It may be that sometime, when the more attractive beach plants are producing seed, you would put a few in an envelope and send them to us.

When you get back from the meetings and your adventures in Tasmania, do send us a note to tell us a little about them.

With affectionate regards to you and Isa from both of us,

Sincerely,

Bassett

# UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG

INSTITUT FÜR ALLGEMEINE BOTANIK  
UND BOTANISCHER GARTEN

Institut für Allgemeine Botanik und Botanischer Garten Hamburg  
Postanschrift: 2000 Hamburg 36, Postfach 30 27 22

Drs. Otto Degener

P. O. Box 154

V O L C A N O / HAWAII

96785 U.S.A.

Hamburg, den 8.9.1981

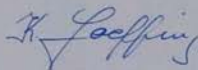
Fernsprecher 41 23. \_\_\_\_\_ (Durchwahl)

Behördennetz 09. \_\_\_\_\_ (Durchwahl)

Sehr geehrter Herr Degener,

Hiermit bestätige ich den Empfang von 28 No. Pflanzen aus  
Hawaii, wofür wir Ihnen herzlich danken.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen



(i. A. K. Soeffing)

Präparator



August 13, 1981



Dr. Otto Degener  
P.O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Dear Dr. Degener:

I wish to thank for the contents of your parcel which arrived yesterday. I very much appreciate the copy of "assorted sheets" of your *Flora Hawaiiensis*. I was particularly pleased to have the fruit of *Degeneria* since we have no representatives of it in our herbarium. I shall get the information for the label from Bob Thorne as you suggested.

I do not recognize the *Mimulus* you sent for an ID but there is someone who is working on the genus and I will try to get him to put a name on it.

You should be hearing from the Museum Bookshop who would like to carry your paperback. We have a new bookstore manager and she was quite receptive when I approached her on the subject last week.

It was a great pleasure to have dined with both you and your wife at KMC last month. Speaking for all of us we had a marvelous evening. I hope to back on Hawaii next summer and perhaps we can do it again although this time you will be my guests.

Please keep our herbarium in mind when you get ready to distribute your specimens. We would dearly love to have them.

Once again thank you for everything and please give my regards to Mrs. Degener.

Aloha

William B. Lee, Director  
Leon G. Arnold, Assistant Director

**NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History • 900 Exposition Boulevard • Los Angeles, California 90007  
George C. Page Museum • Hancock Park • 5801 Wilshire Boulevard • Los Angeles, California 90036

Dr. Otto Degener  
PO Box 154  
Volcano, HI 96785  
14 August 1981



Dera Dr. Degener,

Dr. Gustafson, of our botany department has recommended your book, Plants of Hawaiian National Parks. I think that it would sell well in our shop, especially as it includes ethnographical information as well as the botanical material. Please find enclosed our purchase order for one box at \$72.00. I would also like to order one copy of Flora Hawaiiensis. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Nielson Hovanitz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Karen Nielson Hovanitz  
Bookshop Manager

## NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History • 900 Exposition Boulevard • Los Angeles, California 90007 • tel (213) 744-3414  
George C. Page Museum • Hancock Park • 5801 Wilshire Boulevard • Los Angeles, California 90036 • tel (213) 933-7451

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 134  
Volcano, Hawaii  
96785  
Oct. 9, 1981 U.S.A.

Dear Mrs. Hovanitz:

Your Order No. 6782 arrived while Mrs. Degener & I were attending the XIII Int. Bot. Congress in Sydney. Being so "near", we did not return home until we could visit Tasmania and the North Island of New Zealand. Finally home, we found our NEW shipment of "Plants Haw. Nat. Parks" from Ann Arbor waiting for us at the village post office. So we filled your order, rather late to be sure.

The printing bill and postage was more than we had anticipated, which is of course not the fault of the Museum Bookshop. Mrs. D., & I reluctantly agree, that the over 300 page paperback should actually sell wholesale for \$4.50! and higher retail to your customers. These, for the most part, would be individuals anticipating a visit to our Islands. They will concentrate their time at our two National Parks, and may express their surprise that the Parks' display of the paperback is so much higher than in Los Angeles. This may create a dangerous boomerang for us Degeners. To solve the dilemma, I suggest you settle @ \$4.50 for the 24 paperbacks, you paying on consignment.

I, on the otherhand, send you now Gratis one book each of the FIRST editions (practically sold out) of "PHNP" in boards and my "Naturalist's South Pacific Expedition: Fiji". Each sells whole @ \$5.

I have just a few copies remaining of the above. Perhaps you should give copies to Dr. Gustafson. Not wanting them, perhaps to the Museum Library; not wanting them either, please keep them for sale at the Shop.

Back home, we find that the endemic pricklepoppy in our garden has matured seed! Please gave them to Dr. Gustafson with our admonition not to let them hybridize with your native taxa to confuse later taxonomists.

In the "Index Herbariorum" your Museum desires plants from "Mexico, Southwestern U.S.," Even so, we shall mail Dr. Gustafson duplicates of the few Haw., plants we have remaining and occasionally collect.

Aloha,

*Dr. Otto Degener*

THE HAWAIIAN BOTANICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 1080, HONOLULU, HAWAII  
PUNAHOU, OAHU

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii  
96791 U.S.A.

5887

24

12-1-8

12-1-8

Dec. 3, 1981.

Dear Mrs. Havanits:

Many thanks for your letter & cheque which was forwarded to us from our Volcano, Island of Hawaii cold summer home to our Waialua, Island of Oahu warm winter one.

I am mailing by a set of our Flora Haw., Books 1-6 in three covers. Book 7 has not yet been completed - was it not wiser for us to spend the cash on visiting Australia, Tasmania & New Zealand last summer - than printing additional sheets and a cover? We can mail you the incomplete copy for \$10 AFTER we return to Volcano and collate the sess on our shelves in our basement. It's worth \$10 "as is, where is". For new orders, the Fl. Haw., per covered Book must cost at least \$15 wholesale.

Of course Dr. Hustafson has told you about the Kilauea region & Kilauea Military Camp for rest & recreation. Should your husband be a veteran, be sure to write for reservation for one of the cottages in PLENTY of time. They are very reasonable & available for one week at a time. I believe for Christmas, there will be quite a waiting list.

I am not sure what it will be like next Christmas. But to save cash we always bought round trip airline tickets with STOPOVERS at every one of the major islands. It is cheaper that way.

Don't omit Haleakala on the Island of Maui. It is NOT a crater, but an eroded valley later filled with cinder cones. Three groups of cabins are available in strategic localities. Again, get reservations early. The are available for anyone, not limited to the Military.

We wish to emphasize that you are moderately safe wandering about our two National Parks, which are Federal property. But we strongly advise you not to wander away from well traveled roads. You never can tell if you will not set off a booby trap - the grocers sell quantities of spring rat traps now - consisting of a trap to which an inconspicuous string has been tied. Should you touch it, the guillotine part of the trap will hit a shotgun cartridge aimed in your direction.. Also, illicit Cannabis growers in this State of near-anarchy may shoot at you should you wander, while botanizing or geologizing, close to their hidden plantings. Mrs. D., & I were shot at twice two years ago near Volcano, perhaps not to kill us but to scare us away. Hence the native plant specimens we can mail you NOW are neotocore in comparison the the rarities Mrs. D., & I could reach before the Viet Nam War debased so many of our population. Cannabis cult., has become a more important industry than that of Saccharum.

Aloha,



LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
FOUNDATION BOOKSHOP

PURCHASE ORDER

NO 6782

P.O. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 8-14-81

INV. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

TO  
Dr. Otto Degener  
PO Box 154  
Volcano, HI 96785

SHIP AND INVOICE IN DUPLICATE TO: BOOKSHOP-LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
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|   | 24<br>1          | Plants of Hawaiian National Parks<br>Flora Hawaiensis |           | <del>\$108</del> |          | 72.00<br>40.00 |
| <p>Postage: 3.87</p> <p>4.50 a copy</p> <p>AT 5.81</p> <p>paid</p> <p>12/1/81</p> |                  |   |           |                  |          |                |

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AUTHORIZED BY

*Karen Nelson Sherry*

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DATE OF REPORT

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ARTICLES REPORTED ABOVE HAVE BEEN RECEIVED, AND QUALITIES ARE CORRECTLY STATED AND ANY SERVICES REPORTED HEREON WERE PERFORMED AS ORDERED.

SIGNED

Aug. 10, 1981.

Dear Dr. Sohmer:

Returning from a long stay at our Voleano home, what do you think we found in a box of mail not forwarded to us from the Waialua postoffice and then lost in the shuffle at Mokuleia? It was your Psychotria monograph and your work on Nelumbo. We had glanced at the former somewhere, but never had a copy of our own so far as we knew.

You certainly got order out of chaos, as we may have written you before, in the former, though we "splitters" don't quite agree with submerging Straussia. We surmise that the archaic "Protostraussia" of 75,000,000 - 25,000,000 years ago (like perhaps Raillardia, Dubautia, Wilkesia & Argyroxiphium) somehow landed on some such island as Kure, Midway, Lisianski or Laysan before these floated at the rate of 2 - 4 inches per year to the present position. Remember, they arose where Hawaii & Maui are growing now. As such islands eroded down toward sea level, the more modern Straussia offspring specialized on our present high islands until we destructive Primates appeared on the horizon a couple of thousand years ago, concentrating on the extermination of our endemic biotas at a rapid rate 200 years ago and since.

With this lengthy prologue, I want to state - and Mrs. D., independently came to the same conclusion - that we "environmentalists" hope you will in the future add YEAR of collection when citing specimens. We want to know when a plant was LAST collected, as a rough indication of whether it is endangered or even extinct. From your welcome reference to the institution where the sheet reposes, such data can be easily unearthed, but it would be an awful nuisance writing to so many curators.

"Psychotria" is interesting to read, but it is strictly work. Your dealing with insects & other factors, on the contrary, in Nelumbo is very pleasurable entertainment. How interesting illustrated descriptions of plants in our Fl. Haw., could be by getting away from pure 100% Botany. Perhaps some day we three can publish such a sheet or two as an experiment.

For the last few years we have been getting our possessions in order rather than concentrating on writing plant descriptions. The city house is now happily rented to a faculty family, and a rental unit at Mokuleia Beach happily vacated with our help by a violent Cannabisfumigator. If we can't get the unit rented by a genteel replacement, we shall keep it empty until our return from Australia, Tasmania & New Zealand. We regret that a museum of importance in the Pacific does not have you at the Congress to represent it! New York will have seven representatives.

After we have labeled & distributed our backlog of herb. specimens & printed our enlarged paperback, we shall continue printing sheets for our Fl. Haw. Book 7. We have been exchanging for a number of years with Peking and, as Nelumbo is so well known

in China, your & Sefton's work will go there with our next shipment of herbarium specimens. Chinese botanists will know from reprints & Haw., specimens who the Degeners & Sohmers are.

By the way, we did once write Peking we were willing to accept jade instead of plants, but they declined the trade. I also suggested they purchase our Univ. Ave., property for some Chinese East-West Center scholar - they found our house too small.

Aloha,



ALAN CRANSTON  
CALIFORNIA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 14, 1981

Dear Friend,

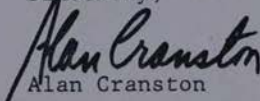
Recently I spoke on the Senate floor criticizing the performance and policies of Secretary of Interior James Watt.

I find him utterly out of step with a long and honorable bipartisan California tradition of love and respect for the natural environment that supports and sustains the works of man.

Because of your own expressed concern for the environment, I am sharing with you this copy of my remarks from the Congressional Record. I look forward to hearing your own views about the issues raised here.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

  
Alan Cranston

Enclosure





United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 97<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 127

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1981

No. 113

## Senate

### JAMES WATT, THE EXTREMIST, THE RADICAL THE CHAMPION OF NARROW SPECIAL INTERESTS

Mr. CRANSTON. Mr. President, as a Westerner and as a Californian, I share the anger felt by so many people by the policies of this Nation's 43d Secretary of the Interior, James Watt.

Secretaries of the Interior are charged with custodial care for hundreds of millions of acres of public land. They must see to it that some of the resources on and in those lands are used now, but that something of value is saved for generations to come.

The post of Secretary of the Interior calls for a skilled touch to maintain a balance between many competing and conflicting interests. But I must conclude, 6 months into his term of office, that Mr. Watt has exceeded even the worst case fears of his harshest critics.

Mr. Watt, in less than a half-year, has grossly tipped the scales in favor of those lumber and mining interests, big oil companies, big ranchers, and short-term profiteers who covet the West for their own purposes without regard to environmental values.

The National Wildlife Federation, the country's largest and perhaps most conservative environmental organization, declares that this Secretary has no conservation program but only a master plan for resource exploitation.

Mr. Watt recently told people who operate businesses in our national parks: We will use the budget system to be the excuse to make major policy decisions.

We now know what policy decisions he has in mind. His hidden agenda is out in the open.

The Watt budget would stop additional parkland purchases, including acquisitions in areas like Santa Monica Mountains that have been specifically authorized by Congress.

His policies would cripple real enforcement over strip mining, and would end effective protection and identification of endangered species. They would eliminate the cost-efficient Youth Conservation Corps and gut the popular urban parks program.

By his excessive rhetoric and reckless actions, Mr. Watt has trampled what many of us cherish as an article of

faith and commonsense: that the land is not a grab bag of resources but an interweaving of life with man himself as part of the fabric.

Californians are not the only people aroused by the Secretary's appalling indifference to the beauty and adventure of the West.

Americans in other States are also justly proud of their natural surroundings. They too have had enough of Mr. Watt's nature-baiting and confrontation tactics in just 6 months to last a lifetime.

Still it is true in California—the birthplace and headquarters of much of the conservation movement in America—that feelings toward this Secretary and his policies run especially deep.

It is a California tradition to feel uniquely challenged by beauty and to feel a new passion for life inspired by the magnificent setting in which we find ourselves.

Our history and identity as Californians are inseparable from the lure of sunlight, blue water, the pine and cypress-lined coast, mountain meadows, and great silent deserts.

We have learned to love and respect the web of natural gifts that support the California ideals of health, outdoor life, physical and spiritual renewal.

However, not everyone who came to California was interested in gentle pursuits.

Writing about California in the last half of the 19th century, the philosopher Josiah Royce explained:

You get a sense of power from these wide views, a habit of personal independence from the contemplation of a world that the eye seems to own.

The exploiters were not content to own California with their eyes alone. The sense of power that came from wide horizons was often turned against the land.

During California's gold rush much of the mother lode became a wasteland of muddied rivers and streams, caved-in hillsides, heaped debris, and tree stumps.

Our history remembers when much of California was overlogged, overgrazed, and overbuilt in a headlong scramble to cash in on the State's lush promise.

In the late 19th century the mining regions of the State reminded poet and essayist Bayard Taylor "of a princess, fallen into the hands of robbers, who cut

off her fingers for the sake of the jewels she wears."

In the absence of a conservation ethic scarcely anyone was particularly upset when, in 1853, five Americans spent 25 days in the Calaveras Grove cutting down a 3,000-year-old Sequoia that was 302 feet high and 96 feet in circumference.

They polished the stump into a dance floor and hollowed out the fallen trunk into a bowling alley.

Eventually such mindless destruction gave rise to a new California attitude. It held that life is to be savored, not just compulsively gotten through.

And since nature is the most obvious and overwhelming fact of life in California, it is something to be nurtured rather than to be exploited.

From John Muir to Ansel Adams, with many in between, California has produced a legion of gifted individuals who have spread the conservation ethic beyond the Pacific slope.

In the 1860's a group of Californians led by Frederick Law Olmstead—who later planned the Capitol Grounds as well as Central Park in New York and the Stanford University campus—successfully persuaded Congress and President Lincoln to give over to California a huge tract of land including Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa big trees to protect against commercial exploitation for all times.

It was the first major donation of public domain land for Federal park purposes—the birth of the national park idea.

Yellowstone became the first official national park in 1871, but it was the addition of Yosemite and Sequoia Parks in California that provided real momentum to the establishment of a national park system.

Theodore Roosevelt, a Republican, was our great conservation President, who did much to promote the idea of national parks. But it was Democrat Woodrow Wilson who finally signed the legislation in 1916 that established the national park system.

Wilson's Secretary of the Interior was Franklin Lane, a Californian. Lane received a letter from a prominent businessman and former classmate at the University of California, Steven Mather,

etc.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

POSTAGE AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE

2



भारत सरकार पोस्ट  
O.I.C.S.

BY AIR MAIL

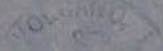


TO  
DR. OTTO DEGENER,  
P.O. BOX 154,  
VOLCANO, HAWAII,  
96785, U. S. A.  
*63-617 Crozier Str.*  
*Waialua, HI 96791*

पोस्टा नम. Third class

भेजने वाले का नाम और पता Sender's name and address

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P.O. Botanic Garden,  
HOWRAH-711103 (INDIA).



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CENTRAL NATIONAL HERBARIUM

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)

Department of Science & Technology

Botanical Survey of India (Bhartiya Varaspati)

Office of the Director

Sarvekshat)

P. O. Botanic Garden, Howrah-711103

No. CNH/Gift & Exch./81-Tech.IV./1032 Dated, the 22nd Aug. 1981.  
/21/8

To

DR. OTTO DEGENER,  
P.O. Box 154,  
Volcano, Hawaii,  
96785, U.S.A.

Sir,

We are glad to acknowledge with thanks receipt of a consignment of 31 unmounted duplicate specimens in good condition and a set of xerox prints/copies of miscellanea from Dr. Isa Degener and you.

However, we have not received any letter in this regard from you. Please let us know whether the specimens have been sent as gift or exchange.

Yours faithfully,

*G. Sengupta*  
( G. SENGUPTA )

Keeper

Central National Herbarium





*National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.*

HEADQUARTERS: 4401 MAGNOLIA AVENUE • ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63110 • AREA: 314-776-7574

August 26, 1981

Dr. Otto Degener  
P.O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Dear Dr. Degener:

Am returning your box of plates under separate cover. National Council takes no part in the selection of designs that Springs Mills chooses in the production of their sheets. Several years ago we were approached by Springs Mills to use our name and the slogan "Operation Wildflower" to promote the sale of bedding. In return we receive a contribution to our "Operation Wildflower" Project. Have enclosed a brochure on this project.

Springs Mills has been well pleased with their sales thus far. We have recently approved a new pattern which will be on the market very shortly. Have no idea whether they would consider prints of Hawaii for future merchandise plans.

If you would care to approach Springs Mills, the gentleman who has handled this project to date is:

Mr. J. B. Conway  
Consumer Products Division  
Springs Mills, Inc.  
104 West 40th Street  
New York, New York 10018

Our Headquarters here in St. Louis is located on six acres adjoining the Missouri Botanical Garden. We are neighbors and work frequently with Dr. Peter Raven.

Thank you for your letter and for the privilege of seeing your plates. Sorry that we play no part in the selections made by Springs Mills.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Ray Schlereth*

Mrs. Ray Schlereth  
Office Manager

jfs  
enc:



Missouri  
Botanical  
Garden



August 26, 1981

Dr. Otto Degener  
P. O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Dear Otto:

Thanks for your nice letter. This will probably not reach you until I have seen you in Sydney, but... I think the fellow promoting Degeneria for medicinal use may be on the wrong track, but in any case it will need to be brought into cultivation before it can be used. If he is right, of course it will be wonderful, so we shall see. If I hear any more about it, I'll let you know. It certainly will be important to get Degeneria into cultivation in Fiji and elsewhere, because it is a marvelous plant and will continue to be of interest indefinitely. The news you sent about Hawaii is, as always, ghastly and one of the reasons that I am pessimistic about tropical forests generally is that things are so bad in our own tropics despite the greatest accumulation of wealth on earth.

With all the very best to you and Isa, I am

Cordially,

Peter H. Raven  
Director

PHR/pl

P.O. Box 299  
St. Louis, Missouri 63166  
314 577 5100

Lehrstuhl für Pflanzensystematik  
Systematisch - Geobotanisches Institut  
der Universität Göttingen

D - 3400 Göttingen, 9. 3. 81  
Untere Karspüle 2  
Telefon 0551 / 39 - 57 31

Dr. Otto Degener  
68-617 Croziew Drive

Waiialua, Oahu/ Hawaii 96791  
U.S.A.

Lieber Herr Degener,

vor kurzem kam von Ihnen eine Sendung mit Kopien und  
5 Herbarexemplaren, für die ich mich gerne bedanken  
möchte. Allerdings muß ich doch erst einmal nachfragen,  
ob sie wirklich für uns ist. Auf dem Deckel und auf  
mehreren Kopien steht nämlich Göteborg! Ist hier etwas  
falsch gelaufen?

Mit den besten Grüßen, auch an Ihre Frau

Ihr

G. Wagner

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
Waiialua, Oahu, Hawaii  
96791 U. S. A.

18 Mar '81

Lieber Herr Wagneritz:

Frau Degener, ich habe Ihren Brief schon bekommen. Wir freuen uns sehr dass wenigstens Proben hawaiiischer Pflanzen in Göttingen, Göttingen und anderswo als Herbarmaterial sich bewahren werden für späte Botaniker, in 100 Jahren werden sie wahrscheinlich für Monographien als vernichtete neue Taxonen angesehen. Wir wünschen uns für die hiesige endemische Flora (Fauna) und Proben alles zu verstehen was bei uns bis jetzt sich aufgehäuft hat. Die Flora wird vernichtet wegen des 2-jährigen "Pauflers" die Unkraut, Pflanzen- und Insektenbräunheiten ein fähiges (meistens nicht absichtlich) Zeden Wiewald "Killedom" von Eucalyptus zu Pflanzen für Brennholz, und für diese Taxonomischen hiesige Baumarten werden andere Exoten in den zu zeigen die sie schon anderswo gesehen haben. Da wir hoffen am 11. Int. Bot. Congress Teil zu nehmen was für Frau D. und fossilen O.D. lebensgefährlich ist - will nur so viel wie möglich abgeben. Also haben wir Haufen alphabetisch Material eingeteilt. Wenn Sie Dilettantenmaterial bemerken, bitte schreiben Sie uns einfach nach Göttingen. Ich bin Sie nach Sydney? In der selben Post haben wir einen Brief von dort bekommen dass eine Tour die wir gewohnt haben bemerkt doppelt so teuer sein wird! Wir können so etwas einfach nicht affordieren. Aloha (bis Sydney?).

Otto Degener

Bitte die Marke  
auf diesem Brief, mit dieser Victoria neuzei  
Spinnung, ins Herbar legen.

# Buena Vista DOCTORS MEDICAL CLINIC

2000 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 206  
San Francisco, California 94109

(415) 775-1666

Sept. 4, 1981

Richard R. Hamilton, M.D.  
Director

Leo M. Leva, M.D.

Jeffrey M. Leiphart, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychologist

Michael Weiner, Ph.D.

Nutritionist

Jeanne Elise  
Administrator

Dear Dr. Degener:

Thank you for your book & letter! I have had a copy of your book since 1969 (Beatrice Krauss gave it to me) & have drawn on it for inspiration all these years.

I collected Degeneria on Vit. C near the Sawani district. At this time I have no new medical information re: this plant, but when the results of further clinical or pre-clinical trials are released by the National Cancer Institute I will write to you.

Again, thank you for your fine, inspirational book, & may both you & Mrs. Degener continue to lead the way for many years.

Peace,

Michael Weiner



By air mail Air letter  
Par avion Aerogramme

20P



Drs. Otto + Isa Degener.  
P.O. Box 154.  
Volcano, Hawaii

96785  
68-617 Crozier Dr  
Honolulu, HI 96721  
~~U.S.A.~~

Sender's name and address

Mr. Wai Y. Lee  
41, Norton St.  
Old Trafford  
Manchester  
Lancashire Postcode M16 7QG,  
England.



An air letter should not contain any enclosure

To open slit here

To open slit here

41, Norton St.,  
Old Trafford,  
Manchester M16 7QG  
Lancashire,  
England.

8th, September, 1981.

Dear Dr. Degener,

Thank you for your herbarium specimens  
and the books. Also, thank you for your letter  
of 14. July 1981.

I had sent you a letter, I wonder if you  
have received it. You asked if I am ready to  
receive some more Hawaii herbarium specimens  
I would be delighted to receive more.

I really enjoyed the holiday in Horg Kong. I  
have collected several specimens there which I shall  
send you some shortly. I have even less time to spend  
on specimens now because of the amount of work I  
have to do in my shop.

I hope you and your wife have a very  
enjoyable journey in Australia.

Hloha.

Wai Yee Lee

# CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL PARA LA PRESERVACION DE LAS AVES

— SECCION NACIONAL DE GUATEMALA —

PRESIDENTE  
JORGE A. IBARRA  
Academia Peral 987  
Guatemala, C. A.  
AJO DEL MUSEO NAC.  
DE HISTORIA NATURAL  
DE GUATEMALA  
TEL. 1943

Guatemala, septembre 8th. 1981.

Dr. Otto Degener

Dear Dr. Degener:

I received your two interesting books about biology and the magazines. All these material is very important to us and I thank you very much for your kind attention.

Things with our museum are becoming better and we'll have a new building next year.

Our journal also is in good condition and we are surviving in spite of the high prices.

The best news I can divulgate among my distinguish friends is that Dr. Cyrus L. Lundell, Professor Emeritus from the University of Texas in Dallas, dedicated to me the Genus Ibarraeae. Of course I feel very happy with this small group of plants with ten species. Phytologia, an important botanical garden published the news in may this year.

On the 16th of the next month I'll attend a meeting of the Internaciotal Council for Bird Preservation, and I tried to visit Australia a few weeks ago, but the trip is very spensive, I prefer to fly to New Orleans and see again the American Museum of Natural History, the place for this meeting.

With my best wishes to Drs. Degener, the best wishes

Most sincerely.

P. S. A young man with german blood wrote for me a letter into German, but I think was not as excellent as I should have thought. I better prefer to continue writing in English which really is my 2nd. language.

sent 2/10/82 Science issue on preparation via Smithsonian  
Schubert's book Text to Schubert  
# 26-10-1982



10 September 1981

Dear Doctors Degener,

On my return from a sabbatical leave at Ohio State University of 8.5 months, I found a lovely packet of specimens from you two awaiting me. I hope they haven't been here so long that you had despaired of ever receiving a thank-you note for them. I really do very much appreciate your sending them, and they make most valuable additions to the herbarium here. I have just over 58,000 sheets now, not counting about 4,000 I mailed home from Ohio State, where I spent most of my time working through their backlogs of unidentified specimens from the New World tropics, Canary Islands, Pakistan, and so forth. Most were composites, which people at Ohio State mostly work on.

And I thank you very much, too, for the many and various reprints you enclosed. These alone are a valuable education to read and study on, especially the two articles about Hillebrand and how his Flora came to be written.

Every best wish for your continued success and fruitful botanizing.

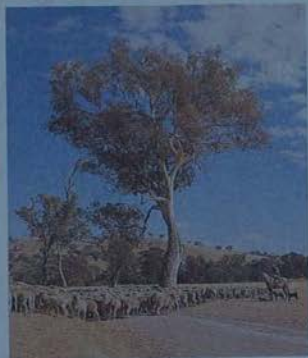
Yours gratefully,

*Neil A. Harriman*

Neil A. Harriman



BY AIR MAIL / PAR AVION  
**AÉROGRAMME**



AUSTRALIA

33c

TO Drs Otto & Isa Degener,  
68-617 Crozier Drive,  
WAIALUA, OAHU,  
HAWAII 96791,  
COUNTRY OF DESTINATION United States of America

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

Dr J. P. Jessop,  
State Herbarium of South Australia, Botanic Gardens,  
North Terrace, ADELAIDE,  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA,  
Postcode 5000

FOLD SIDE FLAPS FIRST

FOLD SIDE FLAPS FIRST

TO OPEN SLIT HERE FIRST

JPJ:BAW  
H637/1981

STATE HERBARIUM OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, BOTANIC GARDENS,  
NORTH TERRACE, ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5000

18th September, 1981

Drs Otto & Isa Degener,  
68-617 Crozier Drive,  
Waialua, Oahu,  
HAWAII 96791,  
United States of America

Dear Dr Degener,

Thank you very much for the latest donation of twenty four specimens to our Herbarium.

You may wish to know that we have an arrangement with Adelaide University by which they house all the algal collections and we house all their important higher plant collections. The two algae in your consignment have, therefore, been transferred to the University.

Yours sincerely,



J. P. Jessop,  
Chief Botanist,

for Director.

September 18, 1981



Dr. Otto & Isa Degener  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
Waiialua Oahu, Hawaii 96791

RE: NO HALA HALLUCINATION

Dear Dr. Degener:

Thank you very much for your amended application.

LIBRARY  
OF  
CONGRESS

The publication information at space 3 is now acceptable. However, our last letter asked that you cite only your copyrightable contributions in each of the "author of" segments at space 2. Your present answers are again unacceptable.

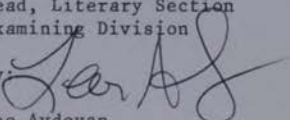
As previously suggested, if you and your co-author were responsible for the entire text, you may state in each space: "co-author of entire text."

In your reply, please return the enclosed carbon referring to our CONTROL NUMBER 1-182-0302 (D).

Washington  
D.C.  
20559

Sincerely yours,  
Nancy H. Lawrence  
Head, Literary Section  
Examining Division

By:

  
Lee Avdoyan  
Copyright Examiner

Enclosures:

Appl. ret'd.  
Form TX  
C.O. letter of July 7, 1981  
Circular R7c  
cc: this letter



Sept. 29, 1981.

*Hale Degener*

WAILUA, OAHU, HAWAII

Dear Miss Gerum:

Mrs. Degener & I just returned via a sleepless nocturnal flight after attending the XIII International Botanical Congress in Sydney and partaking of some conducted tours. Though still a bit groggy from jet lag, I shall answer your ancient Sept. 1 letter awaiting me here.

In general we are opposed to the introduction of exotics for fear ~~they~~ they may escape to compete and possibly even exterminate endemics. Moreover, now that it is relatively quick, easy and cheap to travel, individuals most truly interested can see natives growing under their own, peculiar native conditions. We are so unimpressed ~~at~~ seeing the same monotonous, gaudy plantings of South American bougainvilleas, Greek oleanders, Chinese hibiscus, etc., etc., in Bermuda, Nassau, Panama, Hawaii, along the Mediterranean, Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand and throughout the Orient! Now that I have expressed our disgust, I must admit we are a bit hypocritical.

While botanizing in "Nassau", actually New Providence Island, in the '40s, I collected the small flowered, native Plumeria bahamensis Urban. We have a plant in our ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Mokuleia Beach garden, and saw to limited local distribution.

Furthermore, at the same time I gathered seed of the halophytic tree Conocarpus erecta L., so ornamental at Waimea Bay. Some local botanists, thinking I erred in spelling, have blundered in printing the species name "erectus." This wrong orthography, as we have stated elsewhere, should not be taught as the Gospel Truth to our youngsters. Linnaeus, a Latin scholar, was aware that the ending "us" is masculine. He considered the plant, however, a "Conocarpus tree", similarly to considering a Quercus an "oak tree." As the word for "tree" in Latin is the feminine "arbor", Linnaeus purposely named our taxon Conocarpus erecta just as he named the white oak Quercus alba. According to the international code of botanical nomenclature such spellings are correct, but not especially approved for more modern times.

When on Canton Island on the Equator, with Mrs. Degener, as botanical consultant for the FAA (CAA) in 1958 we picked up after a violent storm jetsam wiliwili seeds. We planted them in our beach garden at Mokuleia to establish the plant's identity. One by this time has grown into an enormous Erythrina variegata var. orientalis (L.) Merr., conveniently shading a seeping fishpond. It is truly a joy to us. We are puzzled regarding this particular tree's native home - erythrinus never survive on Canton Atoll, presumably eaten to death while yet seedlings by the voracious, land hermitcrabs.

Aloha,

*Dr. Otto Degener*



Dr. M. Weiner  
Buena Vista Dr. Mt. Cleary  
2000 Van Ness Ave.  
S. F., Calif. 94133



Sept. 29, 1961.

*Hale Degener*

WAILUA, OAHU, HAWAII

96791, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Weiner:

Mrs. D., & I returned yesterday (via a cheap night flight without stopover in Nadi) from attending the XIII Int. Bot. Congress in Sydney. Being so near (?), we took the opportunity to visit and miserly collect in Tasmania & the North Island of New Zealand. *Your letter awaits us,*

It seems that New Zealand and Tasmania particularly have some relict families that evidently inhabited Gondwana before it broke up to change the face of the earth more or less as we know it now.

Though we Degeners know nothing about your specialty, we are just wondering if you should look into taxonomic works as of Cronquist & of Stewart regarding archaic Families like the Degeneriaceae. Then check Floras about Australia, and especially New Zealand & Tasmania as to which archaic Phanerogam families grow there and how easy it is to hunt for the material. If the Dr., show promise more than more modern Families, why should you not have better luck for your researches with the more archaic Gondwanan relicts?

Please be forewarned that we were disgusted with the attitude (not of all individual conductors) of bot. tours under Congress auspices. The attitude was a general niggardly one that we 3,000 members (who brought millions of dollars of foreign currency into Australia, N.Z., & Tasmania) should not even take scraps of plants back home! Yet, ruthlessly, the few remaining patches of endemic forest are being bulldozed for exotic Pinus for lumber, beef & kangaroo meat for export and for sheep & dairy industries! They sacrifice intellectual Science & the lucrative tourist industry. Hearing identifications & important facts about local endemics without a scrap herbarium specimen to attach it via label meant the binomial, etc., we heard went in one ear & promptly out the other. Personally, we thought the Bot. Congress chose governments not properly prepared for botanical visitors. We have been to a number of Congresses since the Montreal one - the Russians in Leningrad were unusually gracious & broadminded in spite of our Being Capitalists - and find that the recent Congress comes close to being the "Unlucky 13th" at least for us. In other words, should you have your eyes set on Collecting material in these three areas, be sure the powers that be don't sabotage your requirement to take home sample material for assay. We never received an answer to our repeated requests to Sydney regarding modest collecting permits - others maintained they likewise got no replies - to prove to our tax assessors that our costly Congress meeting should be considered tax-free work & not simply a taxable joyride!

Sincerely,

*Hale Degener*

Sept. 39, 1981.

Dear Rev. Ashitomi:

Mrs. Degener & I just returned from a business trip to Australia, and found your Sept. 15 letter awaiting us.

We certainly agree with you that the Honolulu Holiness Church should be granted a zoning variance for the construction of a covered walkway as described in your Sept. 15 letter.

Regarding your question about our property, we are prepared to sell it, but not for a song. Not being legal residents anymore, much of the income from a sale would be gobbled up immediately in taxes. We are waiting for a sale price of \$400,000 via some realtor who probably demands 6% for the trivial work in which he would be involved. Could we sellers & some buyer get together privately and merely hire an inexpensive escrow company, the sale price would be less. I am writing about 1981 conditions. With inflation rampant, after Jan. 1 we may want to wait until some one comes along with \$500,000 for the property - perhaps some East-West Center faculty member. We actually contacted Peeking, but they found the place too small.

It would be wonderful for the Church could some member, tax free as a gift to an eleemosynary institution, purchase our property PLUS the two adjacent ones. The Church, after bulldozing buildings, could extend to the corner of University Ave., & Kaala Street, have a beautiful park opposite and plenty of parking on the Waiolu Way side.

The above may be just a nice dream, but why not have members of the congregation think about it seriously with tax benefits in mind. A dream prepares for action.

Aloha,

ON HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SERVICE

By air mail  
Par avion



Drs Otto + Isa Degener,  
P.O. Box 154  
VOLEANO,  
HAWAII, 96785,  
U.S.A.

THE HERBARIUM  
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS  
KEW RICHMOND  
SURREY TW9 3AE  
ENGLAND

YOUR REF: Parcel May 81 .

10-6-81

OUR REF: H 848181

We acknowledge receipt of your

parcel

A further communication will  
follow in due course.

J. Rosvall  
for DIRECTOR





## Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney

Mrs. Macquarie's Road, Sydney, NSW. 2000, Australia

Phone (02) 274347

In Reply Please Quote

JS:kon

National Herbarium of New South Wales

8th October, 1981.

Dr. O. Degener,  
68-617 Crosier Drive,  
Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii  
96791, U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

We have received your donation of botanical specimens. Thank you very much for this material and also for the accompanying reprints.

Yours faithfully,

Loans Officer  
for the Director.

J.G.S.

(Dropped Sydney from our gift list as their herbarium specimens are not mounted, encouraging loss and/or mixing of loose fragments in wrong folders with unjust blame probably accruing to collectors.)

*Was published.*

1310 Meulu St. #2201  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Letters to the Editor  
The Honolulu Advertiser  
P.O. Box 3110  
Honolulu, Hi. 96802

October 9, 1981

Dear Sir:

It angers me when I hear it said by economically-minded folk that Hawaii should realize it is part of the United States and show by a program of heavy malathion spraying here, a respect for the fruit and vegetable industry in California. There has been a propaganda attempt to blame Hawaii for fruit fly outbreaks on the mainland.

I think it is high time the mainland folk show a respect for Hawaii. This is the state with ecosystems unique in the world, having not only many endangered species but also the greatest potential for important and valuable discoveries in basic biological science. Large federal grants to the University of Hawaii, the Bishop Museum and mainland scientists to study these things, plus the enormous interest engendered around the world in the new Hawaiian discoveries, show that others understand this. Why can't our own U.S. Dept. of Agriculture?

Our rare species are very sensitive and vulnerable to malathion. None can be replaced from non-sprayed outside areas as their habitats are small and specific and they are not found elsewhere. Malathion spraying would also destroy biological controls, and even more important, deny scientists time to find alternatives.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Meredith Carson

Oct 24 '81

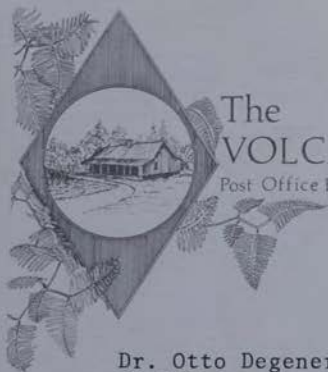
Dear Degeners,

We were delighted with the magazine with the article on Hawaii's rainforests with the very fine inclusion of drawings from Flora Pacifica and the author's photos. I feel she did a good job, even including all the latest on the predators caterpillar and the "Happy-Faced Spider". We thank you for thinking of us.

We wonder how the great trip was and we are glad you went and are back safely.

Enclosed is an article I wrote including most of the points Hamp made in a Forum in the University Pro & Con the ~~the~~ "trifly project". I hoped it would widen his audience.

Alaka, Meredith Carson



The  
VOLCANO ART CENTER

Post Office Box 189, Volcano, Hawaii, 96785

October 9, 1981

Dr. Otto Degener  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
Waialua Oahu 96791

Dear Dr. Degener,

We've received your invoice for \$50.37, and after looking at our records, are just writing to remind you that we work on a consignment basis. That means that as your fine books sell, we pay for them.

The Art Center must work on this consignment basis, because as a non-profit organization, we simply could not afford to purchase works and books outright.

As soon as your other books sell, you will receive further checks from us. We feel most fortunate to have your books at the Center.

Regards to Mrs. Degener. We hope you are both in good health.

With aloha,

Marsha Anne Morrison  
Executive Director

A non-profit locus for the visual and performing arts at the  
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.



Bailey  
Museum,  
Washington,  
D.C.

Virginia

Oct. 10, 1981.

Dear Mrs. Wirtz:

Mrs. Degener & I attended the XIII International Botanical Congress in Sydney. We took the opportunity to study the Australian, New Zealand & Tasmanian floras while there anyway. Now back and catching up on an accumulation of two months' mail and newspapers, we find the Hon., Advertiser issue of July 22. This mentions you & Bailey Home Museum's Kahoolawe display.

I am writing you to ask you take one copy of my book "Plants Haw. Nat. Parks" on approval for \$4.50. If it sells quickly, I hope you will take a box of 24 (that is how they are packed by the printer in Michigan) on CONSIGNMENT at \$108.00 plus postage.

Here is the history of the author, myself: I am a New Yorker who came as tourist with my sister to the Islands in the summer of 1922. We visited the Needle Aug. 29. In Autumn my sister returned home, while I enrolled for a M. Sc., degree under the Presidency of Arthur Lyman Dean, son of a minister.

From 1925-'27 I was botanist at the University of Hawaii, having as many as 102 Freshmen in beginning Botany. One of my best students was an Izumi of Hana. I chose him especially during the summer to help illustrate the hardcover, first edition of my "Plants Haw. Nat. Park" published by me privately in 1930. A few "collectors' copies" remain which I sell for \$30 each presently. Izumi's drawings, modestly signed as you can barely see, are Plates 2, 23, 24, 29, 38, 39, 45, 48, 50, 51, 66, 73, 78, 84 and 90. He also drew for my *Flora Hawaiensis*, a series of books not adapted for your tourist trade.

In 1927 I spent the summer on Maui, renting five horses & a mule from Mr. Anthony Tam of Makawao. We have been good friends ever since, he later living in my home near the University during his attendance of classes. I explored Haleakala inside & out for weeks, mainly from the Holua Cave area. I had a tent and did not live in the somewhat filthy cave.

In 1929 I was the first Naturalist of Hawaii National Park, which included the Kilauaea & the Haleakala Sections. I rented a cottage at "27 Miles", Island of Hawaii, later purchased by the Blaisdells, having University students continue drawing for me. The next two years I lived at the Volcano House, since razed by fire, completing the ms., of this book.

For my *Flora Haw.*, work I lived on all the major islands, becoming a staff member of the New York Botanical Garden resident, however, in Haw., Nei. At various times I rented a cottage from Mrs. Trimble and from Mr. Anthony Tam, both at Makawao and "Idlewild" during prohibition days from the lively realtor Worth Aitken (spelling? who had built the old Rest House, Anthony Tam, I believe furnishing the horses to haul up the bags of cement. According to my opinion of the time, W.A., misrepresented the place, writing me to Honolulu that it had a garden, a yardboy, etc., etc. He was on a Mainland trip the day I went to Idlewild to take over. I simply could not do so as the entire house inside was a cloud of pale brown fruitflies. Evidently the yardboy was using the house for a still to make okolehao! I insisted the place be cleaned up before I took over. My "private garden", however, was a paddock to keep saddlehorses for tourists riding to the summit of Haleakala. There was no road at the time. Well, anyway, the house was convenient to collect along the Pipeline Trail.

By the way, did you know my brother-in-law Wilbur Watkins of Kula? During World War I (or was it II?), he managed a cement factory on the Isthmus, & later became President or Manager of Maui Electric. I visited him occasionally. His sister married my brother Armin. All of course have died by this time, & I am the only fossil still alive.

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii  
96785 U.S.A.  
Oct. 10, 1981.

Editor,  
Hawaii Tribune-Herald,  
Hilo, Hawaii.

Dear Sir:

Beware of Fire

Attending the XIII International Botanical Congress in Sydney followed by two months' study of the native floras of Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania in comparison to that of Hawaii Nei, we hardly can be considered authorities. Yet from conducted tours with other Congress members under the leadership of Dr. W.D. Jackson, the monographer of the genus Eucalyptus and Professor at the University of Tasmania in Hobart, we did absorb some astonishing knowledge and probably correct impressions. The appearance of an article entitled "Tree Farm Workshop" in the October 8, 1981 issue of the Hawaiian Tribune-Herald prompts our present harangue!

The frightening article states in part: "Experts on all aspects of tree farms are meeting for a three-day workshop this week to produce a comprehensive report on the technical and economic feasibility of eucalyptus tree farms on the Big Island. - - - The workshop is part of a large ~~XXXXX~~ project, led by Pacific Resources, Inc., on the feasibility of using Hawaiian biomass to produce hydrocarbon fuels. Other members of the team are the Institute of Gas Technology of Chicago, Illinois, and the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute. Preliminary work has led to the conclusion that the most promising energy plantation would be eucalyptus on the Island of Hawaii."

Previous to our trip, we would have been opposed to the continued planting of eucalypts, except for an occasional tree for someone's personal interest, as <sup>they</sup> tend to kill interesting plants around them and the interesting <sup>associated</sup> animals from bugs ~~XXXXXX~~ to birds, ~~associated with them~~. The only benefit to such non-human animals, as we see it, is a short flowering season producing some nourishing nectar. Its oil (known as eucalyptol) is so poisonous that it is useful ~~only~~ when properly controlled by a physician to kill pathogens attacking both man and beast. For a supply of such oil, we need no forests! The eucalypt is a killer, and hence detracts from the evermore discerning generation of tourists who visit the Hawaiian Islands to revel in things Hawaiian, not in eucalypts that can see better under natural conditions in Tasmania, bougainvillea, in Brasil, gingers, in the Orient; ~~oleander in Greece; etc.~~ Flying is no longer so expensive in money and time that they must see exotics under unnatural conditions. The cultivation of exotic eucalypts and their ilk, crowding out natives and marring the environment is a cancer slowly throttling our lucrative tourist trade. How many unsuspecting tourists are disappointed when they see the skyscraper hotels flanking the beach at Waikiki or the sky-reaching eucalypts hiding the view of the native countryside?

After touring Tasmania, much of the above seems to us piffle. Forest fires must have been common during the eons the genus Eucalyptus was able in Tasmania to evolve well over



a hundred species, varieties and forms. Abundantly armed with poison oil cells, the plants are relatively immune to depredation by members of the Animal Kingdom except incidentally for the cuddly koala "bear" with its "two-thumbed" hands for efficient climbing. This marsupial is remarkably specialized to eat eucalypt leaves and "nothing ~~more~~ else". (A tame one, however, enjoyed munching some of our salted potato chips.) With such oil, if for no other reason, the forests were just about as dead to animal activity as are our valley bottoms crowded with the Polynesian introduced kukui, a relative of the castor oil plant.

The trunks of so many of the eucalypts are amazing: <sup>regarding fire</sup> Some outside are hard, corky and thick; others are loose and flaky, similar to the asbestos-like, almost fire proof bark of the exotic Melaleuca or paperbark tree known to most of us; and still others have smooth, whitish bark. We had never realized that whitish bark would lessen heat exposure <sup>to the animal skin</sup> like the other two kinds; yet we remember our mothers changed from dark, warm, winter <sup>reasonably</sup> clothing ~~seasonally~~ to light, cool, summer clothing. <sup>There must be some truth to it.</sup>

Forest fires must have been rampant in ages past to elicit such tree trunk adaptations. Forests then were ignited by occasional lightning; by spontaneous combustion; and, we would imagine, by dead, leafy branches being rubbed together to ignition by a strong, dry wind. Forest fires must have markedly increased with the prehistoric coming of early, fire making man, contemptuously considered by many of our Caucasian forebears to be subhuman aborigenes and hence helped to extinction. This, however, <sup>and more</sup> did not reduce the number of fires. They increased in frequency <sup>offer</sup> when many of us Caucasians first mouthed burning leaves to inhale their narcotic smoke before finally dropping them perchance amid tinder ~~dry~~ duff.

Fires in a eucalypt forest, such as proposed to be "the most promising energy plantation - - - on the Island of Hawaii," must be devastatingly impressive. After a spark or ember finally bursts into flame and reaches lower, leafy branches, the oil does not simply burn. The oil in the entire forest vaporizes into a burning gas, <sup>can</sup> and the forest fire in the entire area <sup>in</sup> burns itself out with ~~about~~ ONLY THREE MINUTES!

To be sure, some tree trunks will smolder for hours, but that is of little consequence. Many trees, thanks to their peculiar bark, will be almost bare trunks, <sup>after a fire</sup> like ohiyas exposed to lava flows ~~xxx~~ or ash explosions in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. After rains, these will sprout abundant, ~~aggressive~~ branches from adventitious shoots arising from the cambium of the trunk. Others, like koas in the Park, will grow anew from adventitious shoots arising from the roots. Thus a eucalypt forest renews itself, adapted for another fire perhaps a score of years later. <sup>we wish to emphasize again</sup>

The eucalypt conflagration might be likened to an explosion, the cloud of burning gas, if the wind is in that direction, even crossing the ocean to set offshore islets aflame. Whole towns go up in smoke, the burned houses ~~not~~ showing upright pipes and metal doors and window frames as with us. Because of the intense heat, the houses are burned flat to the ground, all metal having melted including knives, forks and spoons, to run down the path or roadway in a little silvery stream. The unfortunate householder later rolls up the congealed alloy to at least <sup>with that</sup> get a little cash from the junk dealer. Is this to happen to homes in towns ~~makai~~ of abandoned sugarcane fields? <sup>in Hawaii?</sup>

If advocates of eucalypt forests ignore the intellectual and scientific values of ter-

rain not overgrown with unusually flammable and <sup>of them</sup> pisonous trees; ~~XXX~~ ignore the welfare of  
a shaky tourist industry having many potential clients by 'plane bypass progressively more  
unnatural Hawaii Nei; and <sup>of them</sup> risk playing with fire that may wipe out entire coastal villages, <sup>sure</sup>  
urge the State to Legislate that we and/or our heirs be reimbursed for a holocaust very  
likely destroying our prized possessions, and perhaps our very lives. This <sup>hastily written</sup> urgent appeal  
may be based on statements not 100% correct, but sufficiently true and in the public domain  
via the Hawaii Tribune-Herald to be worth consideration.

Aloha,

Drs Otto & Isa Degener  
Owners of wooden houses





Happy Birthday

Ted + Joyce

Oct. 13, 1981.

Dear Mr. Huntzinger:

Mrs. Degener & I returned from attending the XIII International Botanical Congress in Sydney. We spent two months in Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania. We were interested in noting relatives of our Hawaiian plants: One Astelia or painiu lily was even alive under snow near a ski slope!

Before our departure Haleakala ordered our paperback, and we could ship only 15; so if you take more, please have your Naturalist put in an order with Mrs. Forbes at Haw. Volc. Nat. Park. The cost is \$4.50 per copy, or about 1½ cents per page, plus postage.

Aloha,

*D. C. Degener*

RECEIVED AS & CREDIT 200  
1981 OCT 13  
HAWAIIAN BOTANICAL SOCIETY  
1000 KALANANĀʻOUE AVE  
HONOLULU, HI 96813

Del. to (11/27/85) C. Brainerd, Co. Hawaiian Islands, Editor, Hawaii Tribune-Herald, Dept. of  
+ H. H. H. (H. H. H.), H. H. H.  
H. H. H.

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 134  
Vokana, Hawaii  
96784 U.S.A.  
Oct. 13, 1981.

Dear Editors:

### Beware of Fire!

Attending the XIII International Botanical Congress in Sydney and spending two months studying the native floras of Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania in comparison to that of Hawaii Nei, we hardly can be considered authorities. Yet from conducted tours with other Congress members under the leadership of Dr. W.D. Jackson, the monographer of the genus Eucalyptus and Professor at the University of Tasmania in Hobart, we did absorb some astonishing knowledge and probably correct impressions. Hence the appearance of an article entitled "Tree Farm Workshop" in the October 8, 1981 issue of the Hawaii Tribune-Herald prompts our present harangue.

The frightening article states in part: "Experts on all aspects of tree farms are meeting for a three day workshop this week to produce a comprehensive report on the technical and economic feasibility of eucalyptus tree farms on the Big Island. -- The workshop is part of a large project, led by Pacific Resources, Inc., on the feasibility of using Hawaiian biomass to produce hydrocarbon fuels. Other members of the team are the Institute of Gas Technology of Chicago, Illinois, and the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute. Preliminary work has led to the conclusion that the most promising energy plantation would be eucalyptus on the Island of Hawaii."

Previous to our trip, we would have been opposed to the continued planting of eucalypts, except for an occasional tree for someone's personal interest, as they tend to kill interesting plants around them and the interesting associated animals from bug to birds. The only benefit to such animals, as we see it, is a short flowering season producing some edible nectar. Its oil, known as eucalyptol, is so poisonous that it is only useful when properly recommended by a physician, after a pharmaceutical company has refined it, to kill pathogens attacking both man and beast. We need no forests for a supply of such oil. The eucalypt is a killer of things about it, and hence detracts the evermore discerning generations of tourists who visit the Hawaiian Islands to revel in things Hawaiian, not in groves of eucalypts that they can see better if they wish under natural conditions in Tasmania. Jet flying is no longer so expensive in money and time that they must see exotics under unnatural conditions. The cultivation of introduced eucalypts and their ilk, crowding out natives and marring the normal environment is a cancer slowly throttling our lucrative tourist industry. How many unsuspecting tourists are disappointed when they see the skyscraper hotels flanking the beach at Waikiki or the sky-reaching eucalypts hiding the native countryside? Without a gallery of undisturbed "bush" or of forest alongside rural highways, we typical "down-Under" tourists don't anticipate repeating the monotony of passing through vast cattle and sheep ranches nor manicured forests of biomass valuable, Continental pine trees. It is as drowsy as driving through fields of sugarcane, pineapple or watermelon in Hawaii Nei.

After touring Tasmania, much of the above seems to us piffle considering the following: Forest fires must have been common during the eons the genus Eucalyptus was able in Tasmania to evolve well over a hundred species, varieties and forms. Abundantly armed with poison oil cells, the plants are relatively immune to depredation by members of the Animal Kingdom except incidentally, for the cuddly keala "bear" with its "two-thumbed" hands for efficient climbing. This marsupial is remarkably specialized to eat eucalypt leaves and "nothing else". (A tame one, however, enjoyed munching some of our salted potato chips.) With such oil, if for no other reason, the forests were just about as dead to animal activity as are our valley bottoms crowded with the Polynesian introduced kukui, a relative of the castor oil plant.

The trunks of so many of the eucalypts are amazing regarding fire: Some outside are hard, corky and thick; others are loose and flaky, similar to the asbestos-like, almost fire proof bark of the exotic Melaleuca or paperbark tree known to most of us; and still others have smooth, whitish bark. We had never realized that whitish bark would lessen heat exposure like the other two kinds to the cambium; yet we remember our mothers



DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P. O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785, U.S.A.

Jan. 29, 1984


Dear Editor:

We noted on the first page of our Tribune-Herald copy of Friday, Jan. 27, 1985, an article headed "BioEnergy Is Seeking More Money and Time". The article deals with the hazardous idea of developing a eucalypt forest in Hawaii.

As taxpayers and owners of a wooden home at about 4,000 feet, and interested in the native Hawaiian environment and its conservation; we mailed you Oct. 13, 1981, a letter protesting the eucalyptus project explained in your issue of Oct. 8, 1981.

May we suggest that you repeat most of our Oct. 13, letter as we think it timely?

Aloha,

  
Univ. of Haw., M. Sc., '23; Faculty, 1925-'27  
Naturalist, Haw. Nat. Park, 1929; Author, Flora Haw.

## BioEnergy is seeking *Haw. Trib. Herald, Friday 1/27/85* more money and time

BioEnergy Development Corp., a C. Brewer & Co. subsidiary, will ask the Department of Energy for more money and more time to complete its experiment on growing eucalyptus trees as firewood.

Thomas B. Crabb, BioEnergy vice president and manager, said he needs an extension through 1985 to complete the experiment.

The experiment, which began in late 1978, is supposed to be completed by March 31, Crabb said.

Under an agreement with the energy department, BioEnergy has been growing eucalyptus trees on 714

acres of Brewer's land. By the end of March, BioEnergy and the energy department would have invested \$2.89 million in the experiment.

Crabb, however, said an extension is necessary because the trees won't be ready for harvest until the end of 1985.

"At this point . . . it is crucial that we get an extension or new contract of long duration into through 1985," he said in a progress report.

"Our time span for growing a short rotation crop is estimated at six years and our 1979 plantings will have approached that age."



57

... on Beware 2

changing seasons <sup>usually</sup> from dark, warm, winter clothing to light, cool, summer clothing. There must be some truth to it.

Forest fires evidently have been rampant in ages past to elicit such tree trunk adaptations. Forests then were occasionally ignited by lightning; by spontaneous combustion; and, we would imagine, by dead, leafy branches being rubbed together to ignition by a strong, dry wind. Forest fires must have markedly increased with the prehistoric coming of early, fire making man, contemptuously considered by many of our Christian Caucasian forebears to be subhuman aborigenes and hence helped to extinction. This outrage, however, did not reduce the number of fires. They increased in frequency after many of us Caucasians first mouthed burning leaves to inhale their narcotic smoke before finally dropping them perchance amid tinder dry duff.

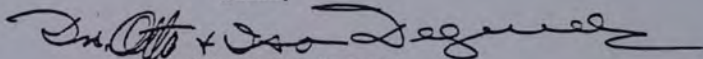
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To be sure, ~~the~~ tree trunks will smolder for ~~hours~~ but that is of little consequence. Many trees, thanks to their peculiar bark, will be almost bare trunks after a fire, like ohias exposed to lava flows or ash explosions in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. After rains, these will sprout abundant branches from adventitious shoots arising from the cambium of the trunk. Others, like koas in the Park, will grow anew from adventitious shoots arising from the roots. Thus a eucalypt forest largely renews itself, exposed to another fire perhaps a score of years later.

The eucalypt conflagration, we wish to emphasize again, might be likened to an explosion. The air at normal temperature for the day expands tremendously in volume the instant it is heated, the cloud of burning gas, if the wind is in that direction, even crosses the ocean to set offshore islets aflame. Whole towns go up in smoke, the burned houses seldom showing upright pipes and metal door and window frames as with us. Because of the intense heat, the houses are usually burned flat to the ground, all metal having melted including knives, forks and spoons to run down the path or roadway in a little silvery stream. The unfortunate householder later rolls up the congealed alloy to at least salvage a little cash by its sale to a junk dealer. Is this to happen to homes in towns makai of abandoned sugarcane fields in Hawaii?

If advocates of eucalypt forests ignore the high intellectual and scientific values of terrain not overgrown with unusually flammable and poisonous trees; if they ignore the welfare of a shaky tourist industry having potential visitors by 'plane bypass progressively more unnatural Hawaii Mei; and if they risk playing with fire that may wipe out entire coastal villages, we urge the State to Legislate that we and our heirs be reimbursed adequately for a holocaust very likely destroying our prized possessions and perhaps our very lives. This hastily written urgent appeal may be based on statements not 100% correct; but sufficiently true, and now in the public domain via our newspaper, to be worthy of consideration.

Aloha,



Drs. Otto & Isa Degener  
Owners of wooden houses

## Tree farm workshop

Experts on all aspects of tree farms are meeting for a three-day workshop this week to produce a comprehensive report on the technical and economic feasibility of eucalyptus tree farms on the Big Island.

The report will be published in December by the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and will be available to interested parties.

The workshop is part of a larger project, led by Pacific Resources, Inc., on the feasibility of using Hawaiian biomass to produce hydrocarbon fuels. Other members of the team are the Institute of Gas Technology of Chicago, Illinois, and the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute. Preliminary work has led to the conclusion that the most promising energy plantation would be eucalyptus on the Island of Hawaii.



DR. OTTO & ISA DEGENER

P.O. Box 134

Volcano, Hawaii

96785 U.S.A.  
Oct. 13, 1981.

*Date of publication  
Oct. 13, 1981.*

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The trunks of so many of the eucalypts are amazing regarding fire: Some outside are hard, corky and thick; others are loose and flaky, similar to the asbestos-like, almost fire proof bark of the exotic Melaleuca or paperbark tree known to most of us; and still others have smooth, whitish bark. We had never realized that whitish bark would lessen heat exposure like the other two kinds to the cambium; yet we remember our mothers



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Fires in a eucalypt forest, such as proposed to be "the most promising energy plantation - - on the Island of Hawaii", must be devastatingly impressive. After a spark or ember finally bursts into flame and reaches lower, leafy branches, the oil does not simply burn. The oil in the entire forest vaporizes into a burning gas, and the forest fire in the entire area can burn itself out within only about **THREE MINUTES!**

To be sure, some tree trunks will smolder for hours, but that is of little consequence. Many trees, thanks to their peculiar bark, will be almost bare trunks after a fire, like ohias exposed to lava flows or ash explosions in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. After rains, these will sprout abundant branches from adventitious shoots arising from the cambium of the trunk. Others, like koas in the Park, will grow anew from adventitious shoots arising from the roots. Thus a eucalypt forest largely renews itself, exposed to another fire perhaps a score of years later.

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Aloha,

*Drs. Otto & Isa Degener*

Drs. Otto & Isa Degener  
Owners of wooden houses

(Our Webster's Dictionary (1947) gives "eucalypt" as the proper vernacular name, and "eucalyptus" as the scientific name.)

Note  $\nearrow$  "eucalyptol" is correct. There is no i as expected.





THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

PRIVATE BAG AUCKLAND NEW ZEALAND TELEPHONE 792-300

14 October 1981

Drs Otto and Isa Degener,  
P.O. Box 154,  
Volcano, Hawaii,  
96785 U.S.A.

Dear Drs Degener,

Thank you very much for the 16 specimens  
from Hawaii that you recently forwarded to us.  
I hope you are both in good health.

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ewen Cameron", written over a horizontal line.

Ewen Cameron  
Herbarium Curator  
Department of Botany

*Hawaii*  
**TRIBUNE-HERALD**

POST OFFICE BOX 767

HILO, HAWAII 96720

Date October 15, 1981

Drs. Otto & Isa Degener  
P. O. Box 154  
Volcano, HI 96785

Dear Drs. Degener:

I recently received your submission to the  
Hawaii Tribune-Herald Opinion Page on  
tree farms.

It should be published shortly.

I appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Sherman R. Frederick*  
Sherman R. Frederick  
Editor

SRF:as

LOCALLY OPERATED MEMBER



DONREY MEDIA GROUP

*Ordered #10<sup>00</sup> tearsheets.*

THE BOTANICAL MUSEUM  
UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

GOTHERSGADE 130 . DK-1123 COPENHAGEN . DENMARK  
Telephone 01-111744


15 October 1981  
hl 5,8-4.7

Drs. Otto & Isa Degener  
P.O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii  
96785 U.S.A.

Dear Drs. Degener,

Our sincerest thanks for the gift of 10 herbarium specimens  
and the very interesting reprints which you have been so kind to send  
us.

Yours sincerely,

  
J.B. Hansen  
Keeper



*Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney*

Mrs. Macquarie's Road, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia

Phone (02) 274347

In Reply Please Quote

JS/LT

20th October 1981

National Herbarium of New South Wales

Dr. Otto Degener,  
68-617 Crozier Drive,  
Waialua,  
OAHU,  
HAWAII. 96791. U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

Once again we thank you for your latest sending of 23  
duplicates and accompanying reprints, which arrived in good order.

Yours faithfully,

Loans Officer  
for the Director.

*J.G.S.*



*Kary: Please be sure to return to me. orig. returned 25/10/80*

Fairchild Tropical Garden

10901 OLD CUTLER ROAD MIAMI, FLORIDA 33156  
(305) 667-1651



John Popenoe, Ph.D., Director

October 20, 1980

Dr. Otto Degener  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
Waialua, Oahu Hawaii 96791

Dear Otto:

Thanks for your note and the copy of Austin <sup>by</sup>Moxres' letter.

I have never been exactly sure of what happened to this book. Moore gathered all kinds of information and worked on it a couple of years, then the whole business was transferred over to Herman Arens who got all our photos etc.

Finally I heard from Herman last year or the year before that John Archbold had changed his mind and there wasn't goint to be any book. All of our photographs and documents were returned.

I hope everything is going well with you.

Sincerely yours,

Fairchild Tropical Garden

*John*  
John Popenoe  
Director

JP/im

(A Florida Nonprofit Corporation)

Oct. 20, 1981.

Dear Miss Bailey:

Mrs. Degener & I attended the XIII International Botanical Congress in Sydney this August and, as botanical conducted tours were scheduled for New Zealand & Tasmania, relatively close to Australia, we were away from home about two months. On our return we waded through our accumulation of mail to find your Sept. 9 postal awaiting us.

Are you a Degener? I know of only two groups that ever came to America: My father (1844-1916), my Uncle John (Hans), ten years older; and for a few years residence in New York City, my Uncle Karl. The other group, of which I never met a member, settled in the West long before the Civil War. There were two brothers I believe. One was a spy and US patriot who was shot. There is a monument erected to him in some city like Phoenix. I don't quite remember, but I saw it in 1919. Are you related to this branch?

I am surprised you never contacted me personally for information, I being a contemporary of yours easy to reach by mail.

Did you unearth the origin of the name Degener? I am so glad my father told me when I was a juvenile. I wonder if your version coincides with mine.

I have photos, taken in 1980, of the Castle Kranichfeld, that belonged to the Denike & Lübbecke families (Degener blood relatives) when under Austria, but now a dilapidated old folks home in Yugoslavia. It is near Graz.

Richard Degener, the son of William Glenn Degener & Grandson of my brother Armin, just got a baby. I lack details. You should be able to get them correctly from Grandfather Wm. Glenn Degener (Teacher of Latin), 738 East 88 St., New York City, N.Y. 10028. Glenn recently married Camilla, whose maiden name I do not recall.

Do you know that Heinrich Degener, Postfach 1451, 4830 Gutersloh 1, (W) Germany, has been publishing about the Degener genealogy for years. It must duplicate some of your work as he has collected data about the Americans as well as the European. Because there is a second "Otto Degener" in South America, I remember Heinrich D., also deceased with Degeners there. By the way my Uncle Rudolph (?) was consul in Guayaquil around 1900 and died there of yellow fever. I remember this because of the letters that came to my father at our home at 316 West 89 Street, N.Y. City. I guess I was perhaps seven years old at the time.

I do advise you to contact H. D., and publish a joint Degener history from way back perhaps five years hence. It might take that long.

*of part* I guess the best thing for me to do at this late date is to purchase a xerox copy of your book which pertains to my father and offspring so that I might check it and, if you do not mind, annotate it for perhaps your & Heinrich Degener's future use. Perhaps if inconvenient, perhaps some of the New York Degeners, with your permission, could dash off to a xerox machine in some grocery store, and copy the apparently few pages.

I am interested in your reaction.

Aloha,



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
HAWAII STATE LIBRARY  
478 S. KING STREET  
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October 21, 1981

Drs. Otto & Isa Degener  
P. O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Dear Dr. Degener:

Thank you for the magazine, Pacific Discovery of October 1981.

We will have the article, The Rain Forests of Hawaii, by  
Patricia Morales cataloged for the Hawaii and Pacific Section.

I hope you had a good trip to Australia, New Zealand and  
Tasmania.

Sincerely yours,

*Hatsue Matsushige*

(Mrs.) Hatsue Matsushige  
Head, Hawaii & Pacific Section

HM:ks

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 134  
Volcano, Hawaii  
96785  
June 22, 1961.

Dear Mr. Mortensen:

We reread your June 15 letter because we dashed off to Tasmania after attending the XII<sup>th</sup> International Bot. Congress. We were gone about two months. The Congress for us was not as pleasant nor as productive as the XII on in Leningrad six years before.

Perhaps the closest to our thinking about a subject like UV - but miles off - followed a casual remark made to us by Dr. Jackson, monographer of Eucalyptus & Prof., of Botany in Hobart. The eucalypt forests in Tasmania during a fire don't just burn. The oil in the leaves suddenly volatilizes and the entire forest fire may burn itself out WITHIN THREE MINUTES.

What I am getting at is the adaptation of a few eucalypts over many hundreds of thousands of years. These have trunks with smooth, whitish bark. This reflects heat so much better than dark. I remember my mother seasonally changing from dark, warm, winter clothing to pale, cool, summer clothing. Funny how the e., and the ladies make use of the same ray quality.

White bark in e., mitigates against heat and obviously retards cambium injury and sometimes death; white leaves in Argyroxiphium developed to conserve moisture and, as Dr. Billings shows, against poisoning. Evidently this outweighs the advantage of having black leaves to increase warmth at 7,000 feet & upward where A., grows. We just wonder if anywhere in the Plant Kingdom, inky black leaves evolved. Twigs may come close to it - they are poor in Chlorophyll.

My aloha to Dr. Wilbur, Dr. Billings and to you,

*Otto Degener*



DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 134  
Volcano, Hawaii  
96785 U.S.A.  
Oct. 23, 1981.

Dear Mr. Frederick:

Mrs. Degener & I are of course pleased that our eucalypt article appeared in your Oct. 23 issue. It is cropped to fit the average reader. We received two 'phone calls about it, both favorable.

For Environmentalists and perhaps Legislators, we have added the deleted paragraphs and shall xerox 100 or so. We mailed the article in toto a week or so ago as a letter to Hon. John Carroll, a friend since he was one of my tenants on University Ave., within walking distance of the campus. Carroll was quite a famed athlete in Green Manoa Valley in those days. I thought this fellow Republican might bring up the eucalypt nonsense for discussion in the Senate.

If you have not yet mailed me the 100 tear sheets, please cancel my order. It will be easier for me when on Oahu to have 100 reproductions made of my original letter for a nickle per page. If, however, the tear sheets are on their way, I can use them with some involved nuisance with scissors & glue.

We are beginning to feel the cold at Volcano and plan to leave for our WARM Mokuleia Beach home on Oahu for the winter. Please, therefore, have the delivery man at Volcano cancel our subscription by Nov. 1.

We plan to be back at Volcano as usual in Spring. Our address until further notice will be:

Drs. Degener  
Waialua, Oahu 96791.

Aloha,

Otto Degener

Oct. 23, 1981.

Dear Colleagues:

We shall mail you and other colleagues elsewhere as before Hawaiian taxa for safe keeping in your institution for present and unborn botanists to study after the plants have become extinct in the Hawaiian Islands. We regret, drawn there by the Thirteenth International Botanical Congress, we wasted much of nearly two months in not being able to gather representative taxa of the Southern Hemisphere. Conversely, the Twelfth Congress six years ago in Russia was for us really the lucky one. We taxonomists during the day collected specimens for keeps, and then our leader Dr. A.I. Galushko evenings conducted a seminar usually in the dining room of the hotel where we happened to be lodged. We participants brought forth our botanical booty of the day, whereupon Dr. Galushko answered our questions and gave us time to annotate our specimens. During the XIII Congress we were eruditely informed in the field regarding the different taxa before us, without however being encouraged to keep even a fragment of the plants involved. Lacking the mnemonic aid of having an object to associate with our information, the latter mostly went in one ear and out the other without imprint on an increasingly muddled brain.

We have next to nothing in plants, except from Tasmania, to show for the travel expense from Honolulu to the Congress and return, for incidental fees, hotel stays, nor for wasted time in idleness when it should have been used in amassing at least a representative collection mostly ~~plants~~ <sup>average</sup> for the region. Our time is certainly worth more than that of a carpenter or plumber per hour and that, practically unused for two months, is loss of a small fortune. We received no answers to our repeated letters from Hawaii to officials in Sydney whether we would be permitted to botanize or not, and hence took for granted we could do so. Others at the Congress told us they were similarly <sup>regarding</sup> requested information. We dread facing our tax assessor to prove that we were actually away on business when we have nothing concrete to show for a tax allowance. Instead we may be exposed to the financial danger of having spent <sup>months</sup> two on a "pleasure tour", and consequently can be extravagantly taxed!

With a great number of exceptions of course, we imagined we sensed a little niggardly dog-in-the-manger attitude of some locals who may have been a bit more like farmers eager to hold onto their carrots and turnips for a future profitable sale than matured Scientists wishing to advance Botany by any enthusiast so inclined whether he hailed from Africa, Asia, the Americas or Europe. We thought the gradual decay of idealism was peculiar to the Americas; but we are now convinced that it is pandemic, and that the entire World is slumping into a Second Dark Age.

In spite of fabulous advances in scratching the back of the Moon, by the advance of Medicine being able to keep pathetic Siamese twins and other "mistakes" of Nature alive to mature and procreate their kind; the average Homo sapiens has not improved within the last Century as a person. Hence we fear we are being drawn headlong into the abyss of a Third World War. Man is no longer merely polluting the magnificent World with its remarkable endemic plants and the endemic animals depending on them. He has actually become equivalent to an obnoxious biomass of several cubic miles of Human skin, flesh, bone and blood! With birth control seemingly inefficient, the ghastly alternative for Nature to reduce the present population pressure seems war.

With the pessimistic belief of mine held after living through World War I and II, and held by Mrs. Degener after experiencing the Museum holocaust in Berlin-Dahlem caused by British and U.S. fliers during WW II, both of us are trying to offset some of the future losses otherwise accruing with inevitable World Wars III, IV, V and ad infinitum. We realize with trepidation that the lands south of the Tropic of Capricorn are an inviting vacuum for hungry, crowded Homo sapiens in the Orient and in more isolated spots in Africa and the New World. Even without this danger of conspicuous force speed-



ing the disaster of exterminating the endemic biota, the comparatively bucolic pasturing of cattle and sheep and the activity of loggers will accomplish the same disaster within a few decades anyway. Personally we are helpless in keeping endemics from extermination; but we can do the next best thing. This "sermon" is to convince some of our more practicable colleagues to:

STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN, AND REVERSE THEIR ATTITUDE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

Mrs. Degener & I, hardly interrupted by teaching or other duties, have spent added up together a total of about 85 years (one of us since 1922; the other since 1953) in the collecting, study and distribution of chiefly Hawaiian Pteridophytes and Angiosperms (Gymnosperms never reached our archipelago without man's help.). Our master label Number, indicating how many collections we have made throughout the World, comes today to 35,597. Moreover, most numbers may be represented by five to 25 or even many more "duplicates". Thus we have been able to distribute, without promoting annihilation, upward of a third of a million specimens to about a hundred leading botanical institutions listed in Holmgren & Keuken's invaluable "Index Herbariorum". We are quite catholic in our taste, realizing that the most hated nations and the most loved ones in one World War in a single generation of mankind may switch position to be the most loved ones and the most hated in the next World War. Preserved plants are not involved in politics beyond the risk of destruction, particularly if located in or near an important city; if elsewhere, the chances of survival are enhanced.

After our once-fascinating World has become overrun with weeds too familiar to the reader for us to list, and such "varmints" as man, rats, mice, English sparrows, mosquitoes, roaches, nematodes and more primitive organisms; we anticipate we shall have untold biologists yet unborn sincerely grateful when they can study the specimens we have bequeathed to them during the Twentieth Century. Such biologists by visits to a few undamaged institutions will be able to visualize at least in a small way how beautiful and exciting our part of the World had been before their wrckless, actually blindly stupid forefathers debased it.

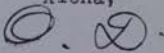
After living "Down Under" nigh two months we imagined we sensed a slight dog-in-the-manger attitude at times, rampant in the Hawaiian Islands in the '20s. Any niggardly tendency of restricting guest taxonomists from competing with every pastured sheep and cow as well as active logger in gathering natives acts as a boomerang. Us foreigners would have scattered such plants for free preservation in museums of the World not so likely vulnerable to war's destruction. It is a form of insurance against loss in the likelihood institutions in Australia and neighboring islands be destroyed.

Not keeping all our botanical eggs in one basket or vasculum will put at the disposal of our distant offspring blessed with advanced knowledge, with tools not yet perfected by us and with "hybrid vigor" thanks to the genes of other races, outstanding treasures. Are we ourselves not in general vitalized by the genes of Roman, Hun, Vandal and Wend invaders of the past? A few of these plant treasures are little changed fundamentally, even primitive Phanerogams of Gondwanaland!

\*A Hawaiian mountainside or plain may be covered with thousands of endemics in the Genera Bidens, Dodonaea, Myoporum, Sadleria, etc.; and a reef with that many and more of Sargassum and Turbinaria; not to mention our flowerbed planted to the endangered Argemone, which produced a harvest sufficient for 100 sheets of flowering twigs and another of fruiting ones. Nor should we forget that the abundant specimens we distributed of the near extinct, hibiscus relative (Hibiscadelphus giffardianus J.F. Rock) which caters to curve billed, nectar feeding birds came not from leaves, flowers and capsules picked from the sacred tree. They came, as the abscission layers show, from the fallen ones up from the ground below and its few pure offspring in Kipuka Ki, Hawaii. Only one Pariah botanist comes to mind, among thousands, who risked the welfare of rarities in the wild and filched rare museum specimens. For a rare exception, legislation against conscientious botanists preparing and preserving museum specimens for colleagues yet unborn would be modern vandalism.

Perhaps Regents and Trustees should be more critical of their choice of Administrator, and concentrate on such individuals as Drs. Eic.---, Toni --- and Jac--- with in-born exceptionally high social intelligence and wisdom. To help the Science of Botany for eons ahead, we suggest that the Administrators of the now lucky Thirteenth International Botanical Congress not yet disband; but under their aegis stimulate University students of Systematic Botany as laboratory exercises to collect, study, identify and fully annotate the endemic flora about them. Such plants should then be distributed under the Congress label as gifts, or if need be on permanent loan, to upward a hundred biological institutions. This would further the study and appreciation of such plants and should insure that knowledge at least of their flora shall not be lost after an outrageous World War annihilates the few botanical institutions where only a few of these treasures presently repose and in some cases, not even mounted. Don't be ashamed to copy the aims of the eccentric Degeners of the Sandwich or Hawaiian Islands - emulate them.

Aloha,

  
 DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
 P.O. Box 134  
 Volcano, Hawaii  
 96785 U. S. A.





# The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York 10458

(212) 220 8700

Recd in HI  
20/10/81

October 26, 1981

Dear Otto and Isa:

Yes, "this BM" is junior. He has been at the University of Texas for quite a long while, and appears to be fairly well established as an environmental zoologist. It is interesting that you should pick up this connection from your friends living in Volcano Village.

Celia and I gave considerable thought as to whether or not we were to go to the Australia meetings. Had we been half-way there as you are, we would probably have gone. As it was, both time and cost were not affordable. Anyway, when next we venture into the Pacific, our stopping place would be Hawaii, where we would be perfectly content to visit with old friends. We certainly would not venture the other half of the Pacific merely to cuddle a koala bear!

We're working hard as ever and remain fairly productive. Some of our immediate colleagues seem to be becoming a little nervous about not being able to catch up.

Do you and Isa plan to visit the mainland? Perhaps another trip to the East Coast is in the works. If and when, won't you both please let us know. We would then be sure to be here.

We are always delighted to hear from you both.

Our own place in the sun on the Caribbean is slowly recovering from the effects of the big storm. Our cocos, the new ones, are beginning to make some show. Of several hundred originally there, there are only two of the old ones left. Otherwise, Najayo is beginning to get back its earlier beauty. Indeed, in some ways it is going to be better than ever.

Please accept for yourself and Isa our affectionate regards.

Sincerely,

Bassett Maguire

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 134  
Volcano, Hawaii  
96785 U.S.A.  
Oct. 26, 1981.

Dear Mr. Stender:

I have read your Oct. 19 letter and enclosure with interest.

With this ghastly population pressure engulfing us, I believe it logical for Hawaii, or perhaps East Maui, to mine geothermal energy.

The flora and fauna of the Hawaiian Islands are largely different on the different islands as expected. The simple reason is mainly isolation and different ecological conditions stimulating evolution (change) in different directions. There was ample time, some organisms having had as much as 75,000,000 years to do so.

Without bother of identification, we know that the higher areas still harbor the more interesting endemic organisms unique to this part of the Island of Hawaii. I doubt you will find very many of the same Puna organisms even in Kohala. Except for a few cancer-spots of exotic weeds like the tibouchina from Brazil and the firetree from the Azores, such areas of unique land must be preserved - untouched. They are invaluable scientifically and, if some people don't appreciate that, they should remember they have attracted in the past and will in the future scientists liberally supplied with Mainland cash grants for spending in this State. The same applies to tourists.

What I am getting at is that the lower areas harbored originally plants not so much endemic to the Big Island, but endemic more or less to our archipelago as a whole. Furthermore, this lower elevation flora and fauna has been decimated from man's past and present actions; it is also overrun with noxious weeds.

The area above 2,000 feet (or perhaps 2,500 feet depending on precise locality) is so rich with remarkable endemics that to engage in Geothermal Venture activity there would be disastrous. Without effort, a rough idea of such biota can be glimpsed about the Thurston Lava Tube. On the contrary the areas below such elevation, not being so richly with endemics would not be a biological disaster if exposed to Venture activity. That does not mean, however, that such activity would not entail some regrettable biological loss.

Our Islands are full of superbly unique areas exposed to great injury for the simple reason that they are privately owned. As the Venture will eventually consist of one or more companies, I propose that the lower elevations be permitted some damage by geothermal activity ONLY ON CONDITION that the company or companies donate a reasonable fair block of shares in Trust to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. The income from the shares would be limited to purchase land of great biological value, perhaps adjacent to our National Parks, to help save for posterity endemics there. This in a way would assuage and offset the obvious biological damage occurring in Puna no matter the precautions.

The above compromise of permitting geothermal mining at lower elevations and conscientiously and liberally trading the life of endemics in one area for the death of a few others in Puna seems to me the best solution.

Aloha,

*Dr. Otto Degener*

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER

P.O. Box 134

Volcano, Hawaii

Oct. 9 1981 U.S.A.

Dear Drs. Sohmer & St. John:

I owe you for a letter & reprints severally received a reply since returning from the Congress in Australia with side jettings to Tasmania & the North Island of New Zealand. Our colleagues were most scientific, helpful & charming in Hobart, Tasmania; while we thought we sensed a little nigardly dog-in-the-manger attitude in Australia where some powers that be - at one lecture we expected a first fight - seemed scared we few taxonomists might compete adversely with the sheep & cattle in gathering plants. At the cafeteria in Sydney we glimpsed pathetic Forberg once from a distance and suspected tragic Violet's death had affected his former robust health. She never should have agnued with a heart that canbe heard clicking because of metal valves. He in our eyes was the the catalyst opening them with a 15 cent postage stamp. It finalized, the future World War II or some other major upheaval not interfering, our provision for continuing our Fl. H'ana & Fl. H'ensis: Three parcels of real property probably sufficient, Degeners' Fl. Haw., Trust shall be under the direct guardianship of the NY Bot. Garden where our personal collection is housed. (I turned over practically the first duplicate set to BM beginning with my Haw. Nei collecting in 1922; some of which seem lost.) St Louis, where we have a good set, would be main helper. We hope Mainland Directors logically would cooperate most heartedly with BM according to their judgments. Remember Yale did that once, but that time disastrously. Our personal opinion is that, after Mrs. D., & I have died, and the Trust is established, that the Directors of these four institutions be Trustees in common of these same institutions in regard to the project.

We were a bit surprised that your most useful 1973 edition of "List Plow. Fl. Haw." - a true vade mecum listing the BM inhabitants of cabinets from top to bottom, Dr. St. John, did not list Degeneria. Did you ignore the cabinets in the St. John Building on the Campus? It had been growing in numbers on U. of Hawaii land in Manoa for years. Enclosed (overleaf) is a photo of a plant the late Dr. Gillett brought to our home at Mokuleia. He snapped the photo. Not having another kind, we are distributing copies of a superior xerox than this one to about 100 institutions listed by Holmgren & Keuken in their "Index Herbariorum". We thought you confused "in" and "ex" regarding some local Bidens taxa. We doubt some Padanus taxa, criticised by "BOMUNDEBES" we met at the Congress, are wrong as the critics seem "lumpers" even if they live where the plants grow. Speaking of Padanus, we had fun playing with a local one as enclosure shows. We propose listing the one long growing at Hauula and illustrated in our paperback with this binomial I trust we are correct. Since copies of the mag., are expensive, we have copies printed at 5 cents per page for distribution to our 100 institutions.

We are preoccupied with the paperback's new edition and primarily with unloading our accumulation of specimens to the above institutions to have time to write Phytologia articles. There is no use "shipping coals" to New Castle", but if note diamonds amid the coal, we send them there Having lived through two World Wars & experiencing museum destruction, we are scattering our treasures World wide. With a modern bombing of Pearl Harbor, BM would hardly remain unscathed/ furthermore, Dr. Sohmer, a Japanese bomb fell on Round Top while I was sleeping in my University Ave., home. That could easily have dropped on the Univ., herbarium. Oh, yes, wanna buy the place? The price has gone up since I asked you last.

We are delighted, Dr. St. John, with the illustrations of the Haw., novelties & do hope ultimate publishers of our Fl. Haw., will be able to use them, giving full credit. The look so much like the ones I taught Quan Kee Park to execute. I learned a little by attending classes at the Art Students' League under Max Rosen in Manhattan. There is so terribly much for everyone to accomplish in Haw. Nei.

Did you note the farce, published in some newspapers, of growing explosive forests of eucalypts between ocean & endemic forests on the Big Island for biomass firewood? Mrs. D., & I are against it 100%. A forest fire is practically an explosion. We have been thinking of a less flammable substitute. Isnt it strange? Both of us & perhaps both of you



may have come to the same conclusion that these forests should be limited to degeneria with an understory of species named exclusively for Bohmer, St. John, and perhaps the retired Smithsonian. Please, however, decapitalize.

Thanks for wasting your time reading this letter - I am so tired of scribbling plant labels & taping packages weighing less than two pounds, the bargain rate for foreign countries.

Aloha,



THE ESTATE OF JAMES CAMPBELL

October 29, 1981

Dr. Otto Degener  
P O Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

Re: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT -  
KAHAUALEA GEOTHERMAL PROJECT

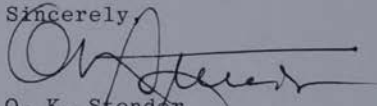
Dear Dr. Degener:

Thank you for your letter of October 26  
regarding our Kahaualea project.

I have referred your comments to our EIS  
consultant to ensure that your concerns  
are addressed in the EIS preparation process.

We appreciate receiving your comments and  
we shall respond to the matters which you  
raised prior to filing of the EIS.

Sincerely,



O. K. Stender  
Chief Executive Officer

OKS:kt

9-14-81

Dear Otto,

This may be of  
interest. Did Schmidt  
ever identify your crabs?

Loel (Krauss)

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 134  
Volcano, Hawaii  
96785 U.S.A.

Oct. 30, 1981.

Australia, New Zealand & Tasmania, &  
waiting us.

helped in critical identifications,  
Dr. Edmondson who was the Director  
of Haw. (Aquarium & BM) for an  
I stuck myself with Mary Rathbun's &  
I finished my paper, with my India  
I even made a colored painting of  
it was WATER color, a roach lick-

whose name I don't quite recall, see  
but he removed to Alaska to become  
I know what he did with my ms. I dash  
ally & otherwise involved in Botan-

y. I was careless, and I lost track of my work. At least I pub-  
lished my new species *Dardanus sanguinocarpus* Deg., in (rather  
than ex) in Edmondson's 1925 BM periodical. BM & the Smithson-  
ian should have a very good collection made during almost a  
year on Oahu of the hermits I collected.

How is your work progressing? Both of us are tired from the  
trip, perhaps a bit more than usual because attacks of the afflu-  
'flu. How is your work progressing? I took an antibiotic. We are  
not the only ones who think that Beat did not liberally give credit  
for my Fl. Haw., drawings. But at the age of 82, why bother too much?

Aloha,

Rec. in H.I. 11/1/81

DRS. OTTO & ISA DEGENER  
P.O. Box 134  
Volcano, Hawaii  
96785 U.S.A.

Oct. 30, 1981.

Dear Noel:

We are back from Australia, New Zealand & Tasmania, & find your note & enclosure awaiting us.

Waldo Schmitt certainly helped in critical identifications, but the real credit goes to Dr. Edmondson who was the Director of my Minor Study at the Univ. of Haw. (Aquarium & BM) for an advanced degree. I had good luck myself with Mary Rathbun's & others' book in BM library. I finished my paper, with my India ink drawings of each species I even made a colored painting of *Calcinus herbstii* and, though it was WATER color, a roach licked the color away!

I wanted the zoologist, whose name I don't quite recall, see to the paper's publication, but he removed to Alaska to become Univ. Pres., there. I don't know what he did with my ms. I dashed to New York & was financially & otherwise involved in Botany. I was careless, and I lost track of my work. At least I published my new species *Dardanus sanguinocarpus* Deg., in (rather than ex) in Edmondson's 1925 BM periodical. BM & the Smithsonian should have a very good collection made during almost a year on Oahu of the hermits I collected.

How is your work progressing? Both of us are tired from the trip, perhaps a bit more than usual because attacks of the 'flu. How is your work progressing? I took an antibiotic. We are not the only ones who think that Beat did not liberally give credit for my Fl. Haw., drawings. But at the age of 82, why bother too much?

Aloha,

*Rec. in HI x/y/81*

BOTANICAL MUSEUM  
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI  
Unioninkatu 44  
SF-00170 HELSINKI 17  
FINLAND

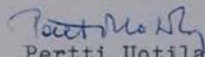
Helsinki Nov. 1, 1981

Drs. Otto & Isa Degener  
68-617 Crozier Drive  
Wailua  
Oahu  
Hawaii  
96791 USA

Dear Drs. Degener,

Thank you for the shipment of the 18 herbarium sheets and reprints received several days ago. The reprints have been deposited in our library, as to the specimens their amount has been added to our exchange balance with NY.

With best regards

  
Pertti Uotila  
associate curator



THE BOTANICAL MUSEUM  
UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

GOTHERSGADE 130 . DK-1123 COPENHAGEN . DENMARK  
Telephone 01-11 17 44

4 November 1981  
hl 5,8-4.7

Dr. Otto Degener  
P.O. Box 154  
Volcano, Hawaii  
96785 U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Degener,

We thank you very much for the 29 herbarium specimens which you  
have been so kind to send us as a gift.

Yours sincerely,

*J.B. Hansen*  
J.B. Hansen  
Keeper

# Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.

1725 I STREET, N.W.  
SUITE 600  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006  
202 223-8210

*New York Office*  
122 EAST 42ND STREET  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168  
212 949-0049

*Western Office*  
25 KEARNY STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 94108  
415 421-6561

To: Plant Conservationists  
From: Faith Campbell  
Date: 5 November 1981  
Subject: Lacey Act; Endangered Species Act

THE HOUSE PASSED THE LACEY ACT AMENDMENTS ON WEDNESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 4!!

The President is expected to sign the bill into law shortly.  
I wish to thank all of you who helped bring this about.

Please write our Congressional supporters to thank them for their work. Let them know that plant people remember their friends. (These same Congressmen will soon begin consideration of the Endangered Species Act.) Letters should go to John Breaux, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and the Environment; Mike Lowry (D-Wash); Edwin Forsythe (R-NJ); Thomas Evans (R-Del). All may be addressed at House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Regarding the Endangered Species Act, notable progress has been made on several fronts over the past two weeks. Planning for the biweekly newsletter is almost complete; parts of the speaker's kit have been drafted, including a sample speech, some brief fact sheets, answers to most often asked questions about the Act, and the public relations committee has begun drafting "public service" advertisements, etc.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is preparing "option papers" on 10 major "issues"; one of these is whether to continue protection for "lower life forms" — presumably, plants and invertebrates. Obviously, we must not let up in our efforts.

Everyone agrees that invertebrates are even more vulnerable than plants. I have located a volunteer who will begin organizing supporters of invertebrate conservation. He already is in contact with the Xerxes Society. I plan to pass on to him my contacts in natural area and heritage programs. Please let me know of any other people interested in invertebrates with whom he should be in contact.

Finally, the press and education committees need access to drawings and photos of endangered species; if you will forward a list of your holdings (or detailed description if the list is very long), I will put it in the committee's hands.

Thank you.

BY AIR MAIL

PAR AVION

**AEROGRAMME**



68-617 Crozier Rd.  
Waialae, HI 96791

Dr. Otto Degener,

P.O. Box 154

Volcano, Hawaii,

96785 U.S.A.

COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

Mrs. D. Sinkora,

National Herbarium

& Royal Botanic Gardens,

Birdwood Avenue,

South Yarra

POSTCODE Victoria 3141

AUSTRALIA



SECOND FOLD HERE

FIRST FOLD HERE

TO OPEN SLIT HERE FIRST



Dr. Otto Degener,  
P.O.Box 154,  
Volcano, Hawaii,  
96785, U.S.A.

5th November, 1981.

Ref.: 1903/81

File 5.1.04

Dear Dr. Degener,

Just a couple of weeks after writing to you last another package from you arrived on 13th October with 21 sheets of herbarium specimens and a collection of lichens. The latter, though labelled Usnea, contains several species, and I think our lichenologist Mr. Filson will separate them out and duplicate the label. Thank you very much for all these valuable additions to the Melbourne Herbarium, and also for the photocopies which you enclosed with the specimens. I got quite a surprise there, - I had not expected to find my name in print in Hawaii!

I also got a surprise to find that you collected some of the specimens you sent us only earlier this year. You are quite incredible! Going climbing about on mountains on field trips, getting shot at by illegal cannabis growers, - and you are supposed to be old and an invalid! You will live to be a hundred at least, AND have a lot of fun while you are about it, I am sure!

With best wishes for the coming festive season and kind regards, also to Mrs. Degener, I remain

Yours sincerely,

*Doris Sinkora*

Mrs. D. Sinkora

Nov. 6, 1981.

96791

Dear Prof. Price:

We are back from the Congress in Sydney and, as Australia is so close to Tasmania & New Zealand we browsed around there too.

For us taxonomists the XIII Int. Bot. Congress was not as lucky as the Twelfth<sup>+</sup> six years ago in Russia. Among the "Downunderers" we met some charming individuals, but on the average (perhaps with the exception of Tasmania), we thought the average Russian (!!!!) superior in personality. We thought, I hope in error, we sensed a little niggardly dog-in-the-manger attitude at the Unlucky XIII. Sheep, cattle & loggers with apparent perfect freedom can exterminate endemics; but too often we taxonomists were admonished against collecting material. Some leaders apparently even feared we outsiders (paying guests) might collect an exotic weed and publish about it before a local had done so! To us that is a challenge. We spent a small fortune to take advantage of the Congress.

During field trips the growing plants were identified and characterized for us but, without a sprig to take with us, the information went into my one ear & out the other. In Russia, on the other hand, we collected without helping any extermination of any endangered species. Then evenings with the plants and paper & pencil before us, the leader held a seminar (usually in the hotel dining room or ~~lobby~~ lounge) and answered a second time our questions regarding the specimens we now held up to him to view. After traveling alone in Russia and casually contacting the US-friendly natives, we were shocked that Carter, with his Olympic fiasco slapped the average Russian in the face. This drove them against us more firmly in favor of their not too popular leaders. The average native is no more responsible for such leaders than I was for living under a criminal type like Nixon & his gang.

We now have your Oct. 12 letter, forwarded from our normal summer address on the Big Island. We are presently on the Island of Oahu at our warm beach. We are delighted for your kindness. We never heard of some of the authorities you mention nor their combinations. Have you our paperback "Plants Haw. Nat. Parks" & our "Flora Haw."? We revised the former from about 300 pages to about 500, completing the work several years ago. In fact, it is in page proof. Mrs. D., & I thinking we should enjoy a "last fling" together in Australia, we invested our savings intended for the new paperback in the XIII Congress visit! Now we are again economizing to finally get sufficient funds available to print the new edition. Perhaps you know the concern: Braun-Brumfield of YOUR Stabler Road.

Isa & I worked on Lycopodiaceae and corresponded with Löve & some Europeans about the local taxa a few years back. We postponed publishing when we discovered that the gametophytes in many of the segregates have hardly been studied. Can you imagine, that lazy loafer O.D., has not even done it for "L. cernuum" practically growing in his back yard?!? We feel that the characters of the gam., are tremendously important. Without better knowledge at hand, we thought it not worth the cash to print fragmentary sheets in our Fl. Haw.

Your shipment of ferns is reposing at Volcano in my disused refrigerator with campgor with other plants to be distributed to about 20 US institutions AFTER Jan. 1, 1982. Thus I am building up a tax credit for next year. Should I distribute NOW, I would be wasting money as our XIII Congress Business Trip has already used up my 1981 credit. Duplicates we send outside the US are merely gifts to further Science.

We came across another bundle or two of Hay but ferns at least, you AND have a few specimens from our summer's collecting. For falling ill, we broke loose from the crowd & hired a U-Drive car. I believe a high fine exists.





DEAR DR. DEGENER:

NOV. 9, 1981  
JOHN M. RALEIGH  
BOX 3024  
WAIKOLOA,  
KAMUELA, HI. 96743

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR INTERESTING BOOK ON FIJI AND THE ARTICLE ON THE ORIGINS OF THE PINEAPPLE. IT WAS KIND OF YOU TO SEND BOTH. STRANGE (OR, IS IT?) THAT MY MENTION OF CHENG HO IN THE COLUMN YOU NOTED AND YOUR JUNK'S NAME WOULD BE THE SAME. YOU DON'T HEAR OF THE OLD CHINESE ADMIRAL ALL THAT MUCH, AT LEAST IN JOURNALISTIC CIRCLES. I RAN INTO HIM IN A LONDON TIMES HISTORY-ATLAS RECENTLY.

WHEN I PHONED TOM MILES ABOUT YOUR BOOK AND LETTER, HE WAS MUCH INTRIGUED, SUGGESTING I FORWARD HIS NUMBER IN WAIMEA, SHOULD YOU CARE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. TOM ANSWERS AT 885 7524.

MAY I SAY I ADMIRE YOUR EASY STYLE OF WRITING. THOUGH I KNOW LITTLE, OR NOTHING, ABOUT BOTANY, YOUR ADVENTURES IN PURSUIT OF SAME ARE FASCINATING. I AM ENJOYING YOUR VOLUME WITH MUCH PLEASURE. BEFORE AND DURING PART OF WAR TWO, MY WIFE AND I LIVED IN CHINA AND THE THEN NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. OTHER PARTS OF THE GENERAL AREA ARE ALSO FAMILIAR. AFTER THE WAR, I COVERED SUNDRY EVENTS IN JAPAN, OKINAWA AND TAIWAN - AS WELL AS MUCH OF EUROPE. I LEFT JOURNALISM IN 1966 TO DIRECT INDUSTRIAL FILMS FOR THE BOEING COMPANY, IN PHILADELPHIA AND SEATTLE. WE HAVE BEEN ON THE BIG ISLAND IN RETIREMENT FOR THE LAST FIVE AND A HALF YEARS.

ALTHOUGH NO STUDENT OF BOTANY, I DID, PERFORCE, LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT HERPETOLOGY WHEN WE LIVED IN THE TROPICS. IT SEEMED THAT EVERYTHING THAT SLITHERED, OR WAS IN ANY WAY SAURIAN, WAS POISONOUS AS HELL! I THINK ONE REASON WE MOVED TO HAWAII IS ITS SNAKELESS CONDITION!

IF YOU AND YOUR LADY ARE EVER NEAR WAIKOLOA, PLEASE GIVE US A CALL AT 888 9973. WE WOULD LOVE TO MEET YOU BOTH PERSONALLY. I PROMISE THE BEST OF LIQUID SNAKE-BITE REMEDIES ON A SHORT ORDER BASIS ANY TIME THE SUN IS OVER THE YARDARM. AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL GIFT. I HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU AGAIN.

CORDIALLY AND ALOHA,

John M. Raleigh





Dr. Otto Degener

Crozier Drive

Waiialua, Oahu, Hawaii

96791

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Nov. 14, 1981

Dear Otto,

Thank you for your note on the fire article (which I have forwarded to Andy).

Sorry about the large envelope arriving minus its contents. I cannot tell now what had been in it. It could have been reprints of some St. John papers which had come to us in exchange and which we do not need and thought might interest you. I assume it wasn't any single issue of PHYTOLOGIA which comes to you on subscription as those come in small manila envelopes. I hope these have been coming through o.k. -- but MANY seem to get lost en route because I keep getting complaints from subscribers that their copies never arrived.

In a big rush right now getting out another issue and also another PHYTOLOGIA MEMOIR for Dr. Baranov (on Begonia)

With all best wishes from us both to you both  
as ever

Handed

UNIVERSITETET I OSLO  
BOTANISK HAGE OG MUSEUM  
UNIVERSITY OF OSLO  
BOTANICAL GARDEN AND MUSEUM

Trondheimsveien 23 B, Oslo 5  
NORGE/NORWAY



OSLO, 16 November 1981  
TELEFON 63 69 60

Drs. Otto & Isa Degener  
P. O. Box 154  
VOLCANO  
Hawaii 96785  
U. S. A.

Dear Degeners,

Thank you very much for your long and thought-provoking 3 Nov. letter.

Firstly, I can tell you that our library of course long since owns "Flora Hawaiiensis", of which we have bought one complete set + a duplicate of Books 1-4. The flora is in Bergen too, where I have been 21 years of my curator life. I am exactly 20 years younger than Degener  $\sigma$ . My speciality is Quaternary pollen analysis.

I do understand much of your despair and pessimism as to the endangered endemic flora of Hawaii. It is no consolation that the same situation occurs on other islands, like Timor, Socotra, Gran Canaria and many more. It is also very deplorable when the construction of a new hydroelectric power plant totally destroys all ecological qualities of a valley in my home tracts in S Norway. But much, much worse and really horrifying was it to hear about the endangered botanists Degeners by Cannabis growers' guns or by a cocked gun.

However, one cannot give up against a Hitler, a Nixon, the Homo pollutans, the TECHNOCRAZY, the human population pressure. I simply don't accept your fire and brimstone sermon predicting World Wars and Dark Ages. We must continue to keep optimistic, even until the contrary should be proven. I was, like so many other Norwegians etc., politically imprisoned by the Nazis in Elsass. No one of us gave up.

Turning now to a nicer topic, although with a touch of seriousness: I was really hugely amused when reading in your letter: "Don't you think it will be nice in the year 2500 when a Danielsen, probably with somewhat kinky hair & an epicanthic fold, will muse over Degeners' extinct plant treasures ..." The kinky, curly, woolen hair adorns me already! Please read about it in the enclosed copy of a reprint from Journal of Heredity (Washington, D.C.) 1932. I was barely eleven on the picture Figure 7 lower right. The Mongolian fold may come when I am tired. The safe exclusion of any intermixture of negro blood (page 352) counted more 50 years ago than today, in any case for the U.S. family on Figure 2, whose members were submitted to race badgering because of their wooly hair.

Farvel,

*Peder Danielsen*



DR. WOLFGANG G. PFAELTZER  
DOREEN TOSHIKO PFAELTZER

RR1, BOX 457, MAALAEA,  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
PHONE (808) 244-5154

SAVASI ISLAND PLANTATION  
P. O. BOX SAVUSAVU, FIJI

CHRISTMAS 1981

November 18, 1981

NI SA BULA!

*Nello there!*

Here we are approaching another new year. With 1981 nearly behind us we must say we have once again had a very busy year.

We had a glorious summer this year. Doreen's parents celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at a luau (feast) in Maalaea. Many relatives came from near and far to honor them on this great occasion. It was so heartwarming to have so many of them participate in the actual preparation for the luau. The pig was cooked right on our beach in an imu (underground oven), and even the coconut milk was squeezed from nuts gathered from our own trees! It was quite a treat for a lot of relatives who had never witnessed anything like this before. Of course, Doreen's parents were overwhelmed, and like us, will never forget August 22 of 1981. Coincidentally, it was Doreen and Wolf's 22nd wedding Anniversary that very day.

Wolf, Doreen and Keoki had an unusual Christmas 1980. They spent their holiday in FIJI. Keoki adjusted very well to life on SAVASI and all had a wonderful time.

Then on their last trip this summer, Wolf and Doreen squeezed in a 3-day trip on the famous Blue Lagoon Cruise through the Yasawa Islands.

Once again this year, we plan to return to FIJI for the holidays. This time Naomi, Karin, Keoki and one of his schoolmates will be going with us. We look forward to a very nice time. Our two bures (houses) should be near completion by then. Hopefully too, we will have some fresh vegetables from the garden. What fun it will be! We'll have a small resort with cooking facilities and even a maid.

Patricia is still with us.

Naomi, 17, now a senior, plans to matriculate to California after graduation to attend a school in fashion design. She attended a pre-admissions class in fashion design in Atlanta, Georgia this past summer and was introduced to dorm life and "going it alone" for awhile. She also spent time with her relatives in California.

Karin, 16, now a junior, plans a travel career and may be a stewardess eventually. She dreams of living in Europe one day. She'll do it too! She is also a NAUI certified SCUBA diver.

Keoki, 12, a seventh grader, has various interests. Right now he's in the second half of soccer season and enjoys the sport. Besides surfing, biking, diving, etc., he is doing well in school and this past summer got his NAUI junior certification in SCUBA diving!

Our California ranch was sold last year and once in a while we do think about and miss it.

We are still raising horses, birds, and dogs.

We hope you have a happy holiday season, and are blessed with good health, love, and prosperity in the NEW YEAR.

About ten years ago, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Clay of 1001 ranch in Nevada sent us this creed. We'd like to share it with you...

*(over)*

*11/25/81*



MY CREED

I do not choose to be a common man  
It is my right to be uncommon — if I can.  
I seek opportunity — not security.  
I do not wish to be a kept citizen, humbled and dulled by having  
the state look after me.  
I want to take a calculated risk; to dream and to build, to fail and  
to succeed.  
I refuse to barter incentive for a dole.  
I prefer the challenges of life to the guaranteed existence; the thrill  
of fulfillment to the state calm of utopia.  
I will not trade freedom for beneficence nor my liberty for a hand-  
out.  
It is my heritage to think and act for myself, enjoy the benefits of  
my creations, and to face the world boldly and say this I have  
done.  
All this is what it means to be an American.

Dean Alfange in (This Week)

Alfange!  
Way, Dman +  
children

Hillside 43905  
Reservoir Road,  
Washington  
DC



*Hale Pogane*

WAIALUA, OAHU, HAWAII

Nov 27, 1981.

Dear John:

[Archbold]

Every six years the International Botanical Congress holds a meeting. The last one we attended was in Russia. This summer we went to the XIII Congress held in Sydney. As Australia is not too far by jet from Tasmania and the North Island of New Zealand, we browsed around there too. We joined botanically conducted tours and also went exploring on our own via U-Drive car. It is very convenient, with clean, well equipped motels scattered just about all over.

I am writing you now to get a progress report regarding the Cheng Ho project. As I wrote you before, I don't want all my past time wasted helping Prof. Moore with personal documents, history of the expedition so far as my being on the vessel is concerned and some editing of Moore's ms.

I am assuming that you have been too preoccupied with the Reservoir Road property, and have decided to forget the Cheng Ho. The vessel is at the bottom of the ocean anyway. H

As you probably know from Harold Arens who visited us at the Beach some time ago and filled in some observations previously unknown to us, large collections of documents & photos about your mother's expedition are in Miami, where we met the Fairchilds years ago in their interesting home. If we could prevail upon him, we would suggest a Dr. Popence of the Fairchild Trop. Garden see to the completion of the book. A second choice would be a Miss Price, who has another large collection of correspondence and documents concerned with the Cheng Ho at the Hunt Institute of Botanical Documentation in Pittsburgh.

Isa & I wish you and Mrs. Archbold a Merry Christmas, not surrounded by drifts of white snow, but by ~~us~~ Bahama beach sand.

Aloha,

*OTM*

Wāialealua, Oahu, Hawaii 96791.  
Nov. 21, 1975.

Dear Tilke:

Isa & I are delighted to receive the *Neolachnias* - they remind us of much fascinating collecting with congenial companions and old friends. But we are absolutely horrified by what we may have started in mailing you my "Native Plants S. P. Exped.: Fiji". This work, as you may have noticed from Chapter XVI, is actually a Cook Book for Cannibals.

After reading your mouth-watering plans for a Russian dinner in Staten Island, we so fear that you may try a Fijian one that Isa & I wonder how many missing persons the Staten Island Police will be searching a day or two before your ghastly report shall be received.

Bon appétit from  
Isa & Otto D.

Mr. Long:

Mr. Baker was a Mainlander connected with the Chatauqua Circuit. He had a displeasing voice, and leaned toward Communism. Mrs. Baker seemed the more practicable. I in the '20s bought his glass, hand colored magic lantern slides for 50 cents each at his 3-story business-dwelling cottage on Kalakaua, Honolulu. I used them to lecture at the Garden when I was an enrolled Columbia University student working there on my Hawaiian plants for my doctorate. These I had collected in the summer of 1922 as tourist, extending throughout the 1922-23 school year when I got my M. Sc., from the University of Hawaii under exchange botanist Professor James E. Folsom of the Univ. of Mich. My thesis on Gams., of *Lycopodium cernuum* published in the Bot. Gaz. (1925) won the right for the fledgeling Univ. of Haw., to grant higher degrees than Bachelor.

There were countless Garden Clubs surrounding Manhattan, and I lectured for \$10, plus transportation. Dr. Foreman McLean, formerly an associate of Dr. Merrill in the Philippines, was employed at the Garden during World War II. He "scolded" me for charging only \$10 per lecture, maintaining the Garden Club ladies would then judge my lecture as worth no more. So I raised my price to at least \$30, and found the audience just as much if not more appreciative.

Robert van Dyke, mentioned in this newspaper article, came to our Hukuleia Beach home years ago, and ran off a splendid movie of aged, retired Dr. Brigham, early Naturalist & later Director of the Bishop Museum in Honolulu. At one of the social gatherings at the Museum, so I heard, when a Hawaiian lady was about to sit down, naughty Brigham pulled the chair from under her, and she plopped on the floor!

I need a xerox of the Baker biography BUT not of the photos.