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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

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February 14, 1955

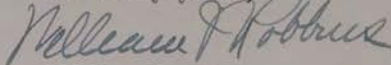
Mr. Otto Degener
Mokuleia Beach
Waiialea
Oahu, T. H.

Dear Otto,

I have your letter of January 22nd and note that you are looking for a grant-in-aid to assist you in the continuation of the collecting in the islands. The best place, it seems to me, to make an application is the National Science Foundation. I would suggest therefore, that you write them to obtain their application blanks and information on how to make a request for a grant. Dr. Keck might be able to give you some advice on how to make out your application. I am advising him of your problem and he will be prepared to give you any assistance he can.

In the meantime, Mrs. Robbins joins me in sending your wife and yourself our best regards.

Sincerely yours,



William J. Robbins
Director

wjr/bw

Mokuleia Beach, Waialua,
Oahu, Hawaii.
Feb. 28, 1955.

National Science Foundation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

I am a professional botanist, resident in the Hawaiian Islands since 1922. Since that date I have botanized extensively, publishing by myself and jointly with various collaborators numerous technical articles about the local flora. I have also published six books: "Plants Hawaii National Park," "Naturalist's South Pacific Expedition: Fiji" and my "Flora Hawaiiensis," Books 1 - 4.

During the last thirty-odd years I have probably amassed the largest collection of Hawaiian herbarium specimens in existence, distributing these largely as gifts to scientific institutions throughout America as well as in Germany, England and Australia. I retain no herbarium of my own. Practically every monographic treatment dealing with Ferns and Flowering Plants of the Hawaiian Islands cites my collections.

I published the six books mentioned above privately, spending my own funds for this purpose. Due to the war scare and resulting difficulty of storage in the Hawaiian Islands and the tidal wave of April 1, 1946 that flooded my home on Oahu, I lost most of the books I had counted upon to sell to finance further publishing. Instead, I republished five of my books at considerable expense.

Mrs. Degener, a professional botanist with a doctorate, was connected with the Botanischer Garten und Museum, Berlin-Dahlem, Germany. We wish to continue to explore the Hawaiian Islands botanically and to continue publishing the Flora Hawaiiensis. To do so we now need a grant-in-aid, and request that you mail us an application blank.

Mrs. Degener and I have never had a grant-in-aid from any source before, excepting that I received one in 1940-41 from the New York Botanical Garden and the Arnold Arboretum to botanize in the Fiji Islands. During my eight months' stay, I collected many novelties including a plant that is the basis for the new family Degeneriaceae.

Not^h having your address here at the beach, I am mailing this letter to my sister in New York to forward to you.

Sincerely yours,

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March 29, 1955

Mr. Otto Degener
Mokuleia Beach
Waialua
Oahu, T. H.

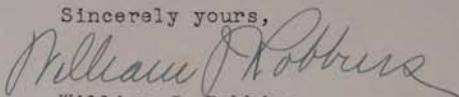
Dear Otto,

Your letter of March 5th arrived and I have sent the clipping on to Irma, as requested.

Dr. Keck is looking for a letter from you in case you wish advice on making an application to the National Science Foundation for assistance for your collecting trip. The only other place to which I think you might apply is the American Philosophical Society which makes small grants up to \$1000 or \$1200. Application blanks could be obtained from the Society by addressing the American Philosophical Society, 104 South Fifth Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

With kindest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



William J. Robbins
Director

wjr/bw

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WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

April 25, 1955

Mr. Otto Degener
Box 187
Waielua, Oahu,
Terr. of Hawaii

Dear Otto:

Your letter and the draft of your application to the National Science Foundation arrived some days ago. The draft is in need of some revision and the easiest way to explain that would be for me to set it up in final form for you. This I shall do, but it will take a little free time to get at it. The several day's delay need not worry you, as the next consideration of applications will be in the fall. The spring applications were considered a month and a half ago.

With all good wishes,

Very sincerely yours,



David D. Keck
Head Curator

DDK:GE

Mokuleia Beach, Wai'alua,
Oahu, Hawaii.
May 5, 1955.

Prof. William C. Steere,
Program Director,
National Science Foundation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Prof Steere:

Thank you for your informational letter of March 8, with
enclosures.

I just heard from Dr. David D. Keck, Head Curator of the New York Botanical Garden, that he will support my request for a grant-in-aid from the National Science Foundation. He will forward my application to Washington in time for Fall consideration.

Mrs. Degener and I have already arranged to botanize on the Island of Kauai this September. According to a mandate of our Territorial Legislature, wild deer are to be liberated on this island. This disastrous plan will help speed our endemic plants to extinction.

Thank you again for your kind letter.

Yours sincerely,

Ott Degener

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 13, 1955

AIR MAIL

Dr. Otto Degener
Mokuleia Beach, Waialua
Oahu, Hawaii

Dear Otto:

Your letter of May 5 to Dr. Steere has come to my attention in his absence. Dr. Steere is spending some time in South America on behalf of another agency and during this period the Foundation has asked me to take over his work.

We are interested to learn that you plan to submit a proposal to the National Science Foundation with the New York Botanical Garden as the sponsoring institution. I assure you that the proposal will receive every consideration upon its receipt. Enclosed is a copy of our new booklet entitled "Grants for Scientific Research" which replaces the earlier guide Dr. Steere sent on March 8.

About the first of July, I expect to return to the Smithsonian and then I shall begin to work seriously on my 1953 Fijian collection. These are now sorted and labelled and the study set is nearly mounted. I do not expect that the collection will contain as many novelties as yours or as my earlier ones. We are probably reaching the point in Fiji where a large percentage of novelties cannot be expected.

I trust that your work in Hawaii is going well. With best regards to Mrs. Degener and you.

Cordially yours,

al

A. C. Smith
Program Director for
Systematic Biology

Enclosure

Mokuleia Beach, Waialua,
Oahu, Hawaii.
May 19, 1955.

Dear Al:

I was surprised to get a National Science Foundation letter signed by you!!!!

I sent Dave Keck the 15 copies of my plea for a grant-in-aid. He replied that he would revise my letter before sending it on to the Foundation for me. It is awfully nice of him as he has more experience in these things than I. I guess I was too verbose. Anyway, here is my old copy, in case you are interested. I am truly amazed to what extent I have helped, usually modestly, monographers on numerous genera in numerous institutions. Some one at the Nat. Museum, I was told, even based a new species of fish on one of my catches here on the reef fronting my home.

Here at Mokuleia Beach, without the luxury of a car, we just can't reach endemics worth collecting. Once I did take a "flier" and hired a jeep for \$10 to take my wife and me into Makaleha Valley so she could see what a native forest really looks like. There was nothing much for me to collect as I had combed this region thoroughly years ago. Then we visited some other islands for a week in pay of Ciba, to get Rauvolfia roots for examination regarding their reserpine content. We are, however, botanically practically impotent. Not to waste time, we are fixing up our house and yard to make both more liveable for us, card-indexing our pamphlets and all Haw. (native & introduced) genera listed therein, and otherwise just frugally going to seed. Remember, I have been botanizing and printing on my own funds for over 30 yrs. Cash is tied up in books that hardly sell.

As you very well know, I am not a descriptive but a field botanist. A med check-up shows my heart as sound (which surprises me, 56 yrs of age) and everything else. In fact, I don't look my years. Nevertheless, I don't deceive myself and feel I ought to snoop around for more Haw. endemics before the infirmities of age do catch up with me. Also, as many of these endemics should be collected as possible before their extermination. I do not know of any one of my colleagues here in the Islands who is actively collecting - at least I never see any evidence of it.

Do you know that our wise Governor luckily killed by pocket veto a bill mandating the local Board of Agriculture and Forestry to introduce axis deer to Kauai and Maui! Sooner or later, I fear, hunters will get their way and extermination of endemics will speed up with leaps and bounds. I feel sick about this danger. I want to collect such living fossils, probably extinct in a couple of generations.

I am interested in your remark about the finding of novelties in Fiji declining. For some strange reason endemism is more marked in Haw. than in Fiji. WHY? Here I could find novelties just about daily provided I have boys to cut trail for me and haul camping equipment about. Unfortunately, labor prices here are so exorbitant, I lack the courage to ask for cash for such a luxury. It is better to be modest rather than scare the 20 or so readers of my plea for aid away from my contemplated project.

Thanks to a Mrs. Ruth Hanner (née Knudsen) my wife and I will be guests in her cottage at Kokee, Kauai, for the month of Sept. Then we shall botanize with a vengeance. She has a car

Aloha nui, *W. D. S. Hunt*

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 6, 1955

AIR MAIL

Dr. Otto Degener
Mokuleia Beach, Waialua
Oahu, Hawaii

Dear Otto:

Thank you for your letter of May 19 and for the draft of your proposal to the National Science Foundation. This sounds as though you had a very interesting project in mind. I am sure that Dave Keck will be glad to put it in final shape and to submit it under the sponsorship of the New York Botanical Garden.

I hope that Mrs. Degener and you will have a pleasant visit to Kauai and that you will be able to continue your field work on other islands as well.

Cordially yours,

al

A. G. Smith
Program Director for
Systematic Biology

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June 16, 1955

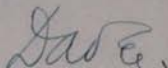
Mr. Otto Degener
Mokuleia Beach
Oahu, Hawaii

Dear Otto:

We have mimeographed twenty-five copies of the enclosed proposal, which I believe is in more acceptable form for the National Science Foundation than the one originally submitted. I hope you will approve of this as it stands, in which case we will forward the additional copies for your signature. If a correction must be made, please let us know what it is so that a new stencil for that page (or pages??) may be made.

With continued best wishes to you and Mrs.
Degener.

Yours sincerely,



David D. Keck
Head Curator

DDK:gg
Encl.

Keep this copy + I'll send you the last pages of the others for your signature after I get your O.K.

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July 12, 1955

Mr. Otto Degener
Mokuleia Beach, Waiialua,
Oahu, Hawaii

Dear Otto:

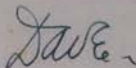
I have your letter of July 2 and we proceeded to make the necessary new stencils. Pardon me for not noticing that your town was omitted from your address. I know better! I enclose herewith 15 copies of the application to the National Science Foundation, signed by Dr. Robbins, and a couple of extras for you to keep. After you sign them, you may send them directly to Dr. William C. Steere, Program Director for Systematic Biology, National Science Foundation, Washington 25, D. C. Best of luck in the matter.

You may buy aluminum corrugates for your plant press from Able Metal Spinning & Stamping Company, 2009 Nameoke Avenue, Far Rockaway, N. Y. This concern is the successor to Beller.

I think most of your Hawaiian plants have now been mounted, although we still have a large backlog of unmounted materials upon which we keep working as fast as possible; 60,000 sheets went into the herbarium last year.

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Degener,

Cordially yours,



David D. Keck
Head Curator

DDK:gg
Encls.

Mokuleia Beach, Waialua,
Oahu, Hawaii, U.S.A.
Aug. 6, 1955.

Program Director, Systematic Biology,
National Science Foundation,
Washington 25, D. C.

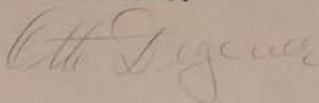
Dear Sir:

I herewith submit my request for a grant-in-aid from your Foundation.

Enclosed are 25 copies of my request. Due to an oversight, the New York Botanical Garden mailed me but 15 copies signed by Director William J. Robbins. I have taken the liberty of mailing you an additional ten copies, some typewritten, without my Director's signature. I hope these will suffice if I cannot manage to forward the right number of properly signed copies to you before Sept. 1.

With Hawaii so far distant from Washington and New York, this error is rather difficult to correct quickly. I regret this annoyance.

Sincerely,



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

August 10, 1955

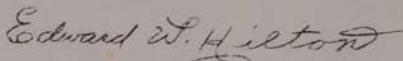
Dr. Otto Degener
Mokuleia Beach
Oahu, Hawaii

Dear Doctor Degener:

We are pleased to acknowledge receipt of your application for a grant in support of the research proposal entitled below.

Your proposal has been assigned to the appropriate Program Director for study and evaluation, and he will communicate further with you.

Sincerely yours,



Edward W. Hilton
Biological and Medical Sciences

Ref: Proposal B-1819

"Further Botanical Exploration of the Hawaiian
Islands & Continued Publication of Illustrated
Descriptions in the "Flora Hawaiiensis" & Elsewhere"

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August 10, 1955

Mr. Otto Degener
Mokuleia Beach
Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii

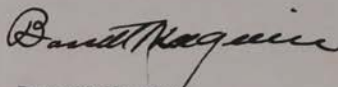
Dear Otto:

We are sending you the additional ten copies of your application for grant from the National Science Foundation. The program looks very interesting, and it appears that you have most competent and sympathetic assistance.

I hope all goes well with you both and the program.

Everyone around the lunch table joins in regards to the Degeners.

Sincerely,


Bassett Maguire
Curator

BM:gg
Encls.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

August 16, 1955

AIR MAIL

Dr. Otto Degener
Mokuleia Beach, Waialua
Oahu, Hawaii

Dear Doctor Degener:

This will let you know that your proposal entitled "Further Botanical Exploration of the Hawaiian Islands and Continued Publication of Illustrated Descriptions in the 'Flora Hawaiiensis' and Elsewhere" has been assigned to the program for Systematic Biology for consideration and that this is the appropriate office for further correspondence concerning your proposal. If you wish to submit additional information or if you wish to learn of the progress of your proposal at any time, please do not hesitate to write me.

As you are undoubtedly interested in the timetable scheduled for your proposal, I can tell you that it will be submitted to our Advisory Panel for their consideration well before their fall meeting here in Washington late in October. If the decision on your proposal by the National Science Foundation is then favorable and if funds with which to activate it are then available, they will probably become available to you about the first of the year or at the beginning of the spring term.

Sincerely yours,



William C. Steere
Program Director for
Systematic Biology

Mokuleia Beach, Waialua,
Oahu, Hawaii.
Aug. 18, 1955.

Dr. Edward W. Hilton,
National Science Foundation,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Hilton:

I have your August 10 letter.

I herewith enclose the missing ten copies for Proposal B-1819. Please substitute these for the typed copies, unsigned by Dr. Robbins, mailed the Foundation previously.

Yours sincerely,

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PACIFIC SCIENCE BOARD

Sept. 28, 1955

Dr. Otto Degener
Waialua, Oahu,
Hawaii

Dear Otto:

Under separate cover I am sending a couple of full issues of the
Atoll Research Bulletin containing the Canton papers, as requested in
your card. In addition, by this time you will have received 40 copies
of your paper.

I hope that the Bishop Museum gave you a couple of copies of my
Lepturus paper as I asked them to. If not, please let me know and I will
send them.

Hope you are having a good time on Kauai.

In your proposal to the National Science Foundation I would suggest
spelling out in more detail the areas you want to collect in and the problems
you are interested in working on. Otherwise I doubt if the panel will be
likely to give you anything. I have nothing to do with it, myself, but
McVaugh called me up the other day, asking if it was unreasonable to ask
you for more detail.

Best regards,

sincerely,

Ray
F. R. Fosberg



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HONOLULU 10, HAWAII

October 8, 1955

Dr. Otto Degener
c/o Mrs. Ruth Hanner
Kekaha, Kauai

Dear Otto:

I hope by now that you have received the box of proofs I mailed you a few days ago.

As to a bid on any future new work--well, I don't know. To arrive at a fair price--one that you can afford to pay and one that the firm can at least break even on--will take a lot of figuring. Perhaps we can work out some kind of a schedule on a price per line. So much for each one of 6-point type, so much for each line of 8- and 10-point, etc.

The days of paying an operator one dollar or less an hour are gone. (Today's scale is \$2.75 per hour.) Costs of paper and the other items of labor and overhead have doubled and tripled. Your original copy, if I recall correctly, have always been handed in in a condition of from good to terrible--mostly the latter. Double-spaced, single-spaced, pencil and pen corrected, incomplete, etc. This tends to run machine time and hand and correction time way above normal.

I realize that your budget for the printing of your research is strictly limited. If others are willing to saddle themselves with a loss item, then by all means shop where you can get the greatest advantage. However, I feel that you should consider printing costs in relation to your "overhead"--living and travel expenses, etc. As they have increased so you must remember that printing costs have likewise advanced. They are not stationary, and you can hardly expect to pay today, prices prevailing 20 or even 10 years ago.

If the proposed "schedule" I mentioned above sounds reasonable and you are interested, let me know and I will try to offer some figure, or better still, if you are returning to Oahu in the near future we might discuss it together.

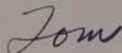
Dr. Otto Degener
Page 2
October 8, 1955

Please don't get the impression that I am not interested in doing your work--for I really am very much interested. But with costs what they are today, I can't possibly see how we can do it on a flat price per page without some sort of understanding and your cooperation in the proper preparation of copy.

My very kindest regards to you and Mrs. Degener and I only hope that the weather on Kauai does not get too cold.

Sincerely,

PARADISE OF THE PACIFIC, LTD.



Thomas W. Shootman
General Manager

TWS:el

Mokuleia Beach, Waialua,
Oahu, Hawaii.
Oct. 11, 1955.

My dear Dr. McVaugh:

I just received Dr. Fosberg's letter of Sept. 28 in which he mentions that you would like more detail regarding the areas in which I wish to botanize and the problems I wish to solve.

I have botanized in the Hawaiian Islands since 1922 and know pretty well where endemics and often novelties are to be found. I wish to collect in such areas of native vegetation avoiding, of course, ridges and valleys where I or colleagues have botanized extensively before. In general, the endemics still survive at higher elevations, particularly above 2,000 ft., and down to sea level along the precipitous windward coasts of Kauai, Molokai, partly Maui and the Kohala region of the Island of Hawaii. Such precipitous regions are cut by numerous isolated valleys still little known and uninhabited. There is no telling what botanical surprises await the collector, especially in our flora where extreme endemism is rampant.

For years I have looked for happy botanical hunting grounds, and have been eminently successful in my search. Please just peruse at random lists of exsiccatae or of cited specimens in recently monographed revisions of families or genera occurring in the Hawaiian Islands. Any of Earl E. Sheriff's, like his revision of Tetraplasandra (Fieldiana: Bot. 29(2):139-140. 1955.) would do, or perhaps Yunker's monograph of Peperomia (Bishop Mus. Bull. 112:124-125. 1933.), or Fosberg's monographs of Redoutia or Gouldia, and Bartram's monumental study of Hawaiian mosses. Such works show the success of my collecting in regions relatively unknown.

Mrs. Degener and I spent last month on Kauai, botanizing and surveying the field so as to be prepared to forge ahead with our project should a grant-in-aid materialize. Incidentally, we kept the appeal strictly confidential to avoid "losing face" should it be denied. Instead of botanizing and working up the plants on all the major islands of the Archipelago for three years, as initially proposed, I now favor concentrating (though not necessarily limiting) our efforts to Kauai. The reasons are as follows:

1. Kauai is the oldest of the larger islands, is cut up into numerous isolated mountain ranges inviting speciation, and harbors the largest number of endemic genera.
2. Trustees of the little Kokee Natural History Museum in the interior of Kauai at an elevation of 3,500 ft., have offered its facilities to us.
3. I was able to employ part-time the custodian of the Kokee Museum, a former pig and goat hunter familiar with the interior of the island, to help botanize with aid of a pack horse. He is prepared to continue such work. Thus I could start botanizing immediately should the grant be approved.
4. Kauai residents are eager to explore with me various isolated windward valleys, and are willing to pay their share for hiring a sampan to get us there.

Dr. Fosberg writes you want me to state what problem I wish to solve. The problem to which I have dedicated myself and for which I have gladly gradually depleted a small private fortune since 1922 is to work toward producing an up-to-date Flora of the Hawaiian Islands. Such a Flora requires descriptions of all Families, Genera and their subdivisions, as well as keys to identification. Likewise, it should have carefully drawn illustrations, not necessarily of each species but at least of one representative species of each genus. The problem of producing such a Flora is of unusual interest and difficulty due to the great number of confusing taxa being discovered repeatedly. It cannot be completely solved for generations in spite of the fact I rush plants belonging to special genera to specialists in those genera for monographing. Such collaborators in making our fast-vanishing Hawaiian flora better known have been Baehni, Bailey, Bartram, Danser, Fosberg, Keck, Kobuski, Krauss, Lan, Scanlan, Selling, Sherff, Skottsberg, Smith, Webster, Wimmer and Yunker. Where specialists do not exist, I work up my finds myself.

It is impossible to write a completed Flora of the Hawaiian Islands because life is too short, the areas remaining to be explored are too vast, and the endemism is too localized. But for want of reaching my ideal, I have at least helped materially to make our flora better known. With a grant-in-aid Mrs. Degener, a botanist in her own right, and I can step up past activities instead of twiddling our thumbs in botanical idleness for want of funds to get into areas where endemics still exist. We can produce a Flora within a few years that will be decidedly useful as a source book for local residents, who must know what grows about them, and for botanists throughout the World. While doing so we are helping generations yet unborn to reach our ideal of producing a completed Flora of the Hawaiian Islands, with sets of Hawaiian plants, extinct since the twentieth and later centuries, preserved in leading herbaria.

If I have not made myself clear or if you have any suggestions, do please let me know.

Sincerely,

Otto Degener

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 19, 1955

Dr. Otto Degener
Mokuleia Beach, Waialua
Oahu, Hawaii

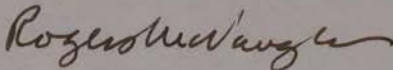
Dear Doctor Degener:

Thank you for your letter of October 11. I hope that you did not think from Doctor Fosberg's letter that we were in any doubt about the general importance of your work or about the importance of the Hawaiian flora in the general picture of phyto-geography. When I spoke to Ray Fosberg about your investigations, my only question was a more specific one.

It seemed to me that your original application was a little too general. I believe that in your letter you have answered this objection by your proposal to concentrate upon the Island of Kauai. It was not clear from your original budget just how much travel would be possible in a very general survey of the whole Hawaiian archipelago.

My question was indeed so casual that I did not intend writing you myself, and I hope that this has not caused you any concern. Although, of course, I cannot give you any assurance at this time, I hope that it will be possible for the Foundation to support your work on the flora of Hawaii.

Very sincerely yours,



Rogers McVaugh
Program Director for
Systematic Biology

National Science Foundation
Washington 25, D.C.
December 7, 1958.

Dr. Otto Degener
Mokuleia Beach, Waialae
Oahu, Hawaii

Dear Dr. Degener:

It is my pleasure to inform you that your proposal, No. B-1819, for research on the Hawaiian flora, was approved in October by our Advisory Panel as meritorious for support on the basis of scientific value. This has now been confirmed by the National Science Board. The Board at its meeting in Washington on December 5 approved in principal a grant of \$12,000 for three years.

In view of the fact that this is less than the sum which you originally requested, we should like to ask if the sum of \$12,000 will be acceptable to you, and if it will enable you to carry on your proposed work during the time specified. If you are willing to accept this sum, will you be kind enough to write directly to me and indicate this?

In view of the somewhat loose connection that the New York Botanical Garden has with this proposal, I think it might be well if you could also secure for us, from some responsible official at the Garden, a statement that a grant of \$12,000 would be acceptable to them also.

As soon as we hear from you we can recommend that your proposal be activated. The grant, if made, will be at the discretion of the Director of the National Science Foundation, and you should of course be sure not to make any commitments involving the use of funds until you have received formal notification in the form of a letter from the Director.

I hope that we shall be able to help you in your work. We shall expect to hear from you shortly.

Very sincerely,

(Signed) Rogers McVaugh
Program Director for
Systematic Biology

Mokuleia Beach, Waialua
Oahu, Hawaii.
Dec. 12, 1955.

Dear Dr. Robbins:

Ira and I just walked to the post office at Waialua with 18 air mail letters to conservationists in the States to protest a renewed threat of liberating axis deer in the Islands. At the post office we received Dr. McVaugh's most satisfying letter - a real Christmas present for us.

The enclosed letter from Dr. McVaugh is self-explanatory and, for that matter, so is mine to him, of which I here enclose a copy. Do please express your satisfaction with this welcome grant-in-aid so that the stage will be set for Ira and me to get to work.

I wish to keep knowledge of the impending grant-in-aid confidential as long as possible lest my printing prices for the Flora go sky high.

We don't know how to thank you for your very good and grand advice, just short of a year ago, to knock at the door of the National Science Foundation. We are as pleased as, I imagine, you were when your new laboratory was constructed. Mrs. Sutton wrote us about it.

Aloha nui loa,

Arthur S. Leonard

Mokuleia Beach, Waialua,
Oahu, Hawaii.
Dec. 12, 1955.

Dr. Rogers McVaugh,
National Science Foundation,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. McVaugh:

I received your welcome letter of December 7 today, and assure you that a grant-in-aid of \$12,000 from the National Science Foundation will be acceptable to me and will enable me to carry on the proposed work No. B-1819 during the specified time of three years. I shall adjust my program to the funds available, and am sure that the Foundation will be satisfied with final results.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding your self-explanatory letter to my Director, Dr. William J. Robbins, N. Y. Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, New York City, so that he may contact you personally regarding this grant.

Incidentally, I might add that according to a notice dated Dec. 6, 1955 our local Board of Agriculture and Forestry "is still interested in the introduction of the deer into some areas in which it is not now found." I have just alerted Dr. Fosberg and other conservationists regarding this trend of thought. Because of the danger of eventually losing the fight to keep deer from overrunning the Islands and exterminating much of their native vegetation, the present collection and study of their flora seems especially timely and important.

Thank you so much, again, for your informational letter.

Sincerely,

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX PARK
NEW YORK 58, N. Y.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
JOSEPH R. SWAN

PRESIDENT
CHARLES S. HARDING

VICE-PRESIDENT
FREDERICK S. MOSELEY JR.

TREASURER
BERKELEY GAYNOR
DIRECTOR
WILLIAM J. ROBBINS

December 19, 1955

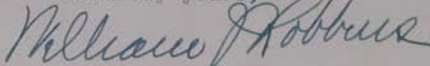
Mr. Otto Degener
Mokuleia Beach, Waialua
Oahu, T. H.

Dear Mr. Degener:

I have written to Dr. McVaugh as indicated by the
copy of the letter which I enclose.

We all join in sending your wife and you best
wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,



William J. Robbins
Director

wjr/bw
Enc.

December 19, 1955

Dr. Rogers McVaugh
Director for Systematic Biology
National Science Foundation
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. McVaugh:

Mr. Otto Degener has called my attention to your letter of December 7th in which you ask for a statement from The New York Botanical Garden that the grant of \$12,000 made to Mr. Degener would be acceptable to The Garden. I am, therefore, writing to tell you that the grant made to Mr. Degener is acceptable to this institution.

With kind personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

wjr/bw
CC: Otto Degener

William J. Robbins
Director

1955

1955

Proposal
to the
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
for
Further Botanical Exploration of the Hawaiian Islands
and Continued Publication of Illustrated Descriptions
in the "Flora Hawaiiensis" and Elsewhere

From

Dr. Otto Degener
Mokuleia Beach
Waiāluā, Oahu
Hawaii

1955

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Proposal
to the
National Science Foundation
for
Further Botanical Exploration of the Hawaiian Islands
and Continued Publication of Illustrated Descriptions
in the "Flora Hawaiiensis" and Elsewhere

from

Otto Degener
Mokuleia Beach
Oahu, Hawaii

1. Name and Address of Principal Investigator:

Otto Degener, Mokuleia Beach, Waialua, Oahu, Hawaii.

2. Title of Proposed Research:

Further botanical exploration of the Hawaiian Islands and continued publication of illustrated descriptions in the "Flora Hawaiiensis" and elsewhere.

3. Desired Starting Date of Research:

The research is already under way; support for it would be gratefully received as soon as this proposal could become activated.

4. Time Period for Which Support is Requested:

This project should run for three years. Although the work is of a continuing nature, it is thought desirable to demonstrate the importance of this program at the end of three years of accomplishment.

5. Description of Proposed Research:

The Hawaiian Archipelago is so isolated geographically in the Pacific that of its 20,000 different species, varieties and forms of vascular plants, all but perhaps 40 per cent are endemic. This high degree of endemism is not only limited to the Archipelago as a whole, but many species are limited to one isolated mountain summit, some arid ridge surrounded by a lush sea of vegetation, some darkly shaded gulch, or some isolated oasis in a barren waste of aa lava.

The continuous discovery and publication of novelties up to the present time indicate that our knowledge of the Hawaiian flora is still far from complete. Many such novelties are collected even in those areas that are rapidly being despoiled of all vegetation due to the ravages of feral goats, deer and cattle, the competition of weeds and of exotic trees planted by the Territorial Government in the Forest Reserve, and the spread of agriculture. Such destruction of the native Hawaiian flora is continuing with ever-increasing fury, and cannot be stopped! Many species collected by early workers, and even by modern ones like myself, are already extinct and known to us only from herbarium specimens. Many more are on the verge of extinction and should be collected and studied before it is too late. We owe to future generations a representative set of herbarium specimens of our unique Hawaiian flora that we, due to commerce, ignorance and vandalism, are rapidly exterminating.

Though the collecting, describing and illustrating of the native flora is of prime importance, the introduced flora must not be neglected. Exotics should be collected as herbarium specimens and preserved as proof of their arrival in the Hawaiian Islands at a certain date. Comparison centuries hence of these pioneers and their descendants in the Islands may give clues as to the rapidity of speciation and other evolutionary problems as yet unformulated.

^{As a graduate student in the Department of Botany at the University of Hawaii in 1922-23, I became a diligent collector of the Hawaiian flora. While trying to identify my finds with the available literature, using above all others the only general floristic work extant for the area, Hillebrand's "Flora of the Hawaiian Islands," completed in 1891, I came to realize the incompleteness of man's knowledge relative to the Islands' rich flora. I resolved then and there to work toward helping correct this deficiency. With this in mind I returned home to New York City and continued the study of my Hawaiian plants under the guidance of Drs. Britton, Rydberg and Barnhart at the New York Botanical Garden. In 1925 I emigrated to the Islands permanently to collect as much of the fast-vanishing flora as possible and to help record it.}

Due to limited library and herbarium facilities, I published relatively little entirely alone but distributed my collections for naming to leading specialists throughout the world. Almost every monograph dealing with Hawaiian vascular plants published since 1928 has at least cited my collections. Often I have been quoted, and not infrequently these publications contain descriptions of novelties published in collaboration with me. Consequently I have played a role as something more than merely the collector of rare plants.

As early as 1926 I had announced my intention to proceed with the publication of a Flora Hawaiiensis or New Illustrated Flora of the Hawaiian Islands. From 1932 to the present this work has been appearing in loose-leaf fascicles until now the fifth volume is almost complete. About 1,500 pages have appeared, and the work is profusely illustrated. This large work, while not resting exclusively upon my own collections, has only been possible through the experience I have gained and the specimens I have made as an observant field botanist.

Some 135 papers by 57 other authors, principally systematic botanists, have referred to plants collected or notes taken by me. Since my activities as a botanical collector in regions where collecting is extremely important due to the rapid extermination of the native flora have been eminently successful, as indicated by the extent of the collaboration, I

wish to continue them along about the same lines. I am also anxious to continue the publication of the "Flora Hawaiiensis" as promptly as manuscript and illustrations can be prepared.

The procedure to be followed is to use a car for making as thorough a coverage as possible by road of the principal islands of the Archipelago within the next three years. Where the car cannot penetrate farther, I shall proceed on foot. Vast areas in the Islands are as yet unexplored botanically. Due to the extremely "chopped up" nature of the terrain in this volcanic region, much of it is extremely difficult of access. Furthermore, the high degree of endemism in the Islands calls for as complete an exploration of them as possible. It is dangerous to botanize precipitous areas and other types of rough lava alone, so that an assistant collector should be available.

Includes my wife,

6. Facilities:

My home on the Island of Oahu is available as my laboratory and study. There I have my collection of books and pamphlets about Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian plants, my microscope and other study and writing equipment.

In addition, Mrs. Degener and I, through the kindness of its Director, have the use of an office at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu. Here we have the use of the library and herbarium, the latter containing many of my plants finds, which have been deposited there from time to time as gifts.

I retain no herbarium of my own but distribute my finds usually as gifts to leading botanical institutions throughout America and Europe. A considerable part of them is distributed to specialists for naming and the residue is distributed when identifications have been supplied. Thus my collections are available at principal centers for all to study.

A combination of circumstances (partly owing to the last War, partly to a disastrous tidal wave in 1946 that destroyed the greater part of my stock of unsold books, and partly to limitations of income at a time of increasing collecting and publishing costs) have very seriously curtailed my botanical exploration and publication at this time.

7. Personnel:

The permanent personnel involved would consist of myself and my wife. Both intend to give essentially full time to this project. Funds are not requested from the National Science Foundation for any part of the salaries of the Principal Investigator or his wife.

Illustrators and field assistants will be employed from time to time on a part-time basis.

Otto Dekener
(Principal Investigator)

Born: May 13, 1899, Orange, New Jersey.

Education: Trinity and Collegiate schools, New York, New York; B.S., Mass. Agric. Coll. (now Univ. Mass.), 1922; M.S., Univ. Hawaii, 1925; Sc. D. (hon.), Univ. Mass., 1952. Post graduate work done at Woods Hole, Mass., New York Botanical Garden and Columbia Univ.

Experience: Instructor in botany, Univ. Hawaii, 1925-27. Later Naturalist at Hawaii National Park. Botanist on the Anne Archbold Expedition to Melanesia, 1940-41, spending 8 months in Fiji. Study in European herbaria, 1951-52. Collaborator in Hawaiian Botany, New York Botanical Garden, 1935-38. Botanical Consultant, C.I.A. *for Canton Atoll, South Pacific*

Books: Illustrated Guide to the More Common or Noteworthy Ferns and Flowering Plants of Hawaii National Park with Descriptions of Ancient Hawaiian Customs and an Introduction to the Geologic History of the Islands. 1-312 pp. 1930. Second edition, 1945. *As a result of my exploration the new Hawaiian family Sequiera was named in my honor.*

Flora Hawaiiensis or New Illustrated Flora of the Hawaiian Islands. Books 1-5 (Book 3 in part with C.B.M. Greenwell half completed). About 1,500 pp. 1932-1955. *collaboration with my wife over 75% completed*
over 2,000

Naturalist's South Pacific Expedition: Fiji. 1-303 pp. 1949.

Shorter Articles in Scientific Journals: The principal investigator has written sixteen such articles as sole author, totalling 121 pages; he has also senior-authored five other such articles, totalling 14 pages. Each of the latter articles was written with a different collaborator.

Articles in Non-scientific Journals: Thirteen articles of a semi-popular nature, have been written, totalling 45 pages.

Dr. I. Hansen Degener
(Research Associate)

Education: Student in the Natural Sciences, Albert-Ludwig University, Freiburg, Baden, 1944; Dr. rer. nat. (Dr. Nat. Sc.), magna cum laude, Friedrich-Wilhelm University, Berlin, 1949. Botanical assistant at the Botanisches Museum, Berlin-Dahlem, 1945-46; lecture and laboratory assistant to Drs. R. Pilger and H. Sleumer, Berlin-Dahlem, 1948-49; botanist, ditto, 1949-53; assistant in pharmacognosy at the Freie Universität, Berlin-Dahlem.

Publications: (I. Hansen.) Europäische Arten der Gattung *Erica* L. Bot. Jahrb. 75:1-81, 1950. (With J. Gerloff), Beiträge zur Kenntnis einiger Volvocales. Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Gesell. 65(4):87-93, 1952. (I. Degener, with O. Degener), Nutzpflanzen der Eingeborenen von Fidischi. Mitt. Bot. Gart. u. Mus. Berl.-Dahl. 1:1-20, 1953. (I. Degener, with E. Potzsch), Beiträge zur Anatomie und Systematik der Lepturaceae. Bot. Jahrb. 76:251-270, 1954. *Coauthor or collaborator in most articles with her husband since her marriage in 1952.*

Budget:First Year

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Salaries: Part-time assistance in the field and in the making of botanical illustrations | \$ 1,200 |
| Permanent Equipment: Purchase of station wagon | 1,500 |
| Expendable Equipment and Supplies; Upkeep of car, gas and oil; pressing supplies | 650 |
| Travel: Mr. and Mrs. Degener from island to island | 700 |
| Transportation of car, ditto, or hire of U-Drive car, whichever is less expensive | 500 |
| Maintenance in the field for two persons (meals) | 500 |
| Lodging in the field (outer islands) | 750 |
| Publication in "Flora Hawaïensis" | <u>\$ 1,000</u> |
| | <u>\$ 6,800</u> |

Second and Third Years

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Same except no car will be purchased at \$5,300 per year | \$ 17,400 |
|--|-----------|

Otto Degener

Otto Degener, Principal Investigator

William J. Robbins, Director
New York Botanical Garden

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Proposal
to the
National Science Foundation
for
Further Botanical Exploration of the Hawaiian Islands
and Continued Publication of Illustrated Descriptions
in the "Flora Hawaiiensis" and Elsewhere

From

Otto Degener
Mokuleia Beach
Oahu, Hawaii

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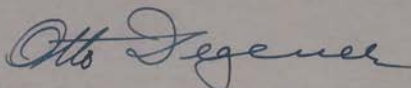
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William J. Robbins, Director
New York Botanical Garden