

DATED 10th Feb. 1937.

Dear S. Roerich, many thanks for your letter and the sendings of the primula. I have searched all the floras available here but none contains this plant. In addition to these I have seen all the species collected by Prof. Kashyap and lying in the Govt College herbarium, but to no success. Now the only source is to compare the plant with the specimens collected by Dr. R. R. Stewart of the Gordon College Rawalpindi who has a beautiful collection from the Kashmir side. He occasionally visits our laboratory, & then I shall enquire from him. In case he does not drop down in a short time I will send the plant on to him.

As for myself I think that it is a new species not yet described by any botanist before. Have you no body in New York who can give us the name. I remember you told me that there was a specialist on the Asiatic plants who does the identification work for you. So far as I know there is no man who knows the Himalayan plants in Europe. In India yours is the best herbarium which I can point out. The Govt College herbarium contains plants collected ^{mainly} from the Sikkim side and Tibet, and very few from Ladak & Spiti.

~~the~~ I am always at your service, and do not think for a while that I will charge you for such a petty work. This is just a past-time for me. I didn't write to you with the hope of getting any payment for these plants.

Identifications. I only meant that it would be very kind of you if you could get me a job using your personal influence. So please if you have ^{more} ~~any other~~ plants to be identified then send them on to me, because I will be working in the laboratory for two months. If you could send me a sufficient number of plants then I can visit some herbarium myself and compare the plants there. But please remember that I will not be in the laboratory after the 1st of April, so the letters addressed after that should be sent to Ladhar.

I am also writing to some other people for your Arallia. I will not charge anything for that provided I get it, but what I have to pay to those people.

Remember me to ^{Dr.} George de Roerich. With

kindest regards,

yours sincerely
Sultan Ahmed.

DATED 19th Feb. 1937.

Dear S. Roerich, many thanks for your letter of Feb. 16th. I am giving a list of the species of *Delphinium* which can occur in your part of the Himalaya. These are *D. incanum*, Royle; *D. denudatum*, Wall.; *D. Coeruleum*, Jacq.; *D. elatum*, L.; *D. vestitum*, Wall. These are the only ones I think which are described in Hooker's flora, & Blatters flowers of Kashmir, Flora Simalensis - Collett. There are two other species which of course grow on very high altitudes, & these are *D. Kashmirianum* and *D. brunonianum*. Now if your species is not one of these then I think it is a new one. Up till now Hooker's Flora is regarded as the most standard work on Indian plants, but I think now it is becoming out of date. Any way it gives nearly all the plants which are commonly seen, & you must have consulted it thoroughly before regarding it a new species.

As for the herbarium; There are only two which I can point out & those are Dehradun & the Royal Botanic Gardens Calcutta. Now it is for you to decide which one should be visited and unless you let me know the groups which you want to match I can't give any definite opinion. I shall write to you in detail after a some time about this point.

If there are any plants for identification why don't you send them now. Because after some time I will leave Lahore & then it becomes difficult for me

to do any botanical work. Because every trip to Lahore requires money, which I can't afford under the present circumstances. Now that I am forced to remain in Lahore for a short while why shouldn't you avail this opportunity. Of course as for me I am always at your service.

To tell you frankly I want to give up botanical work because there is no stimulus & it is simply rotting and wasting one's energies for nothing. Botanical work is not paying these days and there is no hope of getting a job in this department in the near future.

If there is some one who is willing to have the grasses of the Punjab plains then I am ready to part with them. There are over 110 species of the gramineae & 50 species of sedges. No work has so far been done on the grasses of the Punjab plains. I am preparing a list these ^{days} and identifying some of the unidentified ones.

What do you suggest, should I continue my work as a botanist or take up some other business, like teaching in a school or the like. I would be glad to know your opinion.

With kindest regards,

yours sincerely
Sultan Ahmed

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P. O. Ladhari
Distt: Sheikhupura
12th May, 1937.

Dear Mr. S. Roerich, many thanks for your letter, I think it is better if you send the *Primula* to Edinburgh yourself. Simply to write to them that the plant should be named *Primula urusvati*, a better still the plant may be sent under the proposed name and if we are right in giving it a new name, we will publish the description later on.

I would be very glad to collect the seeds of the required Leguminosae. Would you pay one hundred rupees including the expenses, or should I expect something besides it for the expenses incurring during the course of collection. Any way I shall send you the plants & seeds which are in my herbarium when I get a reply to this letter. I have got nearly all the plants included in your list excepting two i.e. *Pachyrhizus angulatus*, & *Psophocarpus tetragonolobus* DC. But there are a few which are not included in your list, which will be sent to you.

The difficulty of getting the native varieties of wheat is obvious because it is not the season now. But I shall send you what ever seeds I can get of these.

There are two fibre yielding plants commonly cultivated in the Punjab plains. one is Crotalaria juncea & the other is Hibiscus cannabifolius, the former being the better of the two. The seeds & plants of these can be sent if required.

I would request you in the end to send me a reply at your earliest convenience.

With kindest regards,

yours sincerely
Sultan Ahmad.

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P. O. Ladhar
Dist: Sheikhupura
(Punjab)
6th Sep. 1937.

Dear Mr. Roerich

I am sending you a few more vars. of seeds. The collection contains 2 vars. of Rice, the best grown in the Punjab. As it is not the season for the collection of the vars. of Rice so I am sending only 2 which were collected last year. Would you be prepared to meet the expenses on the collection of the vars. of Rice?

There is one species of Barley viz medium, but it is different in color from the one which you got from Lahul. The rest of the seeds belong to the Leguminous plants.

I have not received the species of Barley & other plants for identification so far; have you been able to get the plants with ears or not. ~~There~~

I might again remind you about the collection of ~~Collection of~~ Sedges & Grasses near about Naggar & Kulu. This will ~~be~~ prove to be a very interesting thing when compared with the plants of these groups from the outer hills & the plains. It will be ^{very} kind of you if you devote a little attention to this problem.

Do you know any body in New York who is working on Fungi? I am interested in the group & want some help if you can suggest me some one after consulting your people in New York.

already. I shall send you the plants of which you have
I received the seeds already in due course of time.
If you send me some more money it will facilitate
the work very much. If you intend to send me
any thing you should do it soon as I will join the
laboratories on the 1st of oct. So far I have not
been able to get any gold anywhere. The work
in the laboratory is purely temporary.

It is very hot over here, so far there have been
absolutely no rain. Hope it is quite pleasant
in Naggar and you are enjoying the best of health.

With sincerest regards,

yours sincerely
Sultan Ahmad

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P.O. Laohar
Distt Sheikhpura
26th sep-1937.

Dear Mr. Roerich

I am sending you herewith
dried specimens of the following plants :-

Vigna catiangu

Phaseolus radiatus

P. acroitifolius

P. mungo. Form. *Roxburghii*

Cyamopsis psoralioides

Crotolaria juncea

Trigonella sp.

Cajanus indicus

Stilpnus cannabinus

Gossypium sp.

These were the only plants available in this season
of the year and I shall send you the rest of the
plants when they are available.

I am sorry to remark that the plants
are being sent in ordinary newspapers as good plant
covers were not available. But I hope you wouldn't
mind the trouble of having them transferred into
better paper covers.

Yours very sincerely
Sultan Ahmad.

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P.O. Ladhari,
Dist: Sheikhupura,
Punjab.
27th Sep. 1937

Dear Mr. Roerich,

many thanks for your letter which was received yesterday. I am sending you some dried specimens and seeds, which I hope will be to your satisfaction. If you find anything damaged or ill-preserved please write to me immediately so that it might be supplied again.

The collection work will continue through out winter, but var. of rice shall be available only in the month of Oct: I am sending you two var. of rice which are considered excellent in the Punjab. As for the expenses it is for you to decide, but it will not be less ^{than} 100 rupees in any case. So please write immediately as to your decision. The difficulty in this work is that I do not ~~it~~ belong to the rice growing part of the province and so shall have to visit many places for the collection work. If willing please send money and your intention by the return mail.

As for the fungi I want some man who can help me in the identification of Rusts & Smuts, and plant diseases in general. As for the other group of fungi in which I am interested

I shall feel obliged if you can manage to get me literature on Gasteromycetes. There are several people working on this group in U.S.A. & if you happen to know any one in Cincinnati Ohio you can get ample literature on this group from the Lloyd library there, published by the late Dr. C. G. Lloyd. You can get full information on writing to The Curator New-York Botanic Gardens. I wrote to several people but did not get any reply.

I brought a number of ferns from Bashahr and other places on my way. If you want to have them identified, we have a very good man in our laboratory who have promised me to do that work for me. The whole bundle is lying in the shelves of one of the Admirals containing Spiti plants. Of course the specimens shall be returned to you as soon as they are identified. At the same time we have a beautiful collection from all parts of the Himalayas.

Hope you will send an early reply.

with kindest regards,
yours very sincerely,
Sultan Ahmad.