

Rec Dec 6 1866

Recd. Dec 5th 1866



J^r G. Engelman

1858?

Dear Sir,

(*Isotria Engelmannii*)^{var} The Isotria

I sent you grass along the shores of the Passaic river
six miles north of Newark N. J. where the tides
rise daily about five feet. Its location as near
as I can now remember is from ^{the} low water line
up to about half tide. The shores there are
stony gravelly and sandy - with very little, if
any, mud where the isotria grows. Of course from
their locality just ^{named} they are most of the time sub-
merged, and I have noticed the geese put down their
long necks under the water to feed on them - the shores
seem to be the edible part which also are inviting
to the mice which destroyed some dozens of my
plants ^{as they lay in a dry garret}. The ones I sent
you are average sized specimens, and they must have
been gathered before the 15th of August. I do not
believe that any are ^{much} larger than those I sent you -
their variations amounting to about an inch in length.
The shores of the river there are flat remaining



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off as many as 20 feet from high to low water mark.
The accompanying plants are the *Eriocaulon*
" *septangulare* and the *Echinadromis perovulva* - both
of which you say in Dr Gray's Botany grow
along and in the ponds - you may add arvensis. Tho'
the *Echinadromis* is more fond of the muddier places,
and both the two latter plants extend higher up
on the shores than the islets.

I think I have more specimens stored
away among a large lot of our native plants
which I gathered about 8 years ago for exchanges
but which have since been neglected. When I get
time I will overhaul them - and if I find more
islets I will send them to you -

For a few years past I have been exclusively
absorbed in Astronomy and I am confident I have
made two discoveries of the highest order - namely
the Force which originally put the stars in motion
including our Earth - and a Mathematical Demon-
stration of the truth of the Nebular Theory - Several
other minor discoveries go along with these. I send
an advertisement cut from the newspapers - and as my
publishers are not assisted by any society -



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the expenses of the work, you will do them and
a favor by making such suitable mention
of the book as may be convenient to you.

Very respectfully
S. Emnis

The volume is adapted for popular reading - the (Methodic)
ical part is put in an appendix.

My Dear Doctor,

I have nothing to add to the above, except that I regret
that Prof. Emnis and the Bellisheim Island Isocetes be not riparia
They have so much its habits and appearance that many superficial
observers as myself will make the same mistake. My specimens
were also collected in July or August and the spores scarcely ripe
enough to be well distinguished. Durica & yourself agree
as to the species of both (I. engelmanni) I would have wished
that the Paraisocetes prove a riparia, not to disturb your hypoth-
sis that there two, riparia & the new species of Comby were the only
species growing in tide-water.

Thank you for the information about the two Hilgard.

Always well and yours devotedly.

E. Durand



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