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GARDEN

MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Garte, Friedrich August 1866, April 12th Berlin, Germany

TRANSLATION

BErlin, April 12, 1866

Dear Doctor,

I was glad to hear that the few rushes I sent you helped you in your research and should be glad to do more for you in this respect.

As far as Juncus rudis Kth. is concerned, I saw only one specimen of this plant in Kunth's herbarium, even though Sello, whose plants are richly represented in our herbarium, collected this species. Also, the Kunth specimen, approximately 2 feet high, has only one stem...the leaves and stem up to the top are indeed thickly covered with small hairs without being rough. Kunth correctly mentioned this on the label as, in general, he gave a good description of this plant. The flower clusters are filled with dark brown leaves whereby this species becomes similar to J. squarrosus, only with the difference that the single leaves of the Kunth plant are more half the size as those of the latter. Therefore, your plant from the Rio de la Plata cannot be identical with J. rudis, but I believe that because of the many flowery clusters with the relatively broad lamellated cover leaves and the completely smooth stem and leaves is identical with Kunth's J. microcephalus and before I read your letter, I opened the enclosed capsule of the plant of the Acad. Philadelphia and recognized immediately the J. microcephalus Kth. and proved this determination by comparing it with that of Kunth. I am glad that you also considered this species to be that and I am sure to be able to try and find out that we are not mistaken. I am enclosing one of the lowest leaves of J. rudis which, even though to a lesser degree than the stem, shows the little hairs.

I am in complete agreement with your determination of the other species mentioned. Should you still have other doubts, and should I be able to help you I should be glad to do so.

I hope you will permit me to ask you, not a botanical favor, but another one in the name of some of my friends and acquaintances. They have a passion to collect stamped postage stamps and would be more than happy if they could receive stamps from the southern states or any other American states. Perhaps it would involve no great effort on your partto obtain these and should you write again, I should be very grateful if you would enclose some which are not too dirty. Should there be a similar passion in America, European stamps are always available as a gift.

Asking your forgiveness for making this somewhat unusual request, I remain, Sincerely yours,

A. Garke

