

Linnean Society,  
Burlington House  
London. Jan 23, 1870.

Dear Sir,

You will, I trust, excuse some little delay in replying to your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> ult., partly owing to its having arrived at a time when I was much occupied; but still more that my sight having, of late, become much impaired, and the light here, at this season, very bad, especially since the erection of some new buildings very close to us, that I have been obliged to wait for a favourable day, as regards sun-shine, before I could hope to be able to answer your queries, which I now proceed to do, seriatim

No. 1 & 2. Ferula nodiflora.

I find no specimen so named in the Linnean Herbarium; nor is there any indication in the marked copy of the Species Plantarum that Linnaeus ever possessed it. The only specimen among his Ferulae that at all resembles Lobel's figure at p. 783, is one which, when in England, five years ago, you appear to have named "Ferula tomentosa, N." <sup>fig. 10</sup>

No. 3. Colchicum montanum.

The sheet inscribed in the hand of Linnaeus himself "2. montanum", with the <sup>following</sup> addition, in pencil, in that of Sir James Eschsch. Smith, "minime, N.S." "An Bulbodium venustum?" "sic ripetum, vit. 1857" bears on the back of the sheet, in the hand of Linnaeus, "Habitat in elloraa".

~~Beside~~ In addition to the two more obvious leaves, spreading right and left, there is certainly a third,



which lies upon, and seems to sheathe or unfold,  
the left-hand flower, and there may possibly be a  
fourth, behind the right-hand flower and its  
spathe. The one which is directed towards the  
right, of the two principal leaves, † has the edges  
distinctly involute towards the apex of the leaf,  
so that both may possibly have been, as you  
suggest "arte explicata". The enclosed rough  
pencil sketch may serve to show the position  
of the leaves, and their proportions &c.

Mr Linnaeus's definition must surely have been  
taken up from the living plant, not from his  
own dried spec<sup>n</sup>, or he never could have de-  
scribed the leaves as "linear".

No. 4. Statice reticulata. The authentic spec<sup>n</sup> in the  
Linnaean Herbarium, which is without habitat, has  
small (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long) obovate obtuse, but not emar-  
ginate, 1-nerved leaves, thick & fleshy, with revolute  
edges, not glaucous, apparently. Panicle much  
branched, quite glabrous.

"S. cordata", L. ms. ["Ex agro Nicicensi, Allisoni. Lino-  
nium marit. minus, folioli cordatis, J. B."] also in  
the hand of Linnaeus, on the bark of the stem.  
Leaves three as long as those of S. reticulata, L. fl.,  
obovate spatulate, rather than obovate, emarginate  
or slightly notched at end, gradually attenuated into  
long, ~~woolly~~ petioles; somewhat revolute at the margin,  
pubescent. Entire panicle and calyx <sup>very</sup> hairy, almost  
tomentose.

No. 5. Veronica latifolia.

The type-spec<sup>n</sup> of this species, very closely resembles, if  
it be not identical with, the V. Pseudochamaedryf, Jacq.,  
and is quite different from the V. verticillata, Jacq., of  
both which Linnaeus possessed specimens, communi-  
cated to him by Jaquin, and named in his own  
hand. The Linnaean spec<sup>n</sup> of V. latifolia has its  
elongated and very unequal calycine teeth of the  
former species, and the thicker leaves, with revolute  
margin, and bluish turgescence, very unlike the  
thin, membranous, flat leaves, with acuminate serr-  
atures, and apices of the V. verticillata; almost the  
only difference being that in Jaquin's spec<sup>n</sup> of his V.  
Pseudochamae the pedicels are 2 or 3 times as long as the  
bracts, while in Linnaeus's latifolia, they are, when the  
plant is in flower, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the same length. a



second specimen, smaller in all its parts, was subsequently added by Linnaeus, on the same sheet, overlapping the larger ones. This is, in all probability, as suggested by Smith, P. Trucicum.

No. 6. Thymus Zygis. There are two sheets, bearing this name, in the Linnaean Herbarium, the first, with the addition "H. B." in Smith's hand (implying that it is also the Zygis of the Banksian Herbarium), has several divergent, or ascending branches, one of which is terminated by a capitulum, with a single detached verticil below it. Of this, the calyxes are campanulate.

The second, marked by Linnaeus

"Thymus Zygis Zygis", with a "?" added by Smith, consists of a single erect stem, bearing a crowded towards the top several elongated erect flowering spikes, very hairy, the calyxes subcylindrical, with numerous (15?) very prominent nerves.

To this, another sheet is pinned, bearing a different plant from either, but unnamed, and without any information, as to its history.

No. 7. Alyssum cristatum.  
Leaves entire <sup>wavy</sup> or <sup>1</sup> with very shallow teeth (repando-saberdenticulate). Style as long as, or a little longer than, the germens.   
at the time of flowering.

Trusting that these notes, which, in accordance with your suggestions, I have jotted down in English, will give you all the information you require

I remain,

with much esteem

very truly yours

Rich<sup>d</sup> Hippis Lib<sup>o</sup>

Profr. R. de Visiani  
h. d. s.

May do not trouble yourself to acknowledge this.

The note for Mr. Hooker was duly forwarded.

COVA  
NOV  
1870  
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JUN  
1870



Al Signore

Prof. Roberto de Visiani, M.D.

R. orto Botanico

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Italy.

PL

