

whose substratum is a bed of fine pebbles strongly cemented and but slightly covered with a yellowish dust and sand. This track is almost perfectly level, rather slightly depressed in the centre and here and there dissected by runs, bordered by Redwoods. Upon this I found a most peculiar combination of our flora.

- 1) *Pinus contorta* (?)
- 2, *Pinus muricata*? (a strongly marked one)
3. *Castanea chrysophylla* 40-60 f. h. 2-3 dia. in full blossom on the 23/9 63.
4. *Arbutus Menziesii*
5. *Myrica Californica*
6. *Arctostaphylos tomentosa* & *juncea*
7. *Vaccinium avatum* & another
8. *Thalassia*
9. *Rhododendron*
10. *Gaultheria Shallon*. 11. *Cupressus* (?)

Around the shrubs in depressions peculiar mosses, a *Denticularis* and the above mentioned *Calamagrostis* also. Another coarse rough grass apparently a *Carex* spreads over the driest parts. The settlers know this track under the name "plains".

San Francisco Oct²⁰ 1865.

Dr. A. Gray. Cambridge Mass.

Dear Sir,

Your favor of Sept. 11 and a note of earlier date in Prof. Brewer's letter have been duly received. The lists of grapes will have reached you ere this. I feel really sorry for having delayed the matter so long, but it was done with the best of intentions.

With the greatest pleasure shall I send you plants, seeds, cones &c, whatever may be of interest. The collection of cones just made in Mendocino and Monterey Co. will just enable me to send you fine cones of 4-5 different species. I am just now filling a box for Dr. Engelmann. It was especially in his interest that I spent a week at Monterey. I have satisfied myself that there are no more but two species of pines near that place. *Pinus insignis* & *muricata*.

The characters of the former especially are so strikingly constant that it is quite curious to me how that pine could get so many names. It is true, there are in a few rare cases two different looking cones on the same tree which may by considering them individually give rise to synonymy (you will see them)

My attention was also directed to the various oaks. In Anderson Valley Mendocino Co I found no less than 7 different species. Considering all the variations of *Q. agrifolia* as one sp. only. The settlers distinguish them also. Next spring I hope to be able to collect them all in flowering state. Many of the varieties of *Q. agrifolia* had no acorns this season.

Passing through the Redwoods at the North end of the valley I found *Achlys triphylla* quite plentiful. The settlers call it May-apple.

At the banks of Rancherie Creek at the south end of Anderson Valley I met a fine colony of *L. occidentalis*; the station is new as

far as I know. We have that tree then at three isolated localities on the Coast range: at San Diego, east of Salinas river Monterey Co. (fide Dr. Canfield) and at the creek just spoken of.

Dr. Canfield has quite a collection of plants, chiefly made in the Salinas. He spoke of sending them to you. He mentioned a box, sent to you some time ago, of which he has heard nothing since. Knowing you punctual I infer, it must have been lost.

In two extensive swamps at Mendocino City I found a *Calamagrostis* unknown to me; it is different from the form known to exist here.

Abies amabilis & *grandis* both seem to be one and the same tree. This as well as *Tsuga Douglasii* seem to crush out the Redwoods at that section of the country.

From the banks of the Albin up to Noyo, a distance of 30 Miles, about 3 Miles from the coast is a peculiar tract of land 6-10 Miles wide