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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	4291	Press Mis.
Dated	25-10-1883.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 6334,

From Dr. Bidie

Dated 6th Oct 1883.

FOR ORDERS.

It is presumed Dr. Bidie's letter, ^{certainly} for which perhaps he should be thanked, should be recorded with reference to G.O. 26th Sept 1883 no: 1189 pressing orders on the reports of Mess^{rs} Dawson & Trimen.

B.
18/10/3.

Nothing further seems necessary at present as the Reports of Dr. Trimen & Mr Dawson & the G.O. thereon are now before the S of State & we must await his reply to our despatch

N^o 19. E.F.W.
18/10/

Cur: no: 6334.

FOR ORDERS.

The Hon: Mr. Sullivan
The Right Honble
The Governor
Colonial

Through Mr. A. Lawson Esqre. Director of Government Cinchona
Plantations, Parks & Gardens, Malgiris

Government Central Museum

No 866

Egmore

Madras 5th October 1883

From

Brigade Surgeon George Bidie M.B.B. & B.
Superintendent Government Central
Museum.

To

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
With the Governor
Stonehouse Hill

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge with
thanks a copy of G.O. No 282 of 16th August
1883, forwarding Dr. Trimen's Report on the
Government Cinchona Plantations, and
inciting my remarks on certain points.

2/ I have little further to say as to the nature
of the plant known as "pubescens". I have
never asserted positively that it is not a hybrid,
but on the contrary put all my past
remarks in the interrogatory form. Dr. Trimen
has ably stated the present state of the question
and time will do the rest. It may be remarked,
however, in passing that Mr. McInnis's views
as to the nature of this plant were very hazy,
as in para 15 of his report for 1873-74 he
observes

observed, a very important variety of *Cinchona* (*C. Pubescens* Howard) has been discovered among the various varieties which we have hitherto termed hybrids. Again he remarks the results obtained by Mr Howard were still more favourable, and I quote at foot, from his letter of 20th February 1874, the opinion of this eminent quinologist with reference to this species which he has named "*Pubescens*". Mr Howard's remarks referred to above were "in reply to yours of the 20th December I have to congratulate you on the discovery of the hairy-leaved variety of the *C. officinalis* which is clearly a great success." Obviously therefore Mr Mc Lior and Mr Howard, in 1874, regarded *pubescens* as a variety and not a hybrid.

Mr Howard, he says, it is believed, so great an authority on botanical questions as to be scarcely supposed, see his late controversy at the Edinburgh.

3/ With regard to the plant No 1, (*Cinchona lanceifolia*) of the list in para 4 of Dr Trimen's report there appears to be some doubt. During my visits to the estates in successive years various trees have been pointed out to me as specimens of *C. lanceifolia*, and it is only of late that the trees in the nursery near the Galap garden, have been fixed on as the only examples of the species. From an examination of dried specimens in Mr Mc Lior's collection lodged in the Museum and others collected by myself I am of opinion, that the trees in question are mere

mere varieties of *C. officinalis*.

4/ With regard to the corky-barked species, referred to in para 16 of Dr Trimen's report, it may be mentioned, that its affinities were pointed out by me in the descriptive list of species sent to the Pharmaceutical Society, and reprinted at page 821 of their Journal of 7th April 1883. As pointed out by Dr Trimen Col. Beddome was not the first to notice the plant. It was well known to Mr Mc Lior, and the herbarium sent by him to the Museum some years before his death contains a specimen of it, labelled "*Cinchona species corky bark*".

5/ With regard to the remarks of Sir J. D. Hooker regarding the extent to which crossing of species has taken place on the Government estates, and quoted in para 8 of Dr Trimen's letter, it may be pointed out, that Government were warned by me of the risk in this direction in 1878 (See page 43 of *Cinchona* Committee's Report dated 31st August 1878). It was further suggested that to secure supplies of absolutely true and healthy seed, it would be desirable to have small preserves of standard trees left intact as seed-producers, and grown in isolated spots so as to be beyond the risk of hybridisation.

6/ With regard to the necessity for a quinologist I

I am of opinion, that frequent analyses are necessary for the guidance of the Director in his experiments, but it does not seem absolutely essential that the chemist should be actually on the spot. In their remarks on this subject the cinchona Committee of 1878, of which I was a member, said that if the superintendence of the cultivation be in future confided to the care of some one of practical and scientific attainments in botany and gardening, there is no necessity for a chemist to reside on the plantations. The Superintendent should have full power to communicate with an European chemist of repute in regard to analyses of specimens of bark of various species, or cropped in various ways, and it would be convenient to the Superintendent that some gentleman of established reputation, such as Dr. Paul, President of the Pharmaceutical Society, should be appointed by the Home Government as chemical referee in all questions connected with the cinchona culture in India. Since these remarks were written various changes in and additions to the establishment and laboratory of the Chemical Examiner to Government have been made, and there seems no reason why he should not now be constituted chemical referee for the cinchona estates

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant,

Signed / J. Lidice M.D. Brigade Surgeon
Superintendent Government
Central Museum.

No 867

True copy forwarded to the Secretary
to Government, Revenue Department

Government Central Museum
Bengalore
Madras 6th October 1883.

Lidice Brigade Surgeon
Superintendent Government
Central Museum.

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80. mis No 4291.

Dr. Vidic was be
thanked for his interest
letter which was recorded
with reference to g.o. 26th Sep^r
1883 no: 1189. k

25/10/83.
25. Oct 1883.

S. 1. Brigade Surgeon G. Birnie M.D.C. 185.
1. M. A. Lawson Esq. Dr. Govt. Secy
Plantations, Nilgiris Garden.
Dec. 31-10-83.

Revenue (1883) Department

From No 6334

The Superintendent
Government Central
Museum



Min. G. O. 25. Oct 1883

Dated 6th October 1883
Despatched do
Recd 8th do

Dec 21 1883
Dist from orders

Communicating copy of
his letter to the Government
through Mr. A. Lawson Esq.
offering remarks on certain
points in Dr. Frimley's Report
on the Government Cinchona
Plantations, Nilgiris.

With an order

18-10-83.
24-10-83.