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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	4292	Press Mis.
Dated	25-10-1883.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No 364

Fort Sanderson

Oct 9
Nov 8. x. 1883

To H. E. Lither Esq.

Sir

I have the honor to
enclose a letter from Brigadier
Surgeon G. Bidie Esq. M.D. &
on the subject of Dr. Twining
report on the Fort Couch
Plantations.

I am

Sir

Yr. obedt. Servant
W. A. Lawson
Director

Through Mr. A. Lawson Esqre, Director of Government
Cinchona Plantations, Parks and Gardens Nilgiris.

Government Central Museum
No 866
Egmore

Madras 5th October 1883

From
Brigade Surgeon George Bidie M.B. B. I.C.
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 Govern-
ment Cinchona Plantations, and inviting 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. McIner's views as to the
nature of this plant were very hazy, as in para

15 of his report for 1873-74 he observes, "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 quimologist 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'. Ambiguously therefore Mr McClellan and Mr Howard, in 1874, regarded *pubescens* as a variety and not a hybrid.

3/ With regard to the plant No 1 (*Cinchona lanceifolia*) of the list in para 11 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 Jalap garden, have been fixed on as the only examples of the species. From an examination of dried specimens in Mr McClellan's collection lodged in the Museum and others collected by myself I am of opinion, that the trees in question are mere varieties of *C. officinalis*.

4/ With regard to the early-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 82 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 McClellan, and the herbarium sent by him to the Museum some years before his death contains a specimen of it, labelled '*Cinchona* species early 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 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 quimologist

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 someone 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 our European chemist of repute in regard to analyses of specimens of barks 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 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,

Edw. Brigade Surgeon
Superintendent Government
Central Museum.

W. P.

Revenue (1883) Department

From

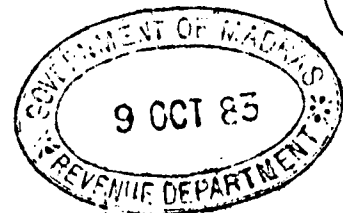
The Superintendent
Government Central
Museum

No 866

Dated 5th October 1883
Despatched do
Reed

No

Offering remarks on certain
points in Dr. Trimmer's Report
on the Government Linchona
Plantations, Nigeria.



REVENUE (1883) DEPARTMENT.

No. 0362

From the Director, for the
Plantations &
Indies

Dated 8th
Recd. 9th } October 1883

No. 366

Enc: 1

SUBJECT.

Letter from Dr. H. H. H.
offering remarks on certain
points in Dr. H. H. H.
on the for the Cane and
Indies.

Memo: G. O. No. 4292.

Loaded with reference to order
dated 25th inst. on cur: 6334.

18/10/83

The same letter
sent directly

25. Oct.