

SHEFFIELD SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL OF YALE COLLEGE,
New Haven, Connecticut.

Aug. 13. 1875.

My dear Mr. Watt.

Your fossil fern is very interesting to me, as it has better fruit than I have ever seen on such ancient ferns. I do not think it had anything to do with *Asplenium*, but after a very careful microscopic study of it I am strongly of the opinion that it comes into the order Marattiaceae, & in the order is nearest to Marattia itself.

A good many false genera
have been proposed in this
order, but Hooker has reduced
the genera to 4, *Angiopteris*,
Marattia, *Danaea*, & *Kaulfussia*.
Presl in his "Supplementum
Terrestrial Pteridopsaphice"
proposed these worthless genera,
& in the same place he has
two or three genera of fossil
ferns of the same order. I do
not know how good these
genera are -

But I saw a copy of
Schimper's work on palaeophy-
tology some months ago, and
I am very sure that I
noticed genera very close

To *Angiopteris* + *Sanea*.
As this order (*Marattiaceae*) is
one of so few genera, + not
many (good) species, + these
genera much differentiated,
it is reasonable to believe,
(if evolution be true) that
the order is very ancient, +
so it is probable that
ferns of this order would
sometimes be found in
the coal measures.

I enclose some scaps of
specimens for Dr. Dawson. The
young fruit of *Marattia*
cicutifolia strongly resembles
the fossil specimen, in which
by the way the best-preserved

fruit is seen on the side
where the white paper is ~~is~~
pasted on - in a little ledge
or shelf. I think I can
recognize several little
hollows radiating from
the fruit scar - as if the
fruit had been several-celled,
& these cells had left slight
depressions in the wood.

I return the specimen
in the original box -

Yours very truly.

Samuel C. Eaton.

Kaulfussia Assamica
India Orientalis

Handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper. The text is mirrored and appears to be in a cursive script, possibly German or French, but is illegible due to the bleed-through effect.



Marattia cicutaefolia

Brazil.

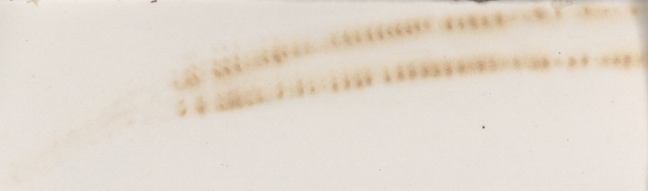
Young & mature fruit.

Handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper. The text is mirrored and difficult to decipher but appears to include the name of the plant specimen.



Marattia salicifolia
Natal. So. Africa

Handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper. The text is mirrored and appears to read: "L. J. ... of ..."



Marattia fraxinea
Teejic Islands.

Handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper.



Marattia *Kaulfussii*

So. America.

(Genus Eupodium of Presl)

Faint handwritten text, possibly a name or date, written in pencil or light ink on the top flap of the paper.



Faint handwritten text, possibly a name or date, written in pencil or light ink on the bottom flap of the paper.

Angiopteris evecta-

Malacca

Abies balsamea
Mill. (B.S.P.)



Danaea alata,
West Indies

1875
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