Ridgway Collection

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY.

ECONOMIC AND SYSTEMATIC BOTANY.

Washington, D. C., October 31, 1919.

Mr. Robert Ridgway,
1030 South Morgan Street,
Olney, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of October 27th has been received. Yesterday Mr. Skeels showed me some specimens of bamboo you had sent to him. Being sterile shoots I was unable to identify these beyond the genus. One of your specimens was labeled Arundinaria tecta. In a recent study of the Arundinarias in the United States we found that the real A. tecta occurs only on the coastal plain. A. macrosperma occurs both on the coastal plain and inland. In the manuals the species are differentiated mostly by their size. ~~A~~ large specimens of tecta ~~was~~ may be taller than small specimens of macrosperma. I had opportunity to study both species in bloom, and find them very distinct in their method of blooming. In macrosperma the panicles are borne on the old wood of the branching plants. In tecta the old branching leafy plants never bloom, the panicles are borne on leafless shoots produced from the running rhizomes. These shoots are from six inches to about two feet tall. After blooming they seem to die down and young leafy plants appear from other nodes in the underground part.

Very truly yours,

Agnes Chase

Assistant Systematic Agrostologist.