

*damenta Botanica*. Still many of those rules may, perhaps, not be universally approved, any more than your changes of names. I beseech you to consider what would be the consequence, if every body were to lay down such laws and regulations, at his pleasure, overturning names, already known and approved by the best authors, for the sake of making new ones. Would it not lead to worse than the confusion of Babel? I write with candour and sincerity, not from a spirit of wrangling or contradiction.

Siegesbeck, a man of a singular character, is printing a critical dissertation, in which your writings are, harshly enough, found fault with. I have had an opportunity of perusing it, as Dr. Fischer, chief physician to the Empress, has obtained leave to have it printed at the Academical press. The work is very short, but its brevity is, in my opinion, counterbalanced by spite and arrogance. The same may be said of the fundamental principles of Botany, prefixed to this treatise.

I have never seen *Ceratocarpum* in flower; but I here enclose its capsules, taken from a specimen gathered in the furthest part of Siberia, where this plant serves as food for a kind of jumping Rabbits, with a very long tail. If you will let me know what you want of the plants described in Buxbaum's *Centuriæ*, or in the Transactions of our Academy, I hope to be able, by next spring, to send you some of them, along with my treatise on the rarer plants