

The orders of the Viceroy have brought me to this place for the third time. I arrived but a few days since. Here I found your letter, which I have over and over again pressed to my lips, waiting for me. Henceforth I promise myself more frequent opportunities of writing to you. In my next letter, as I write this in haste, I will enclose flowers of the two genera abovementioned.

I have many things to communicate to you. Having, for nearly ten years past, been engaged in long and not unpleasant journeys over these extensive American regions, I found means to collect a surprising number of plants. Formerly, before I left Europe, I could scarcely give credit to the accounts of the vast fertility of the country about the river of the Amazons. But since I have been an eye-witness of such fertility, though I could not previously conceive an idea of it, I can readily give my testimony to the declaration of the learned M. de la Condamine — that many years would scarcely be sufficient for an able botanist and expert draughtsman to delineate, describe, and arrange systematically, the immense variety of plants found in that country. Though I made a great collection of plants, doubtless many have escaped me.

The *Begonia*\* I first met with, long ago, in a very celebrated forest called Tequendama, bordering

\* *B. ferruginea*, *Linn. Suppl.* 419, *Sm. Plant. Ic.* t. 46, must be the species here intended. The only species besides, sent by him, was *B. urticifolia*, *ibid.* t. 47; but this made a part of his second collection.