

CORR-  
PBW

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



7 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

June 18, 1984

Michael William Tingstron Corr  
Asian Medical Phyto-geography  
Smith hall DP-10  
University of Washington  
Seattle WA 98195

Dear Mr. Corr:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to Professor John Constable of April 4. Unfortunately, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences Herbicide Assessment Commission is no longer in operation and I know of no funds which might be used in support of this interesting work.

Sincerely,

Matthew Meselson  
Professor of Biochemistry

MM/db

ASIAN MEDICAL PHYTO-GEOGRAPHY, SMITH HALL RM-10

Professor John B. Constable, M.D.  
Department of Surgery, The Medical School  
Harvard University, 7 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1984

Dear Professor Constable,

In his letter of March 21, 1984, Professor Mathew Hecelison, Harvard Dept. of Biochem. and Molecular Bio., and Chairman of the AAAS Herbicide Assessment Commission, mentioned to me that you have recently participated in a conference on the health effects of herbicides in Vietnam. In your article, 'The Ecological Impact of "Large Scale Defoliation in Vietnam" (Sierra Club Bulletin 36 pp. 4-9, April 1971) you note that destruction from the insecticides was especially insidious because of the high rate of utilization of botanical natural resources by Vietnamese occupations. I personally would very much like to see a draft of your current report, or hope you will let me know how it will be published.

Between 1969 and 1975, I was Executive Secretary of the AAAS Committee on Environmental Alterations, and a Center Associate of the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems, Prof. Harry G. Simon, Director, at the Botany Research Laboratories of Washington U. in St. Louis. We co-authored a number of articles and Testimonies before I accepted a position as Research Fellow at the research institute for Humanistic Sciences at Kyoto University in Japan. My research there resulted in several papers including 'Environmental Husbandry and the Historical Japanese Village' (Kyoto Review, No. 7, Spring 1976), and 'Lake Biwa Watershed: Problems of Agricultural and Industrial Pollution' (M.A. thesis, Geography, U. of Washington, 1981), while my field notes and further research here at the U. of W. have resulted in a substantial draft for my Asian Medi-Cal Phyto-geography dissertation, 'An Ethnophenology for Kyoto with Applications of Geographical Relativism to East Asian Medicines'. From the paleolithic through 750 A.D., I have examined trends in Japanese plant communities associated with the human environment, especially with an eye towards materia medica. I will present an incidental paper entitled 'The 750 A.D. Manyoshu and Medical Geography' on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 1984 at the 7<sup>th</sup> Ethnobiology Conference here at the U. of Washington. I deal with around 1000 species of human interest in this research project, and note that the Conference features dozens of botany papers which might serve as paradigms for plant utility in your research. The registration fee for the 15-7<sup>th</sup> April conference is \$40, to be sent to Conferences and Institutes in Continuing Education, U.W., RM-50, Seattle WA 98195. Alternate status for your important Vietnamese HAC report at the conference might possibly be arranged through my dissertation advisor, Prof. E. Thum, Dept. Anthrop., Ad-10 Penny Hall, U. of W. (Tel. 206-545-6825).

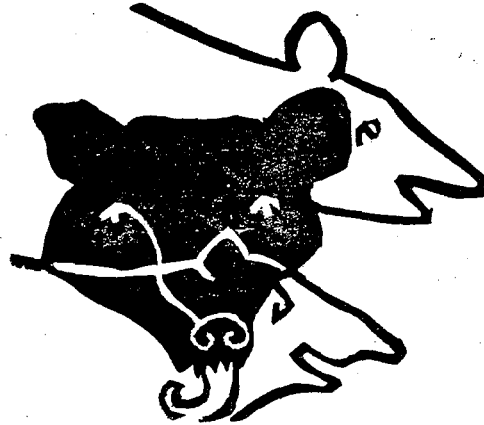
B.S., Math., (Antioch '65); M.S. Math (U.W. '65), M.A. Geog. (U.W. '81), Ph.D., Asian Medical Phyto-geography (U.W. '82; possible completion in 1984). I seek a research or teaching position in asian, environmental, anthropological or geographical studies. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

Cc: Prof. Gordon Orians, Inst.  
for Envt. Studies, U. of W.;  
Dr. Kamura Hitoshi, U.A.C.Y.,  
Kyoto U. Medical School  
Prof. M. Nixon, U. of Pennsylvania

Sincerely,

Michael William Singstrom Corr, Ph.D.  
(Home: 621 27<sup>th</sup> E., Seattle 98112)

Asian Medical Phyto-geography  
Smith Hall DP-10, U. of W., Seattle 98195  
Washington



Dear Professor Matthew Meselson,

As you have suggested, I have asked your colleague, Prof. John Constable, Dept. Surgery, Harvard, for details on his new manuscript regarding the AAAS Herbicide Assessment Commission's interest in the health effects of chemical warfare in Vietnam. My work (funded at 1500 dollars for 12 years of field work and consultations in or with Japan) has resulted in a 500 page dissertation on utilization of economic and subsidiary species numbering about 1000. I would be willing to provide the AAAS HAC with an advanced copy of this for one year w/ my former salary with the AAAS Committee on Environmental Alterations, \$12000

As you know minor species are important as vegetables, increasing the complexity of your analysis. Siri von Reis Altschul (Harvard Pr., 1976), and 'Tanaka's Cyclopedic of Edible Plants' (1976) often mention SE Asia. Do you have a comprehensive list or reference for economic and medicinal species for SE Asia? I could use one, especially if the early history of use is indicated, as has been in the Zhong Yao Da Tsu Dien (1979, Honk Kong, Peking) herbal.

Sincerely,  
Michael W. Corr

Cc. Prof John Constable  
Prof. E. Hunn, AJ 10 Anthro UW  
Prof N. Sivin, U Penn  
Prof G Orians, Zoology, UW