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Department of Biology

May 31, 2007

Rose Farmer
Travis County Parks and Natural Resources
411 W. 13th Street, 9th Floor
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Rose Farmer,

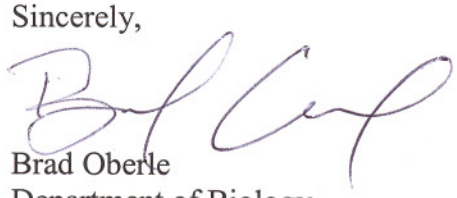
This letter summarizes the research activities that I have conducted under permit from the Travis County Parks and Natural Resources at the Wild Basin Preserve. I requested a permit to collect *Dodecatheon meadia*, which had been reported from the area. With the help of Mike Powers, who had flagged several clusters of plants, we quickly located the populations. The first consisted of about 20 plants along a rocky outcrop near 30° 18.587' N, 97° 49.322' W. None of these individuals were in bud at the time of my visit. The second consisted of about 10 plants in an open area near 30° 18.162' N, 97° 49.519' W. Because these plants were larger than those at the first locality, I collected one leaf from three different individuals for morphological and genetic analysis, but no voucher specimen. The last group of plants that we encountered occurred in similar habitat at 30° 18.182' N, 97° 49.496'.

Mike almost certainly made a correct determination of these plants, which is a major credit to his botanical acumen given their very small size. However, because they were not in flower at the time, and reportedly have not flowered this season, this determination is still questionable until the plants bloom or I complete my genetic analysis. My analysis will also confirm that plants at Wild Basin represent a new taxon. Herbarium specimens from Texas and Oklahoma that occur in drier habitats like Wild Basin exhibit several characters which distinguish them from typical *Dodecatheon meadia*. Specifically, they tend to have larger, paler anther connectives that taper gradually and do not cover the base of the anthers, in contrast to the small dark and abruptly tapering connectives of typical *D. meadia*. Furthermore, western plants have corolla lobes that are magenta rather than white or pink, and filaments that tend to be free rather than fused. I will provide a copy of the genetic analysis and any resulting taxonomic revision to this office upon the completion of my project.

Thank you for processing this permit. It was a pleasure working with you, and with the staff at Wild Basin, especially Mike Powers, who was very generous with his limited time. I hope that my research will ultimately provide practical recommendations for conserving our Nation's Natural Heritage, and I look forward to working with agencies such as yours in the future.

Washington University
Campus Box 1137
One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63130-4899
FAX: (314) 935-4432 / TEL: (314) 935-6860

Sincerely,



Brad Oberle
Department of Biology
Campus Box 1229
Washington University
St. Louis, MO 63130
(314) 935-7230
bjoberle@artsci.wustl.edu