

December 14, 1938

Dear Edgar Anderson,

I am certainly very much interested in your letter of November 30th, and should expect that such a joint paper as you suggest might be of real use, both to systemists and to statisticians. For my own part, however, I shall need to be clearer than I now am as to the purpose of the analysis, i.e., as to exactly what questions you propose to ask. Certainly the question (a) Given a single leaf, what compound of its measurements best discriminates nigrum from saccharum, and (b) the same question, given a group of leaves from the same tree, could be answered quite definitely from the material I suppose you to have. This would seem to be worth doing, first with a view to setting aside irrelevant measurements which do not contribute appreciably to the discrimination. If trees exist, derived in different proportions from the two species, one could also assess with known precision what proportions the mixture contains;

but do these questions exhaust the biological
problems you have in view?

Yours sincerely,