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Ternate, Moluccas,

Oct. 6. 1858.

My dear Sir

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July last,<sup>1</sup> sent me by Mr. Darwin<sup>2</sup>, & informing me of the steps you had taken with reference to a paper<sup>3</sup> I had communicated to that gentleman. Allow me in the first place sincerely to thank yourself & Sir Charles Lyell<sup>4</sup> for your kind offices on this occasion, & to assure you of the gratification afforded me both by the course you have pursued & the favourable opinions of my essay which you have so kindly expressed. I cannot but consider myself a favoured party in this Matter, because it has hitherto been too much the practice in cases of this sort to impute all the merit to the [[2]] first discoverer of a new fact or a new theory, & little or none to any other party who may, quite independently, have arrived at the same result a few years or a few hours later.

I also look upon it as a most fortunate circumstance that I had a short time ago commenced a correspondence with Mr. Darwin on the subject of "Varieties",<sup>5</sup> since it has led to the earlier publication of a portion of his researches<sup>6</sup> & has secured to him a claim to priority which an independent publication either by myself or some other party might have injuriously affected; -- for it is evident that the time has now arrived when these & similar views ~~must~~<sup>will</sup> be promulgated & ~~must~~<sup>be</sup> fairly discussed.

It would have caused me much [[3]] pain & regret had Mr. Darwin's excess of generosity led him to make public my paper unaccompanied by his own much earlier & I doubt not much more complete views on the same subject, & I must again thank you for the course you have adopted, which while strictly just to both parties, is so favourable to myself.

Being on the eve of a fresh journey I can now add no more than to thank you for your kind advice as to a speedy return to England; -- but I dare say you well know & feel, that to induce a Naturalist to quit his researches at their most interesting point requires some more cogent argument than the prospective loss of health.

I remain | My dear Sir | Yours very sincerely | Alfred R. Wallace [*signature*]

J. D. Hooker, M.D.

[[4]]<sup>7</sup> Jos. D. Hooker, M.D. F.R.S.

## ENDNOTES

1. Hooker's letter to ARW forwarded by Darwin is presumed lost (see WCP4825.5222).

2. Darwin, Charles Robert (1809-1882). British naturalist, geologist and author, notably of *On the Origin of Species* (1859).
3. Wallace, A. R. 1858. On the tendency of varieties to depart indefinitely from the original type. *Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society, Zoology*, **3**(9): 53-62.
4. Lyell, Charles (1797-1875). British lawyer and geologist.
5. See WCP1839.1729, Darwin to ARW, 1 May 1857; WCP4080.4027, ARW to Darwin, [27 September 1857] and WCP1840.1730, Darwin to ARW, 22 December 1857.
6. Darwin, C. R. & Wallace, A. R. 1858. On the tendency of species to form varieties; and on the perpetuation of varieties and species by natural means of selection. *Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society of London, Zoology*, **3**(9): 45-62.
7. The text on this page is written in the centre of the page, which is otherwise blank. Hooker's name appears here without an address; the letter was forwarded to him by Darwin (see University of Cambridge. 2019. Letter no. 2337. *Darwin Correspondence Project*. <<http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/DCP-LETT-2337>> [accessed 10 January 2019]).