

Davenport Iowa Jan'y 22^d 1884

Dear Watson

I have again taken up Chorizanthe, to bring my numerous notes and observations into systematic order and rearrange the species accordingly.

My 1st Sect. to include all with orbicular chyledons & curved radicle, comes in very good shape, and forms a natural series. Commencing with Centrostegia. I had made up my mind that C. membranacea should come next, regarding the saccate projecting knobs on the lower tube of the involucre to correspond to the spines of the previous species, which is more marked. than in the Chilian sp referred to by you, to sustain your view of placing Centrostegia, with Chorizanthe. but the single fl puzzled me, till a suspicion crossed my mind, is it really so? may there not be obscure evidence of more than one fl. The 1st careful dissection, fully confirmed this view, and in all the involucre since opened I have found. traces of one or more undeveloped

imperfect flowers. set near the base of the
long pedicelled perfect one. (as see specimen
enclosed, and which you can still better verify
for yourself. from the head herewith sent). This
of course makes every thing plain, and knocks
the last pin from under the genus Centrostegia.
Then will naturally follow. C. spinosa
leading by an easy step to C. polygonoides
& C. rigida, which again laps well on to
the Mucrona group of the 2^d Sect in which
while the radicle is straight, the chylidans are
blunt ovate, not linear as in all the succeeding
species. This seems to leave plain sailing
till I come to Lastaniera, which after a
very careful & close examination I fully
decide must come into Chorizanthe. by
regarding the true perianth as reduced to an
obscure ring in the throat of the involucre. and
theoretically adnate to it, in the same way as
stamens are often adnate to the corolla. It
will then stand nearest to C. brevicornis
to which it is related by its 3 stamens &
fragile joints

So this is the way the matter stands just now. in the progress of the work I may have occasion to consult you on other points. The only species of which I have not complete specimens are C. Breweri & C. Wheeleri. and I feel somewhat dubious of both. You know I got a large supply last year of C. Douglasii specimens nearly a foot in diameter. with debarperate ones only 2 or 3 inches. I also got a full supply of C. polygonoides. I do not yet know what I shall do with C. pungens & C. diffusa. I gathered at Monterey large quantities of what Douglas must have stepped on 1000 times, which I take to be true. C. pungens. agreeing with the figure in Lin. Trans in all except the uncinati awns. which may have been a mistake of the artist though Benths description corresponds with the figure. have you typed Douglas specimens to settle this point? I now incline to think that the San Francisco sp you C. crispata is different or that as well as C. diffusa all go together

I send to be sent several copies of
my Archaeophylus paper so intending
for you if you wish it.

I am getting along nicely through a cold but dry winter. Spent an evening lately with Prof Sheldon. who spoke kindly of you he is getting old. and looks broken down since his wife died. Has a niece Miss Forte living with him in the college building. but the college is not prosperous under Episcopal auspices the new Bishop - preferring to spend his time in European travel.

Of course you keep busy but in what
particular line I know not

Hope to hear from you soon
Mr Perry joins me in regards

Zur Zeit

C. C. Parry

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Parry, C. C. 1884. "Parry, C. C. Jan. 22, 1884 [to S. Watson]." *Charles Christopher Parry letters to Asa Gray*

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