

300 fewer than in Robinson
his good *Batrachium* are in my
mind but one or at most two his
Lappas all one - the *Humulus*
(*Coprosolite officinalis*, *micrantha* etc) all
one - the 30 or 40 *Rubus* *Hevacium*,
and *Roses* I should reduce to about
half a dozen species - in short
the more I see of European
plants the more I am persuaded
that the northern ones have
never been better distinguished
and the real species better estimated
(in most cases) than by Linnaeus
whose truly philosophical views
and extraordinary ~~apparently~~
methodical mind have never
been equalled before or since
his time -

This winter however I must not
at Leguminosae perchartensis *Flora*
Brasilensis - I have done *Genista*
Gallica & *Hedysarum* and just begun
at *Marcelia* the enormous number
of fragmentary specimens published as
species occasion immense labour in
working out synonymy - a most unsatis-
factory operation

Vauv's Park 73
Sept 8 1856

My dear Gray

I had left town some
time when your letter of
the 20th July reached me and
have since then been visiting
about As this will still
continue till the end of next
month I do not delay long
in answering you although I
cannot in doing so consult *herbaria*
I have no doubt whatever that
the *Acacia* you speak of is *A.*
tortuosa - the fruit you sketch
and describe is exactly the one of
that species. *A. Farnesiana* and *A.*
tortuosa are the two common
ones in the West Indies and
Central America and since
materials have accumulated on

our herbaria we are obliged to admit that both are extremely variable in foliage and often scarcely to be distinguished from each other without the fruit I shall look again however at the points you mention about the shape of the flower - I think it will turn out that several of the species I have admitted are but varieties of the one or the other - *A. Cavendishii* (the original one from Chile and Ouenos Ayres) has the fruit of *barneriana* and is I think merely a small-leaved variety although it is not impossible I may have sometimes mistaken for it small-leaved varieties of *tortuosa* - and if I do not misrecollect *macrocartha* & *macrocarthoides* differ from *tortuosa* only in foliage - but I shall go through the whole subject carefully for

the *Flora Brasiliensis*

When you come to have large sets of specimens of your Western *Centotheca*, I think you will find many of them ~~very~~ like your common *Centotheca* ones and that I have admitted too many species - some of them run into one another in cultivation although the number we have in our gardens is fast diminishing Californian plants are not so much in fashion as they were not being so easily grown in bed as the *Hobbesii*, *relaxa*, *perlongum*, *pettinum* etc from the Southern hemisphere - Certainly *Centotheca* very much in the size of the flower and the breadth of their leaves

At odd times I have been working my British Plants and if I ever publish them according to my own views I should enumerate in ^{the} British Flora about 200 fewer species than in Hook and Arn and

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In the mean time our town
in the country has done us
a wonderful deal of good. Last
winter I had got into a very
uncomfortable state of digestion
which has now got quite right
again although I feel that
coming new upon so I cannot
do what I could at 26 and I
see little prospect of my
vigor lasting till I have
finished the various botanical
jobs I have in hand - I doubt
ever completing my monograph
of Leguminosae towards which
I have done so much

My wife joins me in
kindest remembrances to
yourself & Mr. Gray

Ever yours most sincerely

George Bentham



Bentham, George. 1856. "Bentham, George Sept. 8, 1856." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

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