

a thick fleshy albumen in the same family - Leguminosae (including Oleaceae) - Sapotaceae - Rhizophoraceae etc. but I did not expect it in Rubiaceae.

Martius is printing my Brazilian Leguminosae - but I am afraid the selection of the plates will not be of the best. There is no one who will make the drawings here on his terms, nor indeed can drawings be got within a reasonable time on any terms - and Martius has not very copious materials and notwithstanding what I say seems disposed to treat the underlings with copied two or three copied plates - I have however sent him specimens to figure of some genera - but it is awkward printing a work at such a distance from the author that he cannot see the proofs.

We are delighted with the prospect of seeing you again on this side of the water and sincerely hope you will bring Mr Gray with you.

Yours ever sincerely

George Dontham

91 Victoria Street
Westminster
April 4 1850

My dear Gray

I shall be very much obliged to you for the Hong Kong things of Wrights you mention and shall be happy to name any doubtful ones generally. Dr Harland (recently appointed Colonial surgeon there) has been over here and brought with him a great many interesting species which he and Hance had collected making an addition of at least 80 or 100 species to those enumerated by Seemann from that little bit of an island - including a handsome new Melastomaceous plant - not a Melastoma - from the top of Victoria Peak and 4 fine Carex's beside the P. chinensis and C. indica already known from there. I named Dr Harland's plants for him and have kept the novelties with the intention of getting up a paper for the Linnean or the additions to Seemann's list. Amongst others there is a

shrub which has all the characters of *Neptunia* (you are aware I suppose that *Neptunia* & the adjoining *Guaiacum* DC. Prodr. are identical as to species) but the inflorescence different of which I should be very anxious to see more perfect specimens. There is also a very fine *Polygonum*. If you are publishing Wrights I had better perhaps send you the descriptions of *Horlandia* so as to make one paper of both.

Species *Cariguiare* and *Brenou* plants which I am now preparing for distribution supply many capital things - One I consider a great catch *Arteranthus Brachianus* in excellent flower - which shows that the strongly doubted origin of the plant was after all correct - and the specimens look as if they had served as the model of Desfontaines' or rather Herpin's figure made up of mere fragments. I feel more and more convinced that this and *Napoleon* should be associated with *Myrtaceae* and are not more anomalous than *Lecythis* and *Barringtonia*. I have already also come across *Ramatiella* HBK

with a second species - a second species of *Leptia* Schomb. which in describing for him I referred to *Pachyrrhizum* Steyer at *has 5 stamens* - a second species of *Rhopertium* HBK^{but} with only 5 stamens & anomalous *Saltia* - 5 or 6 new *Metzger* several fine *Platanus* etc.

Engelbach is doing wonders with the West Indian Flora. What is known has been published in so many independent places that when they come to be investigated the species prove to have been placed so frequently in different genera that the necessary cutting down is greater perhaps than in any other exotic Flora. I think his book promises to be a very useful one.

I am afraid it will be some time before you get any of Spruce's *Ranunc* plants for they are not yet despatched from that country - and after that I am now doing there is still the Upper Amazon and Tarapoto collection which I have not even unpacked.

You startle me about the embryo of *Guettarda* which adds another instance to the many we know already of a thick almost exalbuminous embryo, and



Bentham, George. 1858. "Bentham, George Apr. 4, 1858." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

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