

25. WILTON PLACE,
S.W.

Dec 30/63

My dear Gray

I should be delighted to hear that you really are at a Prod. H. M. Amer which is so very much wanted and which you will do so well and might do so quick and I trust you will remember that although perfection is desirable yet it would be better to sacrifice a little of it to avoid delay.

I quite agree with you that *Oxytropis* must be kept up as a genus although purely artificial - almost as much diversity in fruit occurs in the Australian *Rovinsonia*, as in the northern *Astragalus-coriaceus* and separating into a completely closed hemicarpel, or inflated without any trace of internal intrusion.

As to *Horackia*, in going through all the lotoid genera I still think that *Microlotus* goes best as a section of *Lotus* otherwise I know not how to define the latter genus. All my *Eulotus* (*Anthyllis*, *Helminthocarpum*, *Pyrenocarpus*, *Scutigeria*, *Oxytropis*, *Dorycnium*, *Lotus* and *Horackia*) pass

almost gradually into each other and are scarcely separable from the *Coronilleae*.

We should have been very glad to have printed your *Astragalus* paper in the *Linnean Journal* - and hope you will send us something else. I wish above all you would get us up some of your views of geographical distribution or subjects of that kind.

Astragalus vaginatus of Richardson is determined in the herbarium by Planchon to be *Placa australis* and I think correctly it is certainly not *Placa* n° 1 of Bourgeas. The latter is not in fruit and appears to be the same as *Syali*; "*Astragalus* n° 1 alpinus var. fide A. G." in Black's handwriting - It is scarcely however *A. alpinus* but without the fruit I cannot precisely match it.

Very glad to hear Mr Gray is better remembers me most kindly to him.

Hooker will have given you particulars of the end of poor Dr. Scott.

Yours ever

George Bentham



Bentham, George. 1863. "Bentham, George Dec. 30, 1863." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

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