

25. WILTON PLACE.
S.W.

Nov 10 1884

My dear Gray

I am much interested in some investigations into the morphology of the perigynium of *Carex* and the help of our excellent friend Dr. Booth has carried a course of facts which was always available. As there is no place where the genus has been more studied than in North America I apply to you in the hope that you may procure me the means of investigating the following circumstances

1 Dr. Booth told me that hermaphrodite flowers have been seen in the genus I am exceedingly ^{anxious} to examine any such could you procure me a specimen or tell me where a detailed description is to be seen.

2 He also said, what to me is more important, that a perigynium had been observed in a male flower. This I am particularly anxious to see if possible. Any observations on the ^{homology} ~~homology~~ of the perigynium, or the indication of any work

modify my previous sketch of the tribes of *Coelalpiniae*. The true *kwadriver* must leave it they have always (which was known but I had overlooked) the reflexed radiate of *Papilionacea* and the polyptalony genera *Zotteronia* *Erythraea* and *Aldina* the upper petal always or sometimes outside, although in the two first it appears to be vascular. *Martia* is a *Carex*, the upper petal always inside and a straight embryo - *Erythrophloeum* must after all go back to *Coelalpiniae* next to *Demorphantra* - whilst *Pathea* & *Deutalethra* are true *Chimerae*.

Epstein has I think made a map of *Chimerae* in his flora. Some unacceptable transportation of his memoranda has made him say that *Acacia* *lamar* *riadpotia* has 10 stamens only in the specimen, we have from all the collections he quotes there are as required by *Paquin* above 50. His decaandrous *Calliandra* may have sometimes only 10 stamens but not regularly so and always united in a tube not regularly alternating with and opposite the petals as in the true decaandrous genera.

The Japanese collections from Rothman which Olive has just been determining are very interesting - some of *Zinnia*'s genera and many species we had not before - A new *Euchresta* amongst others - and a *penanti* - *leaves* *desmodium* (we have another from New Caledonia).

Ever yours sincerely George Peckham
Kindest remembrances to Mr. Gray who I trust is quite well again.

where the subject is discussed would be
received with great thankfulness.

Can you also give me a complete list
of North American Academies or
Societies who publish Zoological or
Botanical Papers, and of N. American
periodicals existing or defunct devoted
to Zoology or Botany or both?

I trust you received safe the 2^d
vol of my Flora Australiensis which
I sent for you to Trübner early in
October. I am now just finishing
up Leguminosae for Genera Australis
and in a few days, shall commence
upon Myrtaceae for Genera and
for Fl. Austral. Dr Hooker has
nearly finished most of this order.
~~soon~~ ~~that~~ come before Umbelliferae
so that I think we shall soon
begin printing before we attack this
formidable Order.

We are remarkably badly off for

specimens of some things that ought
to be common. Of *Gleditsia* for
instance one flowering specimen, one
few and bad - although sufficient for
my purpose. Of *Gynnocladus* we have
no female flowers - beautiful male
specimens and fruits but no female
in flower or bud.

I am much alarmed at having to
publish about a dozen new Leguminosae
genera chiefly *Coccolpiniae* from
tropical Africa. I think I shall have
most of them figured in *Sim. Mon.*,
some upland ones - one of *W. Planch.*
with flowers & seeds, long a tall
woody climber with 3 *digitate* leaflets
- and a second species from Mann
with the same habit & foliage and
 handsome flowers although not
half the size - I have been obliged
to reunite all the *Bauhinioideae* genera
and reduce *Guilandina* *Enthyostemon*
Cladostichium *Pomoria* *Balsamocarpum*
Coalteria *Lebedzei* and *Cinchidocarpus*
to section of *Coccolpinia* keeping up
Peltophorum and *Myzomelum* with some
hesitation. I have been obliged also much to



Bentham, George. 1864. "Bentham, George Nov. 10, 1864." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

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