

the nature of a dik is very probable, but
that the ordinary integument consists
of two carpellary leaves, is not I think
proven. My own opinion is that it is
not precisely homologous, either to the
carpellary leaves or to the ovular inte-
guments of Angiosperms, that Gymno-
sperms and Angiosperms are not modifications
one of the other but - if we enter into
the derivative hypothesis to that extent
separate descendents from a common
type in which the various organs ^{or rudiments} ~~are~~
enclosed the nucleus were as yet but
very little differentiated and that this
differentiation has been so various in
the different branches that the parts
produced cannot always be strictly
compared with each other either as to
number or relative arrangement.
Stratburger is an ardent disciple of
Hooker, and like DePino gives full vent
to imagination in the sketching out of
genealogical trees. I do not believe that
there is a tittle of evidence to show that
Conjuga *perispermus* *dicotyledon* are descended
from *Conjuga* any more than that
Compositae are descended from *Lobelia*.

25, WILTON PLACE.
S.W.

Dec 9 1872

My dear Gray,

In consequence of your note to
Hooker I have sent you by post Vol. II
part 2 of Hooker's cones and will send
the future parts regularly at 7/6
postage included. Since the 2^d part of
the ~~first~~ ^{second} number. I have taken upon
myself the whole charge of the work
and am sorry to say it is a very heavy
one which prevents our going on as
regularly as it could wish. The plates
of another part - chiefly *Compositae*
and *Rubiacinae* are all ready but
the descriptions are waiting till I get
the corresponding portion of our *Genera*
Plantarum out of the printer's hands
I cannot induce them to proceed more
rapidly than one sheet per week.

is that the printing will still take a couple of months at least. I have sent to you all that have been as yet definitively struck off but there are already six more sheets in type. I hope to send you two this week.

I regret Hooker's oversight about the fruit of *Lymphocarpus*. I am afraid your acuteness with details may such notwithstanding the time we have bestowed on the work, the *Compositae* especially where the characters are so vague and slight. I fear I may not always have been careful enough in verifying appearances. I have never forgot what Rostk Schumacher once said to me that one cannot expect to give good generic characters without working up all the species - and working up all the 10,000 species of *Compositae* would have been a hopeless undertaking.

at least at 72 - fortunately *Compositae* are generally so easily softened in cold water and the internal structure of the ovary and fruit is so uniform that I have been able to examine many more species of the large genera within a given time than I could of almost any other order.

I have all but finished *Dictyledon*, for *Flora Australiensis*. I am now only working up the figs which I had delayed in hopes of receiving that part of the *Prodrromus* - but I now find that it will be many months before Bureau has got through them and I want to begin printing. In doing *Coniferae* I have necessarily had to look at Strasburger's book which seems to be the result of very careful observation and is beautifully illustrated. I cannot go quite with him as to the homology of the integument of the nucleus. That the cup of *Taxodium* is of

and if the simile of a genealogical tree
is to be made use of it must be very
differently understood - a question which
I may perhaps take up in my next
address

I read your note on *Symphoricarpos*
at the Linnean last Thursday pray
send the rest of the paper (the
synopsis of species) as soon as convenient

Ever yours

George Deakman



Bentham, George. 1872. "Bentham, George Dec. 9, 1872." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

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