

25, WILTON PLACE.
London S.W.

May 5/76

My dear Gray

Have you ever examined
Lycopis if so tell me what you think
of the floral envelope. They
are generally described as
6, three outer ones
of which 2 lateral navi.



cular and persistent (a and b) quite glumaceous,
the third (c) ~~was~~ very broad, thinner
scarious or almost petallike, convoluted
so as completely to enclose the 3 inner
petaloid ones and very deciduous. Now
it appears to me that a and b inserted
at the base of the perianth tube and
persistent are bracteoles and that
c alone attached with the inner

more persistent ones to the apex of
the tube in the sole representation
of the outer pericarp of Monocots

I had great difficulty in finding
the embryo of *Xyris* which nobody
has figured except Goetner who is
quite wrong. I found it at last
with Oliver's help (as indeed it has
been described in the generic characters)
as lenticular under the small point
at the apex of the seed - applied to not
enclosed in the albumen.

I hoped to have sent the
copies of Genera by this time as I
understand it has been some days
in the binder's hands but no doubt
shall be able to send your box off
in a very few days

Yours very truly
George Bentham

I have been much puzzled with
the Order ^{or} tribes of *Heliconia* - *Juncaceae*
and have been obliged to arrange
them with special reference to the
Australian Genera - Baker has been
a great help to me - but he has
not done the so-called *Xerolidae*
and the Australian *Heliconiaceae*
and not much like your N. American
way



Bentham, George. 1876. "Bentham, George May 5, 1876." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

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