

New July 26/02

My dear Gray

Your letter and the seed of *Oodox-*  
*stomum* have come at the right time and seem  
to me to confirm my views that the genus belongs  
to *Conantheraceae* which I regard as a tribe rather  
of *Boenodora* than of *Liliaceae*. In each of the  
tribes of *Boenodora* there are (as in *Bromeliaceae*)  
genera with the ovary inferior half inferior or free  
in all the embryo is not ~~so~~ entirely enclosed in the  
albumen <sup>as in *Liliaceae* etc.</sup> but is either marginal or more or less entered  
with the thick radicular end more or less distinctly  
protruded, and in making a  
vertical section of one of the seed  
you send I find it like this much  
as I have never seen in hundreds  
of seeds of *Liliaceae* that I have dissected



I have not done the *Perotroceae* yet but now on  
receiving your letter I look into the seeds of *Contichia*  
*freemontii* or *Lygadium glaucum*, which  
I find like this



The *Orchideae* are now all printed off except  
the last sheet *Scitamineae* and *Bromeliaceae* are  
all in type *Boenodora* will be in this week  
proof *Widex* and *Monadelphae* are in the printer's  
hand.

about 150 or 160 genera of Liliaceae are done  
but there are still some 20 or 30 [easy] ones to  
examine and I cannot get quite made up  
my mind as to grouping them - and the  
drawing or Compositing Generum is very difficult  
to draw up

In the pointed off portion there will  
be two or three corrigenda as to geographical  
distribution

Thanks for the faded flowers of  
Hesperanthes - I cannot consider them as  
spirally twisted the twist is very slight and  
rare and almost accidental

I made a great mistake in H. Australis  
in placing Myrsinites in the spirally twisted  
genera - In first copying out my rough  
notes the word now was accidentally  
omitted and the error was not detected  
till after publication

Yours very sincerely

George Bentham

I have been staying the last fortnight  
at Hosker's whilst workmen are in my

house to which I return on Tuesday - whilst  
here I have been able to work at least  
eight hours a day in the herbarium



Bentham, George. 1882. "Bentham, George July 26, 1882." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/226393>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/261281>

**Holding Institution**

Harvard University Botany Libraries

**Sponsored by**

Arcadia 19th Century Collections Digitization/Harvard Library

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: Public domain. The Library considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection

License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.