

Rio Janeiro was really from *Levander*
and was the type of my *Eriocaulon radicans*,
which by a misprint in the *Niger Flora*
stands as *radicans*. I had included in it the
widely spread W. African species which I
believe Koenig may be right in distinguishing
specifically and the third species is *M.*
pubescens Koen from Madagascar which I
think includes *M. Stadenbergianum* Koen.

Oepalanthus is a dreadful polymorphic
genus of above 200 species with some
natural sections which I have not yet
mastered - sometimes scarcely distinguished
from *Eriocaulon* (in two species, with the
unilocular anthers of *Philodice*?) and sometimes
with a totally different habit - but I believe
must adopt Koenig's generic distinction.

Hooker's Palms are in the printer's hands
but we shall scarcely get the part out by
this time. Yours very sincerely

George Beathan

25, WILTON PLACE.
London S.W.

Oct 14/82

My dear Gray

I have been much pleased
with your obituary notice of Darwin
which I received yesterday - I envy
you the facility with which you
get up these and other critical notices
and the soundness of the views you express.

Have you seen de Candolle's
new work on the origin of cultivated
plants which has just come to hand?
It shows a great deal of research and
the results clearly and methodically
put - a talent in which the French
so far surpass the Germans and I think

DeCandolle goes far in settling some of
the much disputed points as to the
origin of some of the oldest cultivated
and in showing that others cannot now
and most likely never will be settled—
there are a few omissions such as
Rhubarb and *Acacia farnesiana*. but in
general his work seems very complete

I am at this moment at *Eriocaulon*
for Gen. Pl. - the genera appear to have
good characters but are very unnatural
Species put side by side of *Eriocaulon*
Lachnocaulon and *Oepalanthus* can
only be distinguished by careful analysis -
Koenig's work is in general good but I
do not admit all his species I think you

have but two *Lachnocaulon* not four
L. dignum is I think nothing but starved
specimens of *L. Michauxii* in which I find
the female flowers imperfect by abortion
~~not *Eriocaulon*~~ and in his *L. Perychianum*
I see nothing to separate it from the common
one but I have seen no specimen. In
Eriocaulon I think *L. septangulare* should
include his *L. flavidulum* founded on
specimens so named in Pursh's *Reburrum*
but very different from the *Oepalanthus*
flavidulus as pointed out by Koenig. *L.*
leptopus seems a good species - so is *Lach-*
nocaulon glabrum. Have any of your American
botanists been working at *Eriocaulon*?

Onium is a very distinct genus of a
small size. I think have been properly corrected in a number
of male species - so is *Cheranthemum* of three
American or Mexican species - the *Ch.*
pentostemonum figured by Koenig as from

Number of specimens brought with the



Bentham, George. 1882. "Bentham, George Oct. 14, 1882." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

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