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Poutailles Oct 7 1852

I have just arranged my Polanave
Dunal's book is abominable as to multi-
plication of species - every slight garden
variety is made a species of - every slight
discrepancy between a description and a
specimen from the same set is made a
specific distinction and many species are the
result of mere carelessness - *Triguera baccata*
is a fiction (Dunal reports plant being *Pantho*
bulgarifolia) The 13 *Lycopodium* are but
two - the 59 *Chonilla varia* (91 though *L. californi-*
cium?) are but one. *Polanave* 160, 170 and 209
are identical though put so far apart - 454,
456 and 459 - about 20 species belong
to *P. bellalongua* - altogether I would undertake
to reduce the 900 *Polanave* to 500 at the most,
the 50 *Capricorn* to two or three. *Lycium*
3 to 5 all belong to *L. barbarum* - *Datura*
Hyoscyamus & *Atropa* require redrawing
in the main way - the unfortunate *Pentstemon*
parviflorus frequently 5 times as *P. parviflorus*
P. viridula *Cherembergia viridula* *Lepto-*
phragma prostrata & *L. menthaefolia*.
Peperomia vestita is repeated under *Cestrum*
Peperomia corymbosa and *Cestrum atrovirens* are
identical etc. etc. It will be very difficult
to make out a *Cestrum* or a *Polanave* by
this book. Have you looked up *S. Wrightii*? There
are *Peperomia* ^{very bad} *Cherembergia* or *Peperomia* one
must be *P. Bonchartii* but I cannot
quite make it out nor do I exactly see the
generic distinction between *Bonchartii* ^{very bad} *Cherembergia*
Peperomia form of *Cherembergia* *Peperomia*
I wish you would clear up the *W. American*
Polanave - I shall not criticize Dunal's
book publicly because I cannot speak well of it
and I have too great a personal regard for him to
risk offending him. Yours ever

George Bentham

My dear Gray

We are exceedingly concerned to hear
of Mr Gray's accident I trust from what
you say there was no internal injury -
but bruises are bad enough - We know
what they are from the great length
of time Mr Bentham was recovering
from her bruised arm - she was near
three months before she could raise
her hand to her mouth and has not even
yet quite the full use of it though she
considers herself a quite recovered Gray
give both our kindest remembrances to
Mr Gray and do not fail to let us know
how she goes on when you write.

I was in town for a couple of days
when your letter came - I had been to
pick up poor Lemmon's herbarium - I
only returned on the evening of the 30th
when there was of course no time to
get a box to Liverpool by the 1st of this
month - so if there is no other opportu-
nity I shall wait to send what I have
for you till your next box comes and
send it - Five good boxes are just come
from him.

Many thanks for the precious *Tegulorum*
and for Stanchbury's Salt Lake reports

By the bye the stamps you put on I was
of no use - the cover of the book was
not open at both ends and I was I
believe beyond weight - It came to me
in a parcel by coach and I think
carriage paid - by whom I know not.
The stamps were not void and well do
again - I enclose a couple of dozen

Of the plants you send

The *Ipomoea* from the garden St. Myer
send - is as far as I know new - near *Leptocarpus*
but much finer cut leaves etc. W. Wright n.
500 (of my set) is the same with the lower
leaves however not quite so fine

Noted, *Cortaria* 260 I have called
Erigeron (*Coarctus*) *subspicatus* - I have not
yet got a copy of my paper from
Copenhagen where I understood it was
nearly finished printing but in my
rough copy I see "*Habitu Conspicui*"

some approximate to pappus
simplex - leaving the specific name blank
to be written in in the fair copy. I
suppose I meant my *Heterochaete strata* but
I forget. The specimens of 260 have
not all that rigid aspect, some look
like Kunth's figure.
I enclose some seeds of my *Heterochaete*
I see most as I described them hairy in the
middle & smooth round - some have cilia
also on the edge - and some have the smooth
part very narrow almost disappearing

I do not venture absolutely to name
the same *Coryza* without any figure
at all but short tubular female
flowers and the central flower (both)
with *Alumina* on account of the tails
which are sometimes however almost
imperceptible - but I have not
examined *Alumina* enough for the
purpose.

Kunth's figure of *Coryza graphobasis* is
exactly unlike my *Heterochaete strata* but
may be the same for all that.

10 Kunth's figure of *Erigeron graphobasis*
is very unlike the specimen you send me
of Wright's - and without ascertaining
on Kunth's specimen that he is wrong
in the outer pappus (which is not likely)
I do not see how you can ignore it by
uniting them. I have nothing like
your plant from elsewhere.

Your *Eupatorium* *lucida* is hardly
distinct from my *E. multicaule* it
is smaller, more downy, the leaves rather
deeper crenated & the inflorescence rather
more compact but are then sufficient
characters? There is a whole set running
from *E. Scheideanum* to *E. paniculatum*
& again from both to a slender leafy
one I have called *E. capillipes*, which
it is very difficult to distinguish though
the extremes are so very different



Bentham, George. 1852. "Bentham, George Oct. 7, 1852." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

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