

25, WILTON PLACE.
S.W.

May 20/70

My dear Gray

Just received yours of the 2^d
which I hasten to answer on account
of the Californian Laurels. The polygamous,
certainly not dioecious flowers and the
stamens of the 3^d order turned outward
do not agree with *Lectra* (*Tetranthera*)
whilst the involucre takes it out of
Ocotea (*Oreodaphne*). Perhaps Nuttall's
genus *Drymoxylum* should be adopted
for it but I leave you to settle whether
to make it a distinct genus closely connecting
two main tribes of Laurineae or
have it as an anomalous *Tetranthera*.

We have not Nuttall's *Glossa* which
somehow we had overlooked so we
had no record of *Drymoxylum* and
it is not in the *Prodrromus*. Oliver has
taken steps to procure the book.

I have been looking at the Mexican &
other North American Petrorhiza but
they all appear to have ^{all} the stamens
turned inward and to be vicious
by abortion and Drymophyllum would
stand alone

The doubtful Mexican Laurinaea I
mentioned (perhaps by mistake I said Coulter's)
in Gregg's n. 314 sent by you in fruit
only the fruit appears to be really
Laurinaea but the foliage unlike any
species I know. Have you named it?

As to finishing Genera Plantarum
I cannot expect to live through the
Orchidea - very thankful if we
finish the Dicotyledons before I go

Yours very sincerely

George Bentham

Congratulate you on your new flora
which however has not yet come to hand but will no doubt immediately



Bentham, George. 1878. "Bentham, George May 20, 1878." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

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