

of these two circles are also opposed to each other. The case of the group of stamens with the petaloid scales behind it in the American Linden seems very closely to resemble that of the clusters of stamens, in that instance coherent, of Malvaceae in a half-double flower; of the latter we have the separate petals partially developed as clusters of stamens, and we observe that they are not flat or merely curved, but nearly funnel shaped or folded round again. Let a small portion assume the leaf-like aspect and the rest subdivide into separated stamens and we have a remarkable instance of collateral chorisis in an organ so curved in figure as to produce the very appearance exhibited.

These examples probably include all the varieties that would afford anything special from which to reason, and further details would be unsuitable in this place. I conclude, 1st, that chorisis or the division of a single organ into two or more similar, or approximately similar ones, is a possible and reasonable supposition, and accounts well for a class of facts which the laws of structure previously established did not properly reach. 2nd, that chorisis does not admit of being divided into two kinds, collateral and transverse; that the latter kind as explained by Dunal, to whom we own the theory, is liable to most serious objections, and is not justified by any facts necessarily implying it, or strictly analogous with it; that the explanation adopted by Dr. Gray takes the case entirely out of the formation of separate organs from a single one; and that oppositeness of parts in adjoining circles is no indication of those parts being of common origin or belonging to a single organ, so that transverse chorisis may be entirely set aside. 3dly. That the ingenious and distinguished authors who have proposed and defended the law of chorisis have been led to apply it in various cases which do not really come under the law, and are better explained on other principles, particularly that there is no chorisis in Brassicaceous flowers, and that a number of organs really derived from several distinct circles may be so pressed together as to form one apparent circle, the parts even being connected by a common expansion derived from the torus, so that a number of crowded parts however regularly set is no proof of chorisis.

With these restrictions I receive chorisis as an additional principle in the structure of flowers, affording us valuable assistance in bringing them all, however varied, within general rules, and manifesting their common relations.