



M.S. del. J.N. Fitch. lith.

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## BEGONIA BAUMANNI.

*Native of Bolivia.*

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.

Genus BEGONIA, Linn.; (*Benth. & Hook. f. Gen. Plant.* vol. i. p. 841.)

BEGONIA (Lemoineæ) *Baumanni*; rhizomate magno globoso, caule robusto folioso sparse piloso roseo, foliis crasse petiolatis carnosis reniformibus duplicato crenatis palmatim nervosis utrinque marginibusque sparse setosis, supra saturate viridibus subtus pallidis roseo-suffusis nervis validis hispidulis, floribus maximis roseis suaveolentibus in racemum terminalem nutantem pauciflorem dispositis longe pedicellatis, bracteis brevissimis incisiss, rachi pedicellisque roseis sparse pilosis, *fl. masc.*: petalis 4 subcuneatim rotundatis, staminibus in globum compactis, filamentis liberis, antheris pyriformibus; *fl. fem.*: petalis 5 inæqualibus cuneato-rotundatis, ovario carnosio triptero sparse piloso viride, alis crassis unica cuneiforme, capsula 3 loculari, placentis 2-partitis, segmentis utrinque ovuliferis, stigmatibus latis undulatis et convolutis secus marginem truncatam stigmatosis.

*B. Baumanni*, Lemoine ex Wittm. in *Gartenfl.* vol. xl. (1891) p. 47; et 281, t. 1348, *xylog.* fig. 62. Neubert in *Gart. Mag.* (1894) p. 775.

*Begonia de Cochabamba*, Sacc. in *Rev. Hortic.* vol. lviii. (1886) p. 347.

*Begonia Baumanni* belongs to the tuberous-rhizomed group of the genus, which includes *B. Veitchii*, Hk. f. (Tab. 5663), *B. Clarkei*, Hk. f. (Tab. 5675) and *B. rosæflora*, Hk. f. (Tab. 5680), and some of which have proved to be, as I ventured to predict in publishing *B. Veitchii* in 1867, amongst the most ornamental of border plants. They have been referred by myself and others to the section *Huszia*, A.DC., which contains species with different types of stigmas; those of *B. Veitchii*, for instance, having the arms elongate, with a spiral line of stigmatic papillæ, whilst those of *B. rosæflora* and *Baumanni* have short, broadly truncate stigmas, cleft on the ventral side, but not 2-lobed, with undulate convolute margins, and the papillæ are confined to the truncate upper margins. Recently M. Fourier has proposed ("Bull. Soc. Centr. d'Hortic. de France," Ser. 3) (1879) a new grouping of the tuberous Begonias, according to which *B. Baumanni* is placed in section *Lemoineæ*, characterized by



the monœcious flowers, males with 4-8 petals, fem. with 5, stigmas persistent, with horse-shoe shaped arms (hardly the case in *B. Baumannii*) and 2-fid placentas. It includes the sections *Huszia*, *Eupetalum*, and *Barya* of A. de Candolle.

*B. Baumannii* is a native of Cochibamba in the Eastern Andes of Central Bolivia, the capital of which (of the same name) is 8396 ft. above the sea. From thence seeds were sent to Herrn E. N. Baumann of Bolivia, in honour of whom the plant is named. The drawing here given was made from a plant which flowered in a cool greenhouse of the Royal Gardens in September, 1896. It succeeds also in summer in the open air.

*Descr.*—*Rootstock* globose, attaining the dimensions of a middle-sized melon; stem petiole and branches of inflorescence and pedicels bright rose-red, sparsely hairy. *Stem* one to one and a half feet high, stout, leafy. *Leaves* stoutly petioled, three to five inches broad, fleshy, reniform, doubly crenate, palmately nerved, sparsely hispidulous on both surfaces, and on the margins, and on the stout flabellate nerves beneath, bright green above, paler beneath, and often suffused with red; petiole four to six inches long. *Flowers* monœcious, very large, rose-red, in a lax terminal nodding few-fl. raceme, very sweet-scented; bracts lacerate; pedicels one to three inches long, stout. *Male flowers* upward of three inches in diameter. *Petals* four, subcuneately orbicular. *Stamens* crowded in a globose mass; filaments short, free; anthers obovoid. *Fem. flowers* about two and a half inches in diameter. *Petals* 5, unequal, cuneately-obovate or -orbicular. *Styles* 3, short, broadly cuneate, truncate, convolute, and undulate, stigmatose along the upper margins only. *Ovary* fleshy, green, hairy, with three thick wings, two of them rounded, the other cuneiform, three-celled; placentas bipartite, segments ovuliferous on both faces.—*J. D. H.*

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Fig. 1 and 2, stamens; 3, ovary and styles; 4, transverse section of ovary :  
—All enlarged.