



M.S. Dal., J.N. Fitch. lith.

Vincent, Brooks Day & Son Imp.

BEGONIA BEDDOMEI.

Native of Assam.

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.

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

BEGONIA Beddomei; acaulescens, monoica, laxe patentim pilosa, rhizomate tuberoso lobato multicipiti, foliis omnibus radicalibus amplis longe petiolatis membrauceis pellucidis oblique cordato-rotundatis v. -ovatis obscure remote angulatum lobulatis denticulatisque nervis pilosis primariis radiantibus supra glabris subtus puberulis glabrativis, petiolo erecto, scapo petiolis brevioribus stricto basi vaginato, vaginis ovatis acuminatis erectis brunneis, cyma depressa pauciflora, ramis brevibus divaricatis, bracteis parvis lanceolatis, floribus pallide roseis, ♂ perianthii segmentis 4 antico et postico late ovato lateralibus oblongis, staminibus in globum aggregatis, filamentis brevibus liberis, connectivo crasso; fl. ♀ perianthii segmentis ad 8, ovario 3-gono ala dorsali obtusa, stigmatibus 3 bicurvis tortis.

This is another addition to the already large group of Asiatic Begonias marshalled under the section *Platycentrum* of Alphonse de Candolle, which includes yellow, pink, and white-flowered species (see *B. xanthina*, t. 4683, 5202, 5207; *B. rubro-venia*, t. 4689; *B. Griffithii*, t. 4984; *B. Rex*, t. 5201, and others), but differs from the sectional character in having three styles instead of two, as indeed do other species (as *B. Cathcartii*). Most of these species have acuminate connectives to the anther, an organ which in our plant is very broad and hardly even acute. The pellucid character of the leaf is a very striking one, the red of the under surface being in certain lights visible through the tissue, and the white spots have a beautiful silvery lustre.

B. Beddomei is a native of the Assam hills, whence tubers were sent by Gustav Mann, Superintendent of Forests, to Col. Beddome, F.L.S., after whom I have the satisfaction of naming it, and to whom the Royal Gardens are indebted for the plant which is here figured, and which flowered in December last.

DESCR. *Rootstock* the size of a walnut, tuberous, lobed, dark brown. *Leaves* all radical, erect; blade horizontal,

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four to six inches in diameter, membranous and quite pellucid, broadly and very obliquely ovate-cordate or orbicular-cordate, obscurely angularly lobed and denticulate, ciliolate, above very pale green with white spots, glabrous or obscurely hairy, beneath pale dull red-purple, slightly hairy between the very hairy strong nerves; petiole four to six inches long, pale green, laxly clothed with soft spreading hairs. *Scape* shorter than the petiole, clothed at the very base with ovate acuminate erect dark brown sheathing scales, pale green, nearly glabrous. *Cyme* of two short spreading branches, bearing each a very few pale rose-coloured flowers, of which one or more is a female; bracts small, lanceolate; pedicels half an inch long or more. MALE FLOWER one inch and a half in diameter. *Perianth-segments* four, spreading, anterior and posterior broadly ovate, obtuse; two lateral narrower, oblong. *Stamens* in a dense globose head, filaments short free; anthers small broad, with a tumid subacute connective and short lateral cells. FEMALE FLOWER smaller and darker coloured. *Perianth-segments* eight, broadly oblong. *Ovary* three-angled, two-celled, one angle shortly produced into an obtuse wing. *Styles* three, short, dilating into a truncate twisted lobed stigma; ovules on all sides of the projecting placentas in each cell.—*J. D. H.*

Fig. 1, Stamen; 2, styles; 3, transverse section of ovary:—all enlarged.