



BEGONIA DAVISII.

Native of Peru.

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.

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

BEGONIA (*Huszia*) *Davisii*; herbacea, acaulis, radice tuberoso, foliis oblique ovato-cordatis subacutis supra nitidis pilosis pilis sparsis erectis rigidis marginibus leviter lobulatis crenulatisque, nervis basi radiantibus, costa penninervi, petiolo brevi robusto hirsuto, scapis folia excedentibus apice 3-floris rubris, bracteis late ovatis membranaceis ciliatis coccineis, floribus longiuscule pedicellatis, tetrapetalis coccineis ♂ majoribus, petalis 2 exterioribus late ovatis, interioribus oblongis latioribus, staminibus 8-10 brevibus declinatis, antheris oblongis filamenta æquantibus, fl. ♀ ovario 3-ptero, alis lateralibus brevibus angulis obtusis, dorsali elongato-triangulari acuta, stylis 3, stigmatibus brevibus hippocrepiformibus, placenta bifida.

B. Davisii, Hort. Veitch.

The Andean Begonias of the group to which *B. Veitchii*, (tab. 5663), *B. rosestor* (tab. 5680, and *B. Clarkei*, tab. 5675), though all discovered within the last ten or twelve years, have already with their hybrids (*inter se* and with others) become the most brilliant ornaments of the conservatory and rock-garden. To these must now be added the subject of the present plate, which, from its compact habit and brilliant colouring, will probably eclipse the others. It was discovered in Peru, near Chupe, at an elevation of 10,000 feet, by Mr. Davis when collecting for Messrs. Veitch, and it flowered in their establishment in July of the present year.

Under *B. Veitchii* (tab. 5663) I stated my expectation that it would in all probability prove hardy in the South-West of England, it having withstood a temperature of 25° Fahr. in Mr. Veitch's gardens; neither it, however, nor its allies have proved capable of withstanding the combined effects of cold and damp on the rock-garden at Kew, where, after flowering superbly during the summer months, they disappeared before the following spring. As *B. Davisii* inhabits the same county and elevation as *B. Veitchii*, it may be expected to be tender. There is fortunately no difficulty in housing the tuberous rooted Begonias of this class during winter; their

summer growth is always vigorous and rapid ; and they are profuse bloomers.

DESCR. Stemless. *Root* tuberous. *Leaves* all radical, spreading, broadly obliquely ovate-cordate, or almost orbicular, subacute, glossy above, and furnished with stiff erect scattered hairs, more glabrous and red beneath, margins shallowly lobulate and crenulate, basal nerves radiating from the top of the petiole, midrib penninerved ; petiole short, stout, hirsute. *Scapes* longer than the leaves, bright-red, glabrous, simple, 3-flowered ; bracts 2 at the base of the pedicels, broadly oblong, concave, crimson, ciliate. *Flowers* ternate pedicelled, the two lateral female, the central rather larger and male, about one and a half inches in diameter ; petals 4, crimson, the outer ovate very obtuse, the inner rather smaller, oblong. *Stamens* 8-10-small, filaments almost free, as long as the oblong anthers. *Ovary* 3-winged ; lateral wings short, obtuse ; dorsal long, triangular acute ; styles 3, with twisted short horse-shoe-shaped stigmas ; placenta bifid.—*J. D. H.*

Fig 1, Female flower with petals removed ; 2, stamens :—both enlarged.