



W. Rich. del et lith.

Vincent L. Brooks Day & Son, Imp.

TAB. 6039.

BEGONIA HERBACEA.

*Native of Brazil.*

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Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.

Genus BEGONIA, Linn. ; (A. DC. Prodr., vol. xv. pt. 1, p. 278).

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BEGONIA (Trachelocarpus) *herbacea*; rhizomate crasso repente apice folioso, foliis subsessilibus v. petiolatis confertis elongato-oblancoelatis acuminatis irregulariter denticulato-serratis viridibus basi contractis obtusis v. in petiolum angustatis, stipulis ovatis pectinato-ciliatis, floribus masculis ad apicem scapi elongati umbellatis, bracteis 2 oppositis concavis ciliatis, sepalis 2, petalis 0, fœmineis axillaribus sessilibus 3-sepalis, petalis 0, ovario lagenæformi, stigmatibus reniformibus apicibus brevibus tortis.

BEGONIA *herbacea*; Vellozo *Flor. Flum.*, vol. x. t. 53; A. DC. *Prodr.*, vol. xv. p. 388.

B. *attenuata*, *Masters in Gard. Chron.*, 1873, p. 679, fig. 129 (not of A. DC.)

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This singular species of *Begonia* belongs to a small and very little known Brazilian section of the genus, of which there are three supposed species, all very imperfectly described. They differ from their congeners in the monœcious inflorescence, on which the male flowers are raised on long scapes, and the females are sessile in the axils of the leaves. The species here figured is a native of Rio de Janeiro, and is published in the "Flora Fluminensis," a work equally remarkable for its pretentious character and the badness of its execution. The figure it gives of our plant forms no exception to this, omitting as it does the stipules, bracts, female flowers and all analysis, but being in other respects identical and very characteristic as to habit, I have no hesitation in assuming it to be the plant before me, and hence in adopting Vellozo's name. It is very probable that the other species of the section, *B. rhizocarpa*, Fischer, and *B. attenuata*, A. DC., may prove varieties of it, the former differing in the

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white-spotted leaves with fewer nerves and shorter male peduncles, and the latter in the fewer nerves, 2-flowered short male peduncles, and long petioles.

*Begonia attenuata* has long been cultivated at Kew, where it was received from the Botanical Gardens of Berlin; it has also been sent to me for determination by Mr. Burbidge from the Manchester Botanic Gardens. It flowers freely in the month of March.

DESCR. *Rhizome* as thick as the little finger, creeping, cylindrical, clothed with root fibres and persistent stipules. *Leaves* tufted at the end of the rhizome, four to six inches long, sessile or petioled, oblanceolate, acuminate, margin serrulate and obscurely lobed, quite glabrous, concolorous, pale green, nerves oblique, seven to eight on each side, base obtuse or acute; petiole naked or winged, the wings undulate. *Stipules* broadly ovate, pectinate-ciliate. *Scape* of male flowers rather shorter than the leaves, slender, terete, erect, 4-6-flowered; bracts orbicular, concave, pectinate-ciliate. *Male flowers* half to three quarters inch in diameter, umbelled, pedicels a quarter of an inch long. *Sepals* two, orbicular-ovate, obtuse, white. *Anthers* in a globose stipitate head, cuneate, obtuse. *Female flowers* sessile in the axils of the leaves. *Ovary* turbinate from an obtuse base, contracted above into a beak one-third of an inch long, trigonous, angles winged, wings obscurely toothed or lobed. *Sepals* three, nearly orbicular, white. *Style* short, arms three, with reniform broad stigmas, the corners of which have twisted appendages. *Placentas* entire.—*J. D. H.*

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Fig 1, Leaf: natural size; 2, stamens; 3 and 4, anthers; 5, ovary; 6, transverse section of ovary:—all magnified.