



BEGONIA LYNCHIANA.

Native of Mexico.

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.

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

BEGONIA (*Begoniastrum*) *Lyncheana*; monoica, glaberrima, rhizomate tuberoso, caule crasso erecto ramoso folioso, foliis breviter petiolatis late oblique oblongo-ovatis rotundatisve obscure lobatis denticulatis ciliolatis basi profunde cordato-2-lobis, stipulis magnis, pedunculis elongatis validis, corymbis terminalibus amplis multifloris, floribus coccineis, masculis precocioribus, perianthii segmentis 2 orbiculatis, staminibus undique patentibus, antheris brevibus oblongis obtusis filamentis liberis longioribus, fl. fœm. perianthii segmentis 2-4 parvis concavis ovario 3-4-pecto, alis latis obtusis dorsali elongato, stylis 3 profunde fissis stigmatibus subglobosis, placentis 2-fidis lobis unilique ovuliferis.

B. Roezlii, *Lynch* in "*The Garden*," vol. xxiv. p. 162, t. 402 (*non Regel*).

A very noble species of a genus the ornamental species of which, numerous as they are, both Indian and American, are far from being exhausted for garden purposes. It belongs to the American set of the genus, but does not fit well into any of the sixty-one sections as defined by A. De Candolle in his elaborate monograph of the genus published in the fifteenth volume of the *Prodromus*. It comes near to *Gireoudia*, from which it differs in the multifid styles, in the free spreading filaments, and in the anthers not being in a compressed one-sided mass. Upon the whole, I believe its affinity is with the species of the section *Begoniastrum*, A. DC. (*Begonia* proper of Klotzsch), notwithstanding the few perianth lobes of the female flower, and the much divided styles; and in this case its near ally is *B. nitida*, Ait. (see Tab. 4046), with which it precisely accords in habit. The styles are in fact nearly those of section *Husyia*, A. DC., but are less deeply divided (see *B. octopetala*, t. 3559, *B. rubricaulis*, t. 4131, *B. Clarkei*, t. 5675, and *B. rosæflora*, t. 5680).

B. Lyncheana has been known under the name of *B. Roezlii*, apparently given in ignorance of there being a

previously-published *Begonia* of that name (see Regel's *Gartenflora*, t. 871). It is a Mexican species, introduced by seed from Roezl, according to a note published in the "Gardener's Chronicle," vol. xi. part 1, p. 566 (1879), by M. Benary, of Erfurt, who raised it. Mr. Lynch, to whom I am indebted for the specimen here figured, received it from the Rev. Mr. Law, of Little Shelford, Cambridgeshire, and I gladly dedicate it to the indefatigable superintendent of the Cambridge Botanical Gardens, who has raised that establishment to a high degree of scientific value and of beauty. It flowers in early winter and for many succeeding months.

DESCR. Quite glabrous, monoëcious. *Rootstock* stout, somewhat tuberous. *Stem* two to three feet high, erect, branched, as thick as the little finger, pale bright green, smooth. *Leaves* alternate, shortly petioled, five to eight inches long, very obliquely orbicular-oblong or subreniform, obscurely lobed, base deeply cordate with rounded lobes, margin erose and ciliate, nerves ten to twelve, radiating from the petiole, bright green above, paler beneath with reddish nerves; petiole shorter than the blade, as thick as a goose-quill; stipules an inch long, sheathing, membranous, very deciduous. *Peduncles* axillary, stout, six to ten inches long, as thick as a swan's quill. *Panicle* corymbiform, six to eight inches in diameter, many-flowered, top flat, when young enclosed in an involucriform cup formed of two connate membranous bracts; flowers bright scarlet; pedicels half an inch long, slender. MALE fl. most abundant, appearing first. *Perianth segments* two, three-quarters of an inch in diameter, rounded, concave. *Stamens* many, in a hemispheric cluster; filaments free, shorter than the shortly oblong obtuse anthers. FEMALE fl. *Perianth segments* two to four, much smaller than in the male, concave. *Ovary* three- to four-winged; wings broad, rounded, dorsal produced very obtuse; placentas two-partite, segments ovuliferous on both faces, styles three, deeply divided, with capitate stigmas.—*J. D. H.*

Fig. 1, Stamen; 2, branch of female flower; 3, stigmas; 4 and 5, transverse sections of 4- and 5-celled ovaries:—all but fig. 2 enlarged.