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TAB. 7673.

BEGONIA SINENSIS.

*Native of China and Japan.*

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.

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

*BEGONIA sinensis*; pilosula, tubero subgloboso, caule annuo erecto herbaceo ramoso, foliis 3-5-poll. longis oblique ovato-cordatis longe acuminatis basi palmatim 5-9-nerviis grosse sublobulato-dentatis creberrime inæqualiter argute serratis serrulatisque membranaceis supra læte viridibus subttus pallidis junioribus roseo irroratis, petiolis 1-2-poll. longis, stipulis majusculis ovatis acuminatis herbaceis recurvis, axillis sæpe bulbiferis, pedunculis dichotomis inferioribus petiolis longioribus, cymis bisexualibus, bracteis ovato-lanceolatis caducis, floribus roseis breviuscule pedicellatis ad  $\frac{3}{4}$  poll. latis, fl. masc. bibracteolatis, sepalis 2 fere orbiculatis concavis, petalis 2 multo minoribus ovalibus, fl. fem. ebracteolatis, sepalis 2, petalis 1 v. 2 parvis, staminum columna brevissima, filamentis brevibus, antheris oblongis, ovario obconico 3-gono, stigmatibus reniformibus undique papillois, placentis 3 bipartitis, segmentis extus tantum ovuliferis, capsula 3-alata, alis 2 angustis tertia trigona.

*B. sinensis*, A.D.C. in *Ann. Soc. Nat. Ser. iv. vol. ii. p. 125*; in *DC. Prodr. vol. xv. pars i. p. 313*. *Hance in Journ. Bot. vol. xii. (1874) p. 260*. *Hemsl. & Forbes in Journ. Linn. Soc. vol. xxiii. (1887) p. 323*.

? *B. Evansiana*, *Andr. Bot. Rep. t. 627, non Bot. Mag. t. 1473, nec Bonpl. Malm. t. 63*.

*Begonia sine nomine*, *Buc'hoz, Coll. Prec. des Fleurs, Part i. t. xxxv.*

*Begonia sinensis* is well described by A. de Candolle, but is placed in the section *Knesebeckia*, from his character of which it differs in the segments of the placentas being ovuliferous on the outer faces only. He rightly compares it with *B. Evansiana*, *Andr. (non Bot. Mag. t. 1473)*, but overlooks the fact that two plants are confounded under that name. One, the original, figured by Andrews (*Bot. Rep. t. 627*) said to have been found at the waterfall of Penang, with hardly any stipes to the head of stamens; the other, that of Bonpland (*Jard. Malm. t. 63, and of this magazine, t. 1473*), a much larger-flowered plant, with a long stipes supporting the head of stamens. Unfortunately de Candolle has selected the latter as Andrews' species. Clarke, in "*Flora Brit. Ind.*," vol. ii. p. 638, cites *B. sinensis* (from the description) as a synonym of *B. Evansiana*, with which he unites the *Bot. Mag. plant* and *B. obliqua*, Thunb. With regard to "the waterfall in Penang" which Andrews gives as the habitat of *B. Evansiana*, this is no doubt an error; for C. Curtis, in his *Catalogue of the Flowering Plants and Ferns of that*



Island, says, "The plant has not been met with here, and could hardly be overlooked." Aiton (Hort. Kew, ed. II. v. 313), who describes *B. Evansiana* as *B. discolor* (quoting both Bot. Rep. and Bot. Mag.), gives China as the native country whence it was introduced in 1804 by the Hon. E. I. Company.

Though retaining the name of *B. sinensis* for this plant, I do not feel sure that it is not *B. Evansiana* of Andrews, from the figure of which it differs only in the deeply irregularly cut margins of the leaves. It is a widely diffused Chinese plant, there being specimens in Kew Herbarium from the neighbourhood of Peking, the provinces of Hupeh and Kwangtung, and Island of Formosa.

Seeds of *B. sinensis*, collected in Yunnan by Dr. Henry, M.A., F.L.S., of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, were received at the Royal Gardens, Kew, in 1898; plants raised from which flowered in October of the following year in a greenhouse.

*Descr.*—Tuber brown, about the size of a large cob-nut, giving off copious long flexuous brown fibres from its crown. *Stem* one and a half to two feet high, rather slender, glabrous or sparsely pubescent, simple or sparingly branched, pale green. *Leaves* three to five inches long, more or less unequal-sided, ovate-cordate, acuminate, margin acutely lobulate, lobules coarsely, very irregularly, acutely serrate and serrulate, palmately five to nine-nerved at the base, thin, bright green above, paler, and often rose-colrd. beneath, with hairy veins, axils often bulbiferous; petiole one to two inches long; stipules ovate, or ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, green. *Flowers* monœcious, in axillary and terminal peduncled cymes, male rather shortly pedicelled, female with much longer decurved pedicels. *Male fl.* three-fourths of an inch in diam., bright rose-red; sepals two, orbicular-ovate; petals two, very much smaller, oblong; stamens numerous, in a very shortly stipitate head, anthers oblong, obtuse. *Female fl.* rather larger, sepals and petals like the male, but petals broader, very unequal, or one only; styles short, stigmas reniform, papillose all over. *Ovary* with two short and one long wing; placentas bifid, arms ovuliferous on the outer surfaces.—*J. D. H.*

Fig. 1, Portion of stem with stipules and bulbils; 2, staminal columns; 3, styles and stigmas; 4, transverse section of ovary: all enlarged; 5, tuber of the nat. size.