



M.S. del. J.N. Hich. lit.

Vincent Brooks Day & Son Imp

L. Reeve & Co London.

BEGONIA JOHNSTONI.

Native of Tropical Africa.

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.

Genus BEGONIA, Linn.; (*Benth. et Hook. f. Gen. Pl. vol. i. p. 842.*)

BEGONIA (*Diploclinium*) *Johnstoni*; monoica, caulescens, caule erecto robusto, ramis pedunculis petiolisque elongatis crassis, foliis longe petiolatis membranaceis valde oblique ovatis profunde unilateraliter cordatis, lobis rotundatis imbricatis, margine irregulariter crenato, subtus sparse pilosis, subtus apicem versus petioli annulo setarum instructo, stipulis magnis late ovatis obtusis, bracteis ovato-rotundatis obtusis v. subacutis, cymis 4-floris, floribus roseis cernuis, fl. masc. 4, fl. fem. 5-6, sepalis late obovatis oblongisve pallide roseis, staminibus perplurimis, filamentis liberis, stylis 3 brevibus basi connatis ramis subflabellatis fascia papillosa subspiraliter torta continua, capsula trialata ala una majore porrecta obtusa, placentis 2-partitis.

B. Johnstoni, Oliv. in *Trans. Linn. Soc. ined.*

The subject of this plate is alluded to by Prof. Oliver under his description of *B. Johnstoni* cited above, which was prepared from a very indifferent specimen of a plant gathered by Mr. Johnston on his expedition to Kilimanjaro, at an elevation of 5000 to 6000 feet on that mountain. Whether the two are quite the same specifically cannot be positively ascertained till better specimens of the Kilimanjaro plant are obtained; meanwhile they agree in too many important points to induce me to pronounce them distinct. The chief differences are, that *B. Johnstoni* has a blood-red stem, its young leaves are irregularly toothed rather than crenate, the bracts are more acute, the scattered hairs on the under surface of the leaf are confined to the nerves, and the wing of the fruit is shorter and broader. Add to this that the two come from very far apart localities, the seeds of that here figured having been sent by the late Bishop Hannington from the Masai country, a district far to the north-west of Kilimanjaro (probably from the Usigara Mountains).

B. Johnstoni belongs to the Asiatic section of the genus *Diploclinium*, and differs from most of the African Begonias

in the bipartite placentas. For the seeds the Royal Gardens are indebted to Mr. Mitten, A.L.S., of Hurstpierpoint, who received them from Bishop Hannington in 1884; the plants raised from them flowered at Kew in April, 1886.

DESCR. A tall, succulent, robust, branched species, twelve to eighteen inches high; stem, branches, petioles, peduncle and pedicels pale watery green with scarlet striæ. *Leaves* long-petioled, four to six inches long, obliquely ovate, acute, coarsely crenate, deeply two-lobed at the lateral base where the rounded lobes overlap, dark green above, paler beneath with soft scattered hairs; nerves radiating from the top of the petiole; petiole as long as the blade, clothed at the top with soft white reversed bristles, which also form a ring round its insertion. *Cymes* long-peduncled, four- to six-flowered; flowers pale rose-coloured, pedicelled, drooping, one or two females in each cyme. **MALE FL.** one and a half to two inches in diameter. *Sepals* four, outer broadly oblong, inner larger, more obovate. *Stamens* very numerous, filaments free; anthers subglobose. **FEMALE FL.** smaller. *Sepals* five, outer obovate-oblong. *Ovary* three-celled, placentas bipartite; stigmas three, short, united at the base; arms twisted with a continuous papillose band. *Capsule* three-winged, one wing protruded, upcurved obliquely, triangular-ovate, obtuse.—*J. D. H.*

Fig. 1, Top of petiole and base of leaf; 2, stamens; 3, transverse section of immature capsule; 4, stigmas :—all but fig. 1 enlarged.