



TAB. 7657.

BEGONIA VENOSA.

Native of Brasil.

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.

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

BEGONIA (*Rachia*) *venosa*; caule erecto elato valde robusto folioso sublanuginoso, foliis amplis subpeltatis petiolatis auriformibus obtusis basi late bilobis margine undulatis palmatinerviis crassiusculis supra luride viridibus pilis floccidis albis rufisque sublanatis, subtus densius lanatis nervis subsimplicibus validis, stipulis maximis (2-pollicaribus) internodio æquilongis erectis oblongis subacutis inflatis tenuiter rigide membranaceis pallide rufis parallelinerviis venulis transversis reticulatis, pedunculis valde elongatis erectis, cymis corymbiformibus medio-cribus bisexualibus, bracteis parvis lineari-oblongis caducis, floribus breviuscule pedicellatis ad $\frac{3}{4}$ poll. latis albis, masc. sepalis 2 orbiculatis dorso tomentosis v. glabratis, petalis 2 minoribus et angustioribus, staminibus numerosis, filamentis brevissimis, antheris oblongis, connectivo producto crasso apice rotundato, fl. fem. sepalis 4 orbiculatis, petalo unico minore oblongo, ovario 3-loculari, placentis bipartitis segmentis undique ovuliferis, stylis brevibus hippocrepiformibus undique stigmatosis cornubus brevibus tortis.

B. venosa, *Skon in Kew Bulletin*, 1899, ined.

A magnificent and very distinct species, remarkable for the frosted, silvery appearance of the upper surface of the leaves, and the very large inflated stipules, which are of a membranous, transparent, but firm consistence, and are traversed by strong, straight, parallel veins, the interspaces being crossed by capillary reticulating venules. They contrast by their pale, reddish colour with the bright green of the stems which they embrace, all but concealing the internodes. The flowers are comparatively inconspicuous.

B. venosa falls into none of the sections of the genus as these are defined by Klotzsch and A. de Candolle, but its close affinity in habit, indumentum, foliage, stamens, styles and placentation with *B. incana*, Lindl., determines its place to be with that plant in sect. *Rachia*, A.DC., providing that the character hitherto given to *Rachia*, of sepals 3, petals 2, be altered to sepals 2-4, petals 1-2. *B. incana* is a native of hot, dry, sunny places in Mexico. The native country of *B. venosa* is not satisfactorily known. Mr. Thos. Christy, F.L.S., who sent to Kew Herbarium the specimen here figured, together

JUNE 1ST, 1899.

with a living plant for the Royal Gardens (which has already flowered), informs me that it was discovered by Professor Lofgren, head of the Botanical Dept. of the state of Sao Paolo, in an island off the coast of Brasil, but whether off Para, or off the mouth of the river Santos (Prov. Sao Paolo), Mr. Christy cannot inform me. That gentleman has observed that the female flowers are not fully developed until the males have fallen away.

Descr.—*Stem* tall, erect, very robust, upwards of half an inch in diameter, and as well as the leaves covered with a cottony white or reddish tomentum. *Leaves* long-petioled, thick in texture, ear-shaped, with a deeply 2-lobed base, six inches long, dull green, frosted above with sparse white tomentum, mixed with rufous hairs, more densely rufously tomentose beneath, margin undulate; nerves few, strong, radiating from the sub-peltately attached petiole, which is three to five inches long, stout, terete, and like the peduncle sparsely clothed with hairs; stipules two inches long, oblong, ventricose, sub-acute, almost concealing the internodes of the stem, of a very thin but rigidly membranous texture, pale rufous, with about eight parallel strong nerves, and very delicate anastomosing cross nervules. *Cymes* about four inches broad, on rather slender, erect, axillary, red peduncles, eight to ten inches long, bisexual; bracts small, linear-oblong, caducous. *Flowers* shortly pedicelled, about three-fourths of an inch broad, pure white; males with two orbicular sepals, and two much smaller, narrowly oblong petals; female of four orbicular sepals and one oblong petal. *Stamens* many, crowded on a small receptacle; anthers oblong, much longer than the filaments, connective thickened upwards, with a produced rounded top, cells narrow, diverging upward. *Styles* very short, horse-shoe shaped, with short, erect arms, terminating in twisted tips, all clothed with papillose hairs. *Ovary* trigonous, narrowly three-winged; placentas bipartite, segments covered with ovules on both faces.—*J. D. H.*

Fig. 1, Stamen; 2, fem. flowers; 3, ovary and styles; 4, transverse section of ovary:—*All enlarged.*