



BEGONIA CATHAYANA.

China.

BEGONIACEAE.

BEGONIA, Linn.; Benth. et Hook. f. Gen. Plant. vol. i. p. 841.

Begonia (§ *Platycentrum*, A.DC.) *cathayana*, Hemsl.; species ex affinitate *B. Bowringiana*, Champ. (B. M. t. 5182) et *B. laciniata*, Roxb. (B. M. t. 5021), ab utraque caulibus foliisque sanguineo-velutinis et floribus miniatis differt; ab illa stipulis linearibus elongatis acuminatissimis et pedunculis multifloris petiolos excedentibus recedit.

Herba subcarnosa, ramosa, erecta, 0.5-1.0 m. alta, pilis leprosis sanguineis patentibus mollibus paucis albis intermixtis vestita, ramis teretibus articulatis. *Folia* longe petiolata, oblique cordata, absque petiolo usque ad 25 cm. longa, plus minusve lobulata, simul denticulata, longe acuminata, lobis basilaribus rotundatis, subtus sanguinea, supra praeter venas sanguineas viridia cum zona pallidiore; petioli teretes, usque ad 15-18 cm. longi; stipulae lineares, acutissimae, circiter 3 cm. longae. *Cymae* axillares, solitariae, 8-10-florae, pendulae, foliis breviores, bracteis parvis inconspicuis. *Flores* hirsuti, uni-sexuales, monoici, miniati, 3.5-4.5 cm. diametro. *Flores masculi*: perianthii phylla 4, patentissima, 2 exteriora ovato-elliptica, apice rotundata, 1.75-2 cm. longa, 2 interiora anguste ovata, vix 1 cm. longa; androecium globosum, breviter stipitatum, circiter 7 mm. altum. *Flores feminei*: perianthium fere aequaliter 5-phyllum, phyllis oblongo-ovatis; styli 2 basi connati, apice bicurves, cruribus tortuosis. *Capsula* pendula, pedicello subito recurvo setuloso, inaequaliter 3-alata; alae rotundatae, major circiter 2 cm. longa, minores 6-7 mm. longae.—*B. Bowringia*, Hort.; Gard. Chron. 1903, vol. xxxiii. p. 245, cum fig. suppl., non Champ.

This and the two species with which it is compared in the above description are very closely allied in structure. Indeed *B. Bowringiana* and *B. laciniata* have been treated as varieties of one species by De Candolle and others; but the plants cultivated and figured in this Magazine under these names are quite distinct. The cultivated *B. cathayana* is exactly the same as dried specimens in the Kew Herbarium, bearing the numbers 9198 and 13516, collected by Dr. A. Henry near Mengtze, Yunnan, at an elevation of 5,000 ft.

DESCRIPTION.—*Herb*, 2-3 ft. high, with fleshy stems and leaves, clothed with long, crimson, soft, scurfy hairs, interspersed on the branches with a few white ones.

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Leaves long-stalked; blade obliquely cordate, as much as 10 in. long, more or less distinctly lobed, minutely toothed, lateral lobes and tip sharp-pointed, basal lobes rounded, crimson below, green above except the crimson nerves, with a paler zone; stalks as much as 6-8 in. long; stipules narrow, pointed, about an inch long. *Clusters* axillary, 8-10-flowered, pendulous, shorter than the leaves; bracts small, inconspicuous. *Flowers* coarsely hairy, unisexual in the same clusters, vermilion, $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. across. *Male flowers*: perianth of 4 petaloid leaves; 2 exterior nearly oval, about $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long; 2 interior narrow-ovate, less than $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long; stamens numerous, in a stalked head. *Female flowers*: perianth nearly equally 5-leaved; leaves oblong-ovate; styles crested. *Capsule* hairy, pendulous from a sharp bend at the top of the stalk, unequally 3-winged, wings rounded, larger one $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long, smaller $\frac{1}{4}$ in. long.—W. BOTTING HEMSLEY.

CULTIVATION.—*Begonia cathayana* was introduced into cultivation by Mr. A. K. Bully of Ness, Neston, by means of seeds collected for him in China by Dr. A. Henry. The stock passed into the hands of Messrs. F. Sander and Sons, St. Albans, from whom the plant figured was obtained for Kew. Messrs. Sander and Sons have raised a batch of hybrids from *B. cathayana* and *B. Rex* which are remarkable for richness of leaf coloration. *B. cathayana* is a handsome stove plant. Under liberal treatment it develops numerous stems 18 in. high, bearing in September numerous clusters of flowers. It ripens seeds under cultivation. Cuttings of the stems and leaves root freely.—W. WATSON.

Fig. 1, a stamen; 2, stigma; 3, cross section of a capsule; 4, a pseudo-hermaphrodite flower with a superior ovary; 5, a hair from the perianth:—*all enlarged.*