Tab. 5897.

BEGONIA CRINITA.

Native of Bolivia.

---

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEAE.


---

Begonia crinita: caule erecto folioso petiolarum rubris pilis elongatis patentibus laxe crinitis, foliis valde obliquis dimidiatis ovato-cordatis acuminatis margine lobulatis et argute dentatis viridibus pilosis subbus pallidoribus v. purpurascensibus, petolis rubris, stipulis ovato-lanceolatis recurvis viridibus, cymis erectis dichotomis, bracteis viridibus oppositis latis concavis ciliatis, floribus roseis nutantibus subternis intermedio f. longius pedicellato; fl. $f$ perianthii foliolis 4, 2 exterioribus late ovatis obtusis, 2 interioribus multo angustioribus obovato-oblongis, staminibus in capitulum confertis, filamentos brevibus, antheris late obovoides, fl. $Q$ perianthii foliolis 5 subequalibus obovato-oblongis, stigmatibus 3–2-lobis, ramis brevibus tortis fascia papillosa basi continua cinetis, placentis 2-partitis undique ovuliferis, capsula 3-alata, ala dorsali triangulari acuta.

Begonia crinita, Oliver in Herb. Hook.

---

Specimens of this very elegant Begonia were sent by Messrs. Veitch, to the Herbarium of the Royal Gardens, in July, 1866, and again in 1867, and determined to be new by Professor Oliver, who gave it the above name. It was introduced by Messrs. Veitch's able South American collector, the late Mr. Pearce, from the Bolivian Andes, it is supposed; but as that energetic traveller visited various parts of the Cordillera, absolute confidence cannot be placed in the reputed habitat. There is a remarkable tendency in the branches to develop hairs on that surface only which faces the petiole of the leaf inserted below it, the petiole itself being hairy all round.

I know of no very close ally of this species, which is not clearly referable to any of A. De Candolle's sections of this extensive and very difficult genus. The specimen here

April 1st, 1871.
figured is from Mr. Wilson Saunders's rich collection. Those from Mr. Veitch's nursery were much stouter in the stem, and had deep rose-coloured flowers.

Descrip. A foot high, stout or slender, branched, leafy. Stems and branches terete, vivid red, more or less covered with long white, spreading, rather stiff hairs. Leaves two to five inches long, dimidiate, ovate-cordate, very oblique, acuminate, margin lobulate, and acutely toothed, dark green and shortly hairy above, glabrous except on the ribs of the under surface, which is pale green, or faintly purplish; petioles terete, red, and hairy, like the stems. Stipules ovate-lanceolate, recurved, green. Flowers one and a half inches in diameter, dark or pale rose-red, in terminal lax dichotomous cymes, horizontal or nodding, usually in threes, the central longer pedicelled and male. Male flower:—perianth 4-leaved; two outer leaves broadly ovate, obtuse; two inner smaller, obovate-oblong. Stamens many, in a globose head, filaments short; anthers short, obovoid, obtuse. Female flower:—perianth of five obovate oblong-obtuse leaves. Styles three, stigmatic arms short, with a continuous twisted papillose band; ovules very many, on all surfaces of a bipartite placenta. Young fruit 3-gonous, with 2 rounded, and one triangular acute wing.—J. D. H.

Fig. 1, Stamen; 2, female flower, with perianth removed; 3, transverse section of ovary:—all magnified.