



BEGONIA GLAUCOPHYLLA.

Native country unknown.

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.

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

BEGONIA (*Gaerdtia*) *glaucophylla*; glaberrima, caulibus elongatis pendulis ramosis albo-maculatis, foliis petiolatis oblongo-lanceolatis acuminatis marginibus undulatis penninerviis, basi rotundatis v. cordatis, supra læte subtus pallide viridibus, paniculis effusis pedunculatis amplis multifloris nutantibus pendulisve, bracteis amplis ovatis floribusque magnis læteroseis; fl. masc. sepalis 2 late ovatis obtusis, petalis 2 sepalis multo minoribus lineari-oblongis obtusis incurvis, staminibus numerosis toro parvo insertis, filamentis brevissimis liberis quam antheras lineari-obovatas apice retusas multoties brevioribus; fl. fœm. sepalis 4 late ovatis obtusis concavis, styli ramis 3 brevibus, fasciis papillarum bis tortis cinctis, ovarii placentis 2-fidis segmentis extus solum ovuliferis, capsula late 3-alata, alis rotundatis roseis sepala æquantibus, ala una ceteris multo majore.

It is with hesitation that I propose the establishment as a species, of a *Begonia* of which neither the fatherland nor the history is known; and which moreover may possibly be a hybrid. It seems however that so fine a plant as that known at Kew and long cultivated and widely distributed as *B. glaucophylla* should be represented by a good figure, such being the only means of insuring the recognition of a member of this enormous and difficult genus. That it belongs to the American section of the genus *Gaerdtia*, A.DC. (genus of Klotzsch), is I think certain, though differing from the character given in the Prodrômus and by Klotzsch, in having only four sepals in the female flower, all others hitherto described having five. Two species of the section *Gaerdtia* are figured in this work. The one *B. undulata*, Plate 2723, with leaves a good deal like those of *B. glaucophylla*, but very small white flowers and narrow wings to the fruit; the other, *B. Kunthiana*, Plate 5284, is totally different in habit and foliage, and has few large white flowers with obovate male petals.

The nearest described ally of *B. glaucophylla* is probably *B. maculata*, Raddi, better known as *B. argyrostigma*,

Fisch., under which name it is figured in the Botanical Register (Plate 666); this differs in its deeply unequally cordate leaves purple beneath, with white ocellate spots above, and a stout cartilaginous margin; the flowers too are quite small, and very pale pink, with five male sepals about a quarter of an inch long, and narrow subequal wings of the fruit. The white spots in the stem of *glaucophylla* indicate to me the possibility of its being a hybrid between the *B. maculata* and some other species.

B. glaucophylla, grown in a basket, is a magnificent plant, from its long pendent branches, bright shining leaves, and copious clusters of highly ornamental flowers; as stated above it has for years been in cultivation at Kew.—
J. D. H.

Figs. 1 and 2, Front, and 2, back view of stamen; 3, style arms; 4, transverse section of ovary:—*all enlarged.*