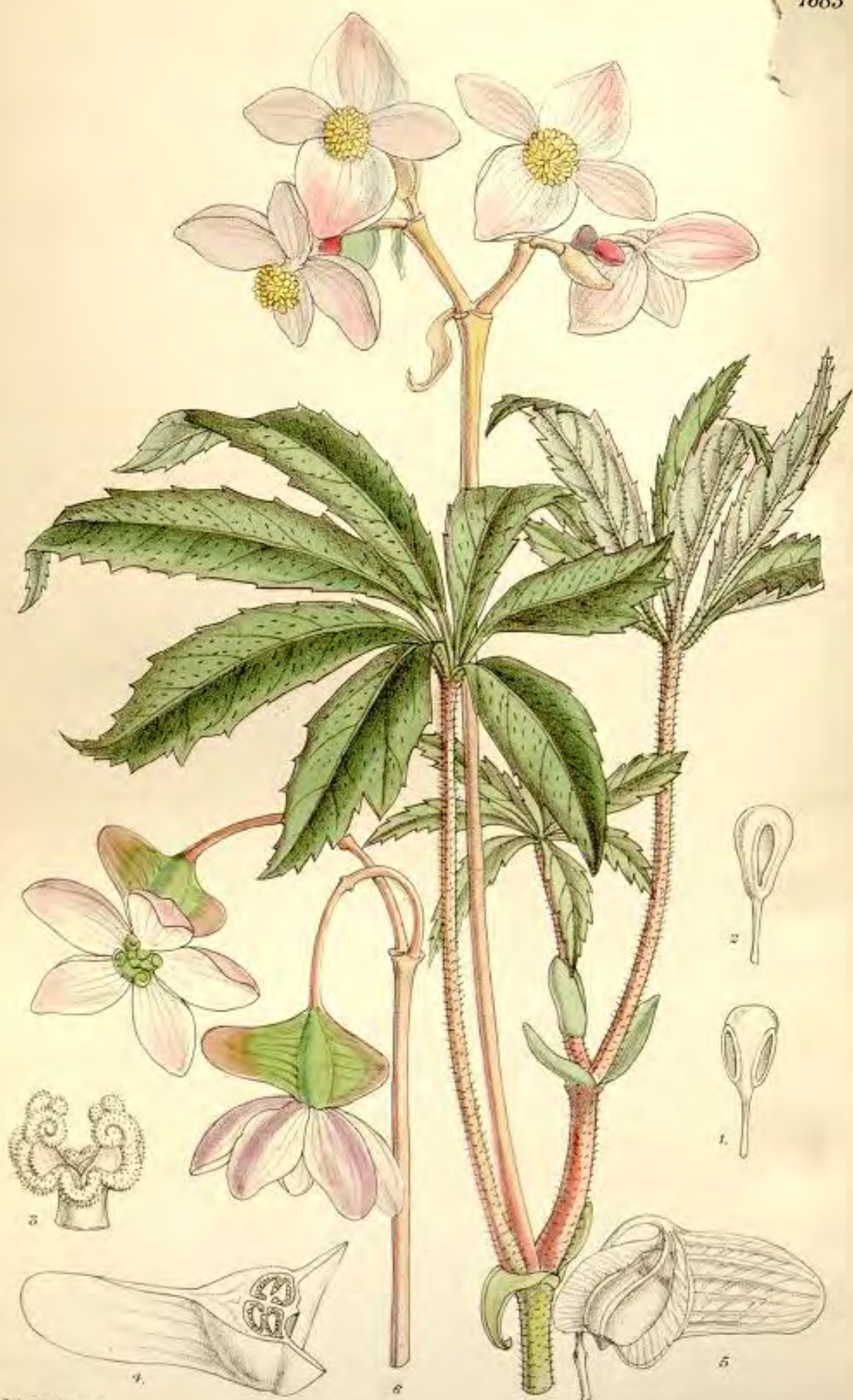




BEGONIA HEMSLEYANA.

Native of Yunnan.

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.

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

BEGONIA (*Platycentrum*) *Hemsleyana*; dense cœspitosa, radice tuberosa, tuberculis carnosiss fasciculatis fusiformibus, caulibus 1-1½-pedalibus parce ramosis petiolisque gracilibus elongatis erectis puberulis pallide roseis, foliis palmatipartitis, segmentis radiatis lanceolatis acuminatis remote serratis sessilibus v. in petiolulum brevem angustatis glaberrimis supra læte viridibus rubro anguste marginatis penninerviis, stipulis ovato-lanceolatis herbaceis, pedunculis axillaribus petiolis longioribus glaberrimis, cymis dichotomis paucifloris, bracteis lanceolatis caducis, floribus roseis, masc. sepalis 2 ovato-rotundatis subacutis, petalis 2 multo minoribus oblongo-ovatis, staminibus in capitulum globosum brevissime stipitatum dense confertis, filamentis gracilibus antheris pyriformibus apice rotundatis æquilongis, loculis lateralibus, fl. fem. longius pedicellatis nutantibus, perianthii segmentis 5 æqualibus oblongis obtusis, ovario 2-loculari 3-alato, ala una multo majore oblonga apice rotundata, stylis 2 subsessilibus stigmatum crucibus brevibus spiraliter incurvis, fascia stigmatica continua, placentis septo medio insertis bipartitis undique ovuliferis, capsula latiore quam longa pendula 3-alata, alis 2 brevibus tertia fere pollicari oblonga apice rotundata nervis validis costata, dehiscentia inter alas breviores imperfecte operculari.

The discovery of a palmatipartite-leaved *Begonia* in the Old World is a very remarkable one, the few known species with this character being all American. *B. Hemsleyana* has, however, no affinity with the latter; it belongs to the section *Platycentrum* of A. de Candolle (*Prodr.* vol. xv. p. 347), which is represented by eighteen species in India, and is regarded as a sub-genus by C. B. Clarke, in his paper on Indian Begonias (*Journ. Linn. Soc.* vol. xviii. p. 118). Its nearest ally is an undescribed Chinese species, also discovered by Dr. Henry, in which the leaves are orbicular, and seven to nine-lobed to the middle.

B. Hemsleyana was raised in the Royal Gardens, Kew, from seed collected at Mengtse, in Yunnan, at an elevation of four thousand to five thousand feet, by Dr. Henry, F.L.S., in 1898, who describes it as a very pretty plant, a foot to a foot and a half high. It flowered freely and

continuously in a warm greenhouse, from April, 1899, onwards, forming a compact mass of foliage, suggestive of a well-furnished Hellebore. I have named it in commemoration of the services rendered to botanical science by the researches into the Chinese Flora of my friend, Mr. W. B. Hemsley, F.R.S.

Descr.—*Roots* of fleshy, fascicled, fusiform tubers, with copious, black rootlets. *Stem* one to one and a half feet high, densely tufted, erect, sparingly branched, leafy, succulent, rose-pink, slightly hairy. *Leaves* erect, long-petioled, orbicular, four to five inches in diameter, palmately-partite or sub-pedate; segments seven to nine, radiating from the top of the peduncle, sessile or narrowed into a short petiolule, lanceolate, acuminate, irregularly, rather distantly serrate, lateral pair sometimes lobulate, bright green above, pale beneath, young sometimes edged with red; petiole three to four inches long, erect, glabrous, rose-pink; stipules half an inch long, oblong-lanceolate, herbaceous. *Cyme* dichotomous, few flowered, monœcious; bracts lanceolate, caducous; pedicels of fem. lengthening and decurved in fruit. *Male fl.* one and a quarter inch diam.; sepals orbicular-ovate, pale pink, darker coloured towards the tips; petals half as large, oblong. *Stamens* very many, capitate, filaments short, crowded on a very short stipes; anthers pyriform, tip rounded, slits narrow, lateral. *Fem. fl.* :—perianth rather larger than the male; segments five, sub-equal, oblong, obtuse; style very short, stigmas two, hippocrepiform, with circinately incurved horns, stigmatic band continuous. *Capsule* on an elongate, decurved pedicel two inches long, broader than long, coriaceous, three-winged, dorsal wing much the longest, oblong, tip rounded, strongly many-ribbed, dehiscence imperfectly opercular between the narrow wings.—*J. D. H.*

Figs. 1 and 2, Anthers; 3, stigmas; 4, section of ovary; 5, capsule:—*All enlarged.*