

4246

Rare Book
SB407
456
1853
v. 1



PAXTON'S

FLOWER GARDEN.



BY

PROFESSOR LINDLEY AND SIR JOSEPH PAXTON.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

B. 35.00

1850-51

LONDON :

BRADBURY AND EVANS, 11, BOUVERIE STREET.

1853.

1/31

tusks. It is difficult to imagine a flower with a more uninviting appearance. As to the fragrance attributed to it, we perceived nothing more than a sickly or at least by no means agreeable odour. When compared with a *Stephanote*, or a *Beaumontia*, it shrinks into insignificance, notwithstanding the large size of the flowers. The following account of its habits is given in the *Botanical Magazine*, t. 4466 :—"This handsome, climbing, shrubby plant, requires to be grown in a warm and moist hothouse. It is of free growth, and being a smooth clean-leaved plant, not subject to insects, is well adapted for a trellis, or to train up a pillar or rafter ; and it will also form a bushy plant grown in a pot, if supported by a wire trellis, or by neat stakes. Good fresh loam with a little leaf mould will suit it. As it is a fast grower, it requires water freely during summer ; but care must be taken that the soil does not become stagnant. It is propagated by cuttings, which strike root readily when placed under a bell-glass, and the pot plunged in bottom heat. It appears to be a shy flowerer ; for although we have known it in cultivation for several years, we have not heard of its producing flowers, except in the collection above mentioned."

105. *PENTSTEMON AZUREUS*. *Bentham*. A hardy herbaceous plant from California. Flowers bright blue, very handsome. Belongs to the order of Linariads (*Scrophulariaceæ*). Introduced by the Horticultural Society.

A smooth, glaucous, erect perennial, about 2 feet high. Leaves linear-lanceolate, quite entire upon the stem, but near the root oblong and slightly heart-shaped at the base. Flowering racemes about a foot long or rather less, slightly downy, with one short peduncle in the axil of each opposite bract, bearing from 1 to 2 flowers. The latter are rather more than an inch long, clear violet blue, much deeper in the limb than on the tube. This hardy perennial is stated by Mr. Bentham to have been gathered in the dry river beds of the Valley of the Sacramento. Hartweg wrote on his seed papers that it was a mountain plant. It is very handsome as a border flower, but as its narrow foliage is not good, it is best grown among other species, such as *Pelargoniums*, &c.—*Journ. Hort. Soc.*

106. *BEGONIA CINNABARINA*. *Hooker*. A very handsome Bolivian greenhouse (?) plant with large nodding scarlet flowers. Introduced by Messrs. Henderson of Pine-Apple Place.

Extremely handsome ; the contrast between the green stem and darker green leaves, with the deep bright red of the long and stout peduncles and stipules, together with the red or rather deep large cinnabar-coloured flowers, is very striking, and renders this the most desirable of all the species for cultivation : add to which, it blooms very freely in an ordinary stove (I suspect it would do so in a greenhouse) and continues long in flower. Stem erect but zigzag, stout, succulent, pale green, slightly downy, as are the leaves and petioles. Leaves on rather short, stout, terete, green petioles, from four to six or seven inches long, obliquely ovate, (the young ones much plaited and edged with red,) lobed at the margin and doubly serrated, the minute teeth red. Stipules ovate, membranaceous, acuminate, red. Peduncles a span and more long, rather stout, terete, deep and bright red, bearing a panicle of six large handsome flowers, which as well as the ovaries and pedicels and ovate bracts are rather pale red or deep cinnamon colour. The ultimate pedicels are ternate, drooping, of which the central flower is male, the lateral ones female.—*Botanical Magazine*, t. 4483.

The interior of the ovary not being described we are uncertain whether this is a true *Begonia* or not.

107. *UROPEDIUM LINDENII*. *Lindley*. An extraordinary herbaceous orchid, with all the habit of the long-tailed Lady's-slipper. Native of New Grenada. Introduced by Linden. Flowered in May with M. Pescatore.

This, which is the most remarkable of the terrestrial orchids yet known, is thus described in the *Orchidaceæ Lindenianæ*: This singular and magnificent plant grows on the ground in the little woods of the Savannah, in that elevated part of the Cordillera which overlooks the vast forests at the bottom of the Lake of Maracaybo, and situated on the territory of the Indians of Chiguará, at the height of 8500 feet. Sepals oval-lanceolate, pale yellow, streaked with orange. Petals purple, orange at the base. The flower may be from fifteen to twenty inches long in its greatest diameter. Leaves thick and fleshy ; June 1843. The habit of this curious plant is exactly that of *Cypripedium insigne*. The leaves are a foot long, blunt, unequally two-toothed at the point, shining, spotless, and longer than the downy scape. The bracts are two, of which the exterior is spathaceous, compressed, blunt, coriaceous, and much longer than the inner. The peduncle is six inches long, downy and one-flowered. The upper sepal is ovate-lanceolate, and four inches long ; the lower are united into one of the same form, but rather wider. The petals are linear-lanceolate, extended into a long, narrow tail, and are probably eight or nine inches long, but in my specimens they are broken. The lip is of exactly the same form, but broader, and like the sepals is shaggy at the base.

We learn from Mons. Pescatore that it has now produced two flowers with him, in his great collection at the Château of Celle St. Cloud, near Paris. The sepals are white streaked with green, and more than $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches long ; the petals and lip full 21 inches long, very velvety at the base, white streaked with green ; the tails have the colour of wine lees.