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South American Beeches

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*Rhizoma repens*. *Caulis* ascendens, foliosus. *Folia* petiolata ovato-oblonga, breviter acuminata, membranacea, 9–17-nervia, 5–11 cm. longa, 2–4 cm. lata; petiolus 3–4 cm. longus, basi in vaginam membranaceam tubulosam dilatatus. *Scapi* erecti, 10 cm. alti, vaginis lanceolatis acuminatis imbricatis obtecti; racemus ovoideus vel oblongus, 2.5–5 cm. longus, densiflorus. *Bractee* ovatae vel lanceolato-ovatae, acuminatae, glanduloso-pubescentes, 12–18 mm. longae. *Pedicelli* 8 mm. longi, glanduloso-pubescentes. *Sepala* subaequalia, lineari-oblonga, subobtusata, basi conniventia, dein laeviter recurva, 3 mm. longa, extus glanduloso-pubescentia. *Petala* linearia, acuta, cum sepalo postico in galeam angustam subcohaerentia. *Labellum* 6 mm. longum, erectum, basi paullo ventricosum, columnae marginibus laeviter adhaerens; limbus oblongus, apice angustus, valide recurvus; discus bicarinatus. *Columna* clavata, 5 mm. longa.

MADAGASCAR. *Warpur*; *Baron*, 6550, 6753; Mauritius, summit of the Pouce, in dense woods, *Ayres*.

Flowered at Kew in December, 1901, the plant having been collected by Mr. Warpur. The flowers are light green with a whitish lip. The Mauritian specimen, which is in fruit only, was referred to *Platylophos goodyeroides*, A. Rich., by Spencer Moore (Baker Fl. Maurit. p. 339), but, as Bentham has noted on the sheet, it differs in the shape of the bracts and venation of the leaves. It seems identical with the Madagascar plant.

290. *Cypripedium Wilsoni*, *Rolfe*; affine *C. fasciolato*, Franch., sed flore majore et labello ovoideo nec globoso differt.

*Caules* 30–40 cm. alti, puberuli, foliosi. *Folia* subsessilia, late elliptica vel orbiculari-elliptica, acuta vel breviter acuminata, plicata, minutissime puberula et ciliolata, 9–16 cm. longa, 4–12 cm. lata. *Flores* maximi, terminales, solitariae. *Sepalum* posticum ovatum, acuminatum, 6 cm. longum; lateralia paullo angustiora, apice breviter fissa. *Petala* anguste oblonga, acuminata, 6–7.5 cm. longa. *Labellum* maximum, late ovoideum, obtusum, 6.5–7 cm. longum, ore crenulato. *Columna* 1 cm. longa; staminodium cordato-ellipticum, concavum, 2 cm. longum. *Capsula* ellipsoidea, glanduloso-pubescentia, 3–5 cm. longa.

WESTERN CHINA. Szechuen; Mêng Hu Kāng, a pass between Wantung and Mosimien, on the main road from Tzutati to Tatienu, in woods, under dense shade, at 2400 m. alt., *E. H. Wilson*, 4581.

The largest-flowered species known. Mr. Wilson describes the sepals and petals as alternately striped with yellow and chocolate, and the lip as pale yellow with chocolate spots.

## LII.—SOUTH AMERICAN BEECHES.

The number of species of *Fagus* inhabiting South America is variously estimated, but there are at least four that stand out as quite distinct. They are *F. betuloides*, Mirb., *F. antarctica*, Forst., *F. obliqua*, Mirb., and *F. Dombeyi*, Mirb. Up to quite a recent date only two of them were cultivated in English gardens, viz., *F. betuloides* and *F. antarctica*, the two species which constitute so large a part of the sombre forests of Tierra del

Fuego. Two others—a species and a variety—have, however, been recently added to this interesting group of trees; they are *Fagus obliqua* and *F. antarctica* var. *uliginosa*. Kew owes their acquisition to Mr. H. J. Elwes, who presented seeds in March, 1902, which he had collected during his travels in Chili and Argentine one or two months previously. Sown in gentle heat they germinated well, especially those of *F. obliqua*, and growing away freely they were planted out in the open ground, where they have now withstood two winters without any protection, and are at present in perfect health. It is, however, too early yet to proclaim them as hardy at Kew, for they have not been subjected to a temperature lower than 19° Fahr. Still, there is little doubt but that they will be perfectly at home in the southern and western counties of England and Ireland, and in the hope of ensuring them a permanent place in the gardens of the British Isles the few surplus specimens will this autumn be distributed to these and similarly mild localities.

*F. betuloides* is the best known of these South American Beeches in this country, and one of the finest specimens of it in cultivation is in the garden at Pencarrow, Cornwall. This tree is now 39 ft. high with a trunk 4 ft. 3 ins. in girth. The deep lustrous green of its small, prettily crenate, evergreen leaves, and its dense yet graceful habit render it one of the most striking and ornamental of hardy trees. It is now being tried in the open at Kew, but Woking is the nearest locality to London where it is known to have succeeded out-of-doors for any length of time. This is in Mr. Anthony Waterer's nursery. There is also a fine specimen in Mr. B. E. C. Chambers' garden near Haslemere. The species is very abundantly represented in Tierra del Fuego, some of the largest trees having trunks from 4 to 7 ft. in diameter.

*F. Dombeyi*.—This is an evergreen species bearing some resemblance to *F. betuloides* in foliage. Its leaves are ovate-lanceolate, of hard texture, serrate, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. long. There is, however, a form represented in the Kew Herbarium with leaves  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ins. long. So far as we are aware, the species is not under cultivation in this country. Mr. Elwes kindly furnishes the following note upon it:—"This fine beech is known in Chile as 'Coigue,' and is very abundant in the forests of the western slope of the Andes up to about 5,000 or 6,000 ft. in the neighbourhood of the Baths of Chillan, and as far south as I went on the shores of Lake Nahuel-huapi. It attains a great size in favourable situations, one which I measured below the Baths of Chillan being 22 ft., and another 27 ft. in circumference at 5 ft. from the ground. It grows in pure forest or mixed with *Araucaria*, and, higher up, with *Fagus antarctica*. It crosses to the Argentine side of the frontier wherever the rainfall is sufficiently heavy, but does not extend to the drier region below about 3,000 ft. I brought home seeds and specimens collected at Lake Meliquina on February 9th. This tree is often covered with a very beautiful parasite called *Myzodendron linearifolium*, DC., of which good specimens are in the Herbarium. I was told by Mr. Barton, who was felling this tree for timber on Lake Nahuel-huapi, that the timber was too heavy to float when green." The seeds mentioned by Mr. Elwes do not appear to have been received at Kew or, if so, they did not germinate.

*F. antarctica* is a deciduous-leaved species which grows intermingled with *F. betuloides* in the forests of Tierra del Fuego and extends far to the north into Chili. It is exceedingly rare in cultivation. Its foliage is variable in character, especially in the marginal cutting of the leaf-blade. In the var. *bicrenata* of De Candolle the leaves are mostly bicrenate, but in the var. *uliginosa*, now introduced by Mr. Elwes, they are multicrenate. Mr. Elwes has kindly supplied the following remarks about the latter :—“*Fagus antarctica* var. *uliginosa* is a smaller tree than *F. Dombeyi*, and is called ‘Mere’ in Chili. It occurs at higher elevations and forms a dense scrub on the Argentine side of the frontier, extending near the Baths of Chillan up to 7,000 ft., or more. On the mountains around Lake Nahuel-huapi it covers the summits up to 5,000–6,000 ft., and when I passed at the end of February the leaves had turned a brilliant red. It is affected by the same parasite that grows on *F. Dombeyi*, namely, *Myzodendron linearifolium*. The seeds which I brought home came from Lake Meliquina. At the Baths of Chillan I also found the bicrenate variety of this tree.”

On the young trees at Kew raised from Mr. Elwes’ seeds the leaves are  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ins. long, cordate with an oblique base, irregularly and minutely crenate, and with the petioles so short that the basal lobes of the leaf often project beyond the stem. The slender unbranched shoots (this year 3 ft. long) clothed with these small, regularly alternate, closely set leaves, give to the trees a most distinct appearance.

*F. obliqua*.—Although this species is said to have been introduced previously, we are not aware of any trees growing in this country other than those raised in 1902 from Mr. Elwes’ seeds.

The largest of the trees at Kew are now 9 ft. high and the growths of the past summer  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 ft. long. Provided it proves hardy, it will evidently be a rapid-growing tree. Writing of this species Mr. Elwes says :—“This fine tree seemed to be confined to the lower levels in the territory south of the Bio-bio River, where it forms a large part of the forest and is cut for timber which is largely exported from Valdivia and Concepcion under the name of ‘Roblé.’ Some of this timber has been shipped to England by Herr von Voden, a merchant of Temuco, and has been tried for sleepers by the Great Western Railway Company, whose engineer at Swindon was good enough to send me a sample of it. It seems a hard, heavy wood of reddish-brown colour and compact grain, which would be suitable, when properly seasoned, for furniture.

“The forests are being rapidly destroyed by axe and fire and large crops of wheat being grown on the ground among the stumps.

“I collected seed of this tree at San Ignacio, where it is the host of a beautiful parasite, *Myzodendron punctatum*, Banks and Sol.”

The leaves of *F. obliqua* are deciduous and, on the young trees at Kew, are oblong-ovate, doubly crenate, 2 to 3 ins. long, dark green above, paler and rather glaucous beneath.

W. J. B.