

CURTIS'S
BOTANICAL MAGAZINE,

COMPRISING THE

Plants of the Royal Gardens of Kew


AND

OF OTHER BOTANICAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN GREAT BRITAIN;
WITH SUITABLE DESCRIPTIONS;

BY

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"A wreath that cannot fade of flowers that blow
With most success when all besides decay."

Mo. Bot. Garden,

1897.

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LOVELL REEVE & CO., HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

1863.



BOWENIA SPECTABILIS.

Australian Bowenia.

Nat. Ord. CYCADEÆ.—DIECIA POLYANDRIA.

Gen. Char. Flores amentacei. AMENT. MASC.: parva, ovoidea, obtusa. Squamæ late obovato-cuneatæ, vix stipitatæ, crassiusculæ, apice dilatatæ truncatæ et tomentosæ. Antheræ basin versus squamæ utrinque aggregatæ, confertæ, subnumerossæ, minutæ, 1-loculares, rima longitudinali dehiscentes. AMENT. FEM. ignota.—Planta elata; caudice brevi, crasso, subcylindræo, pro maxima parte terra abscondito, lenticellis magnis notato, folia 1-2 ampla apice emittente. Folia longe et gracile petiolata; petiolo teretiusculo, ima basi tantum lanuginoso; lamina bipinnatisecta, circumscriptione suborbiculari, ampla; rachi ramisque gracilibus, patentibus; pinnulis oblique falcato-lanceolatis, breviter petiolatis petiolulis decurrentibus cum rachi non articulatis, longe caudato-acuminatis, integerimis v. unidentatis, flaccidis, utrinque late viridibus, venis parallelis parce anastomosantibus. AMENT. MASC.: solitaria, breviter stipitata, $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ unc. longa. Hook. fil.

BOWENIA spectabilis. Hook. ms.

With the exception of *Stangeria paradoxa* (Tab. nostr. 5121), no more remarkable Cycadeous plant has been discovered than the subject of our present Plate, and like that plant it differs from every member of its Order in the nature of its leaves, which present remarkable analogies with those of the Ferns; whereas, however, the anomalous character of *Stangeria* is afforded by the venation of the pinnules, which so exactly simulated those of a *Lomaria*, that two authors had (unknown to one another) referred it to that genus. The resemblance in the case of *Bowenia* is in some respects carried further, inasmuch as the leaf is not simply pinnate, as in *Stangeria* and other *Cycadææ*, but decomposed, like a *Marattia*.

The discoverer of this singular plant was the late Allan Cunningham, from whom we received upwards of forty years ago a portion of a frond, collected at the Endeavour river (lat. 15° S.) in 1819, and referred by him provisionally to *Aroideæ* (*Dracontium polyphyllum*, ms.). Nothing, however, was known further of it till

Mr. Walter Hill, the zealous and able head of the Brisbane Botanic Garden, rediscovered it in Rockingham Bay, and sent a young living plant, with full-grown dried leaves and a male cone, to the Royal Gardens, Kew, in 1863. From these materials the Plate and description have been made; and, in accordance with Mr. Hill's desire as well as our own, we have attached the name of the present enlightened Governor of Queensland (Sir George F. Bowen, G.C.M.G., Captain and Governor-in-Chief), to the genus, in recognition no less of that officer's position as Governor of the district of Australia, in which the plant was found, than of his liberal encouragement of botany, and of Mr. Hill's exertions in particular.

As a genus, the most prominent character of *Bowenia* is the compound leaf, its general characters (all but shape), texture, and venation; the leaflets do not differ from those of *Macrozamia*, and are so very similar to those of some West Indian *Zamias*, that it is difficult to distinguish them generically, except that in *Bowenia* the leaflet is decurrent by the petiole, and not articulate with the rachis. The habits of growth, caudex, etc., entirely accord with that of the South America *Zamias*, as does the male amentum; the female amentum and fruit are both at present unknown, but we trust ere long they will be detected and published. *Hook. fil.*

Fig. 1. Reduced figure of entire plant. 2. Caudex and base of petiole. 3. Portion of leaf. 4. Male cone:—*natural size*. 5, 6, and 7. Side, upper and under view of scale, with anthers:—*magnified*.
