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Curtis's botanical magazine

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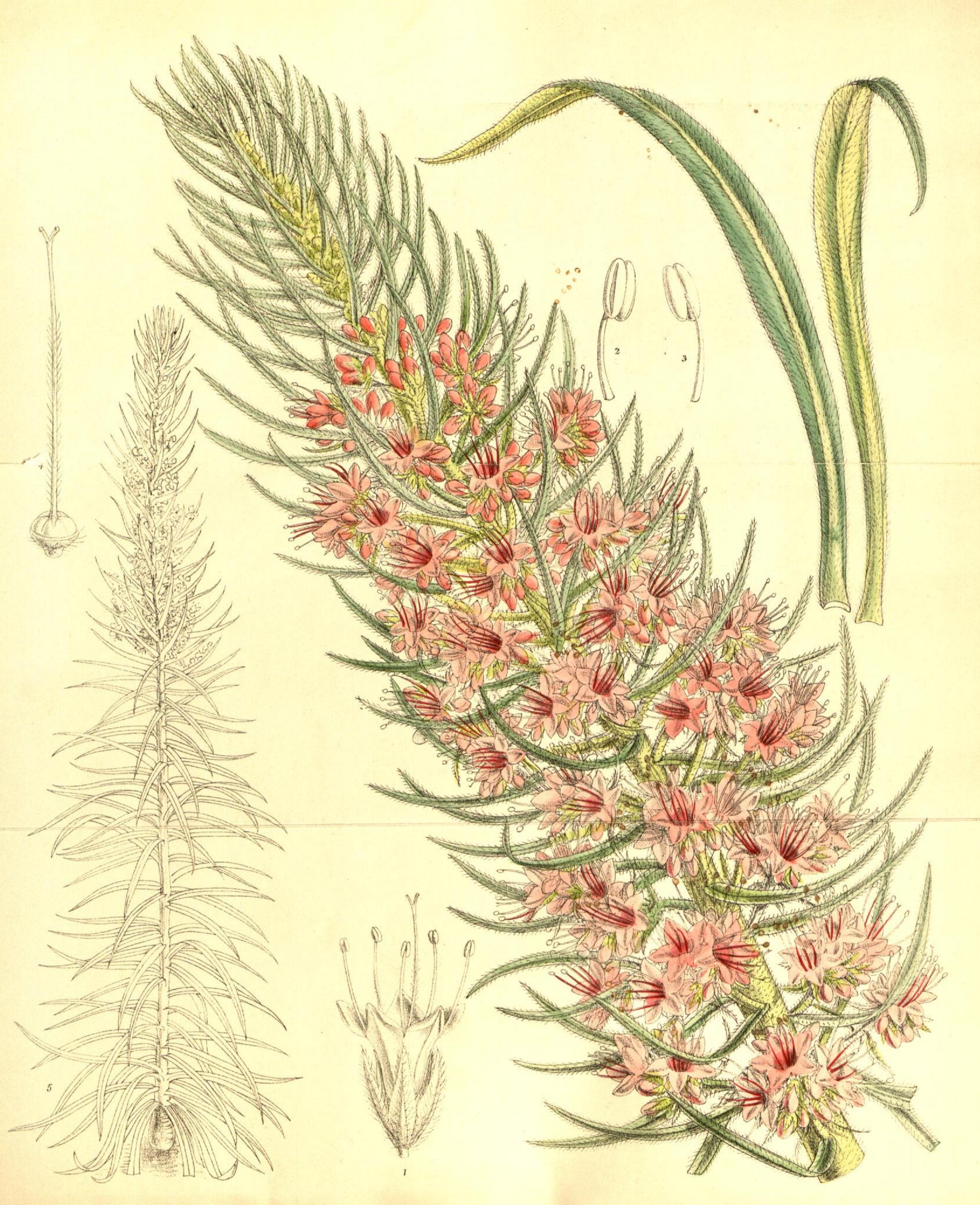
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TAB. 7847.

ECHIUM WILDPRETII.

Native of the Canary Islands.

Nat. Ord. BORAGINE E. Tribe BORAGE E.

Genus Echium, Linn.; (Benth. & Hook. f. Gen. Plant. vol. i. p. 863.)

Echium Wildpretii; bienne, molliter pilosa, caule 2-3-pedali simplice stricto erecto a basi paullo incrassato crebre folioso, foliis 6-8-pollicaribus patentibus sessilibus lineari-lanceolatis acuminatis utrinque pilis mollibus subsericeis vestitis costa latiuscula nervis obscuris, cymis multifloris in thyrsum terminalem elongatum foliosum dispositis, foliis floralibus linearibus patenti-incurvis cymas pedunculatas longe superantibus, floribus breviter pedicellatis, calycis \(\frac{1}{5} \) poll. longi segmentis æqualibus lanceolatis acuminatis pilosis, corolla infundibulari-campanulata pallide rubra tubo calyce paullo longiore basi intus annulo pilorum instructo, lobis æqualibus late ovatis obtusis, filamentis erectis corolla duplo longioribus pallide sanguineis, antheris parvis oblongis, stylo piloso apice bipartito.

E. Wildpretii, Pearson in Hort. Kew. (nomen).

The species of Echium, of which more than eighty are catalogued in the Kew "Index Plantarum," are very difficult of discrimination. This applies especially to the species of Madeira and the Canary Islands, of which twenty have been described, but of which not a few will probably be reduced to synonyms or varieties when they shall be collated and critically examined. Of the plant here figured seeds were sent to the Royal Gardens, Kew, by Mr. Wildpret, Curator of the Botanic Gardens of Orotava, Teneriffe, under the name of E. candicans, Linn. f., a very different plant, as may be seen by a reference to tab. 6868 of this work. The seeds germinated freely, and the young plants ripened their seeds in 1897. From these a batch of plants was raised, which flowered in May, 1899, and dying after flowering, proved the species to be biennial. In the first year the plant formed a dense rosette of long, narrow, silvery, silken leaves, and the stem elongates after about sixteen months. The only other species known to me with the habit, thyrsoid inflorescence, and floral leaves much exceeding the cymes, is E. callithyrsum, Webb (ex Bolle in Ind. Sem. Hort. Berol. 1867, App. i. p. 6), a Canary Island plant, of which there are specimens (if AUGUST 1st, 1902.

correctly named) in the Kew Herbarium, from the garden of the late Rev. Henry Harper-Crewe, M.A., of Drayton Beauchamp. This differs from E. Wildpretii in being a much more robust, hispidly hairy plant, with strongly nerved leaves, very unequal calyx-segments, and a shorter, broader corolla-tube. It is further described as being a small tree.

Descr.—A tall, softly hairy biennial, with a simple, erect, leafy stem, two to three feet high, terminated by a dense-flowered thyrsus of innumerable shortly peduncled cymes, which are very much shorter than the linear, upcurved floral leaves. Leaves six to eight inches long, sessile, narrowly linear-lanceolate, acuminate, spreading, softly hairy on both surfaces, costa stout beneath, nerves faint; lower floral leaves three to four inches long, linear. Flowers sub-sessile. Calya about one-fifth of an inch long; segments equal, lanceolate, acuminate, hairy. Corolla between funnel- and bell-shaped, pale red; lobes rounded. Filaments far exserted. Style hairy, tip bifid.—J. D. H.

Fig. 1, flower; 2 and 3, anthers; 4, pistil:—all enlarged.