

CREPIS MACRORHIZA. LARGE-ROOTED
HAWK'S BEARD.

Class and Order.

SYNGENESIA POLYGAMIA ÆQUALIS.

(Nat. Ord.—COMPOSITÆ. Div. CICHORACEÆ.)

Generic Character.

Involucrum polyphyllum, squamis ad basin laxis. *Receptaculum* nudum. *Pappus* sessilis, simplex.

Specific Character and Synonym.

CREPIS* *macrorhiza*; glaberrima, caulibus solidis foliatis oblongis dentatis sessilibus (inferioribus in petiolum attenuatis) nitidis subcarnoso-coriaceis, pedunculis superne subincrassatis squamosis, involuero subfarinoso-pubescenti, radice crassa. *Lowe MSS.*

CREPIS *macrorhiza*. *Herb. Banks.*

DESCR. " From the crown of the very large and thick root, which, in its native country, penetrates deep into the fissures of the perpendicular rocks, spring, annually, several leafy, simple, herbaceous, but firm and solid stems, about a foot high, forming a tuft of shining, dark green foliage. The stems, from their situation, are, generally more or less decumbent. The leaves are of a rigid, almost coriaceous substance, pointed, and strongly toothed. Flowers numerous, small, bright yellow, closing soon after the plant is gathered, forming a loosely branched, leafy panicle: their peduncles clothed with permanent, linear, scattered scales, similar

* *μακρῶς*, in Greek, signifies a slipper or last; but why it should be applied to this plant we are not informed.

similar to those at the base of the involucre, which are also permanent. *Involucre* slightly farinoso-pubescent, mealy, particularly between the scales. *Pappus* perfectly sessile." *LOWE in litt.*

I have, on a former occasion, in the Bot. Miscellany, taken occasion to mention, that the Rev. R. T. LOWE, B. A. of Christ's College, Cambridge, and late Travelling Bachelor from that University, had been most successfully exploring the Natural History of Madeira and the adjacent islands, and that he was preparing materials for a work on that interesting subject. This work is now more fully announced, as in a state of forwardness, under the unassuming title of a "*Prodromus Faunæ et Floræ Maderensis.*" Few travellers are better fitted for such a task than Mr. LOWE, and we have reason to know, that his book will contain much new and important matter, and is one that has long been a desideratum. If the number of unknown species detected by Mr. LOWE be not very considerable, there are assuredly among them many that are undescribed, or only noticed in the Banksian Herbarium, which contains an extensive collection from Madeira, made by MASSON. The present is one of that number, as has been determined by a comparison of the specimens.

It is constantly found growing on the perpendicular faces of dry, sunny rocks, never in soil, in many of the vallies of Madeira, at an altitude above the level of the sea of from three to four thousand feet, flowering in July and August. Seeds, as well as specimens, have been communicated by Mr. LOWE, and the plant has flowered in the Glasgow Botanic Garden in the month of June; but there, whilst young, its flowering was hastened by artificial heat. There is no doubt, that if the roots are kept well drained, the plant will flourish in the open air.

Fig. 1. A Floret. 2. Fruit. 3. Hair of the Pappus, *magnified.* 4. Portion of the Root, *nat. size.*

