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Swan Sc.

BEGÓNIA ACUMINÁTA. POINT-LEAVED
 BEGONIA; or Elephant's Ear.

Class and Order.

MONŒCIA POLYANDRIA.

(Nat. Ord.—BEGONIACEÆ.)

Generic Character.

MASC. *Calyx* o. *Corolla* polypetala, petalis plerumque 4, inæqualibus. FŒM. *Calyx* o. *Corolla* petalis 4—9, plerumque inæqualibus. *Styli* 3 bifidi. *Capsula* triquetra, alata, trilocularis, polysperma.

Specific Character and Synonyms.

BEGONIA *acuminata*; caulescens, foliis hispidis subplicatis semicordato-ovatis acuminatis lobatis inciso-serratis, capsulæ ala maxima oblique triangulari-ovata reliquis parvis acutangulis subæqualibus.

BEGONIA *acuminata*. *Dryand. in Trans. Linn. Soc. v. 1. p. 166. t. 14. f. 5, 6.* *Willd. Sp. Pl. v. 4. p. 417.* *Hort. Kew. ed. 2. v. 5. p. 284.* *Ker, in Bot. Reg. t. 364.* *Spreng. Syst. Veget. v. 2. p. 626.*

The various species of BEGONIA have not been valued by Horticulturists in general, according to their merits. As stove plants, few families present a greater variety of colour and form in their foliage than they do: they are easily increased, ready flowerers, and the blossoms are highly beautiful. A collection of various species, grouped together, as is now the case in the Royal Gardens of Kew, is at all seasons of the year attractive; and from among this group the present one, though far indeed from being the handsomest, is selected. It was introduced to this establishment by Sir JOSEPH BANKS, from Jamaica,

in

in 1790, and flowers, more or less copiously, from May to December.

DESCR. Our plant rises with several weak, though rather stout, fleshy, semi-pellucid, reddish stems, having a few scattered patent hairs, to the height of three or four feet, branched. *Leaves* on short, rounded *petioles*, two to three inches long, succulent, very oblique, or, in other words, semi-cordato-ovate, hispid, plaited at the nerves, acuminate, lobed and inciso-serrate at the margin. *Stipules* ovate, membranous, deciduous. *Peduncles* axillary, longer than the leaves, hispid, bearing three to five flowers. *Male flowers* consisting of four, white *petals*, two large and acute, two about half that size and obtuse. *Female flowers* with five white *petals*, of which two are smaller. *Fruit* with one large and two small membranous wings.

Fig. 1. Section of a Capsule :—magnified.