



BEGONIA BOWRINGIANA.

Bowring's Begonia.

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.—MONGECIA POLYANDRIA.

Gen. Char. (*Vide supra*, TAB. 4172.)

BEGONIA (*Diplochonium*) *Bowringianum*; caule herbaceo erecto ramoso, foliis late inæqualiter cordatis inæqualiter irregulariter 5-7-lobis, lobis latis brevibus acutis dentatis lobatisve supra hispidulis subtus ramulisque novellis rufo-lanatis, pedunculis folio brevioribus paucifloris, capsulæ alis 2 angustis tertia elongata. *Benth.*

BEGONIA *Bowringiana*. *Champ. in Benth. Florul. Hongk. Kew Gard. Misc. v. 4. p. 120.*

The present species of *Begonia* is very deficient in brightness, as compared with many of the species with richly-coloured foliage, which are such favourites with cultivators of stove plants of the present day; and yet it is so nearly allied to a very handsome species, namely the *B. laciniata*, Roxb. and of this work (Tab. 5021), that I was at first disposed to believe the two were specifically identical. The latter-mentioned *Begonia* is, however, remarkable for the variegated foliage, both on the upper and under side, the larger white petals, with the outer sepals rufo-tomentose, the peduncles longer than the leaves, bearing more numerous flowers, and the very hispid fruit. The present is the only species of the genus yet detected in Hongkong, where it was discovered by the late Colonel Champion; and seeds were sent to us by Mr. Wilford in 1858.

DESCR. *Rhizome* "thick fleshy;" the *stem* short, nearly as thick as one's finger, flexuose, jointed, tinged with red, slightly woolly, swollen at the joints. *Leaves* rather large, six to ten inches long, four to six inches broad, very unequally cordate, petiolate, green, and slightly hairy above, dull rufous and somewhat woolly beneath, the *pubescence* deciduous, the margin very irregularly cut into acute or acuminate lobes, and, besides, unequally serrated: *petioles* longer than the leaves, terete, thick, woolly, especially on the anterior side below the blade. *Stipules* large, membranaceous, reddish, cordato-ovate, acuminate. *Peduncles* much shorter than the petioles, axillary, reddish, woolly, bearing three or four flowers, of which the majority are male.

MAY 1st, 1860.

Bracteas resembling the stipules. *Perianth* pale rose-colour. *Male flower* large; *sepals* four, two large and broad, two (opposite ones) oblong and narrow, all spreading and subtomentose at the back. *Female flowers* smaller than the male, of five, spreading, equal, obovate *sepals*. *Fruit* villous, at length glabrous, with two short and one very long, oblong, deflexed, striated *wings*.

Fig. 1. Stamen, *magnified*. 2. Female flower, *nat. size*. 3. Fruit, *ditto*. 4. Transverse section of the capsule, *ditto*.
