



BEGONIA CINNABARINA.

Cinnabar-flowered Elephant's Ear.

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.—MONŒCIA POLYANDRIA.

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

BEGONIA *cinnabarina*; puberula, caule elongato tereti folioso, foliis breviusculo-
et crasso-petiolatis amplis oblique ovatis sinuato-lobatis duplicato-serratis,
pedunculis elongatis rubris, floribus inter majores totis pedicellisque cinna-
barinis, masc. 4-fœm. 5-sepalis obovatis, capsulis subgloboso-triquetris, alis
2 subobsoletis tertia longiuscule producta.

For this extremely handsome species of *Begonia* we are indebted to Messrs. Henderson of Pine Apple Place, who raised it from seeds sent by Mr. Bridges from Bolivia. The contrast between the green stem and darker green leaves, with the deep bright red of the long and stout peduncles and stipules, together with the red or rather deep large cinnabar-coloured flowers, is very striking, and renders this, I think I may say, the most desirable of all the species for cultivation: add to which, it blooms very freely in an ordinary stove (I suspect it would do so in a greenhouse) and continues long in flower.

DESCR. *Stem* erect, but zigzag, stout, terete, succulent, pale green, slightly downy, as are the leaves and petioles. *Leaves* on rather short, stout, terete, green *petioles*, from four to six or seven inches long, obliquely ovate, subplicate (the young ones very plicate and edged with red) sinuate or lobed at the margin and doubly serrated, the minute teeth red. *Stipules* ovate, membranaceous, acuminate, red. *Peduncles* a span and more long, rather stout, terete, deep and bright red, bearing a *panicle* (in our specimen) of six large handsome *flowers*, which, as well as the ovaries and pedicels and ovate *bracts*, are rather pale-red or deep cinnamon colour. The ultimate *pedicels* are ternate, drooping, of which the central flower is male, the lateral ones female. *Male fl.* *Petals* four, broadly obovate, spreading. *Sta-*

mens very numerous, dense, orange-coloured. *Female fl.* *Petals* five, rather smaller than those of the male. *Ovary* and *capsule* subglobose, with three longitudinal angles, two of the angles with small wings, the third with a somewhat triangular projecting wing: wings red. *W. J. H.*

CULT. The genus *Begonia* contains upwards of 140 described species, natives chiefly of the tropical regions of Asia and America, none, it is said, being found in Africa. They are characterized by a succulent texture, and many of them are of an epiphytal nature. Some have upright or climbing suffruticose stems; others have creeping stems analogous to a rhizoma; a few have tuberous roots, and a few are annuals. Many of them bear handsome flowers, which, with their peculiar and various-shaped foliage, and the ease with which the plants are cultivated, have caused them to become favourites in our hothouses. The present very beautiful species belongs to the division with tuberous roots; and as these lie in a dormant state during winter, they require to be placed so as not to receive more moisture than will keep the mould from becoming absolutely dry. For spring they should be repotted, using a mixture of light loam and sandy peat soil, and set in a warm pit or hothouse, placing the pot near the glass, and care being taken not to give much water till the plant has made some progress in growth. *J. S.*

Fig. 1. Ovary or young fruit:—*magnified.*
