



W. Fitch del<sup>o</sup>

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Swiss. G.

BEGÓNIA COCCÍNEA. SCARLET-FLOWERED  
BEGONIA ; or Elephant's Ear.

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*Class and Order.*

MONŒCIA POLYANDRIA.

( Nat. Ord.—BEGONIACEÆ. )

*Generic Character.*

MASC. *Calyx* 0. *Corolla* polypetala, petalis plerumque 4, inæqualibus.—FŒM. *Calyx* 0. *Corolla* petalis 4—9, plerumque inæqualibus. *Styli* 3, bifidi. *Capsula* triquetra, alata, trilocularis, polysperma.

*Specific Name and Character.*

BEGONIA *coccinea*; foliis obliquis oblongo-ovatis acuminatis carnosis sinuatis serratis rubro-marginatis, stipulis amplis obovatis concavis coloratis deciduis, paniculis nutantibus, floribus intense coccineis, masc. petalis 4 rotundatis quorum 2 minimis, fœm. petalis 5—6 æqualibus ovatis, capsula pyriformi, alis 3 æqualibus.

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Unquestionably the most beautiful of the many handsome species of BEGONIA now known to our collections, and, apparently, a very free flowerer. It was imported by Mr. VEITCH of the Exotic Nursery, from the Organ Mountains of Brazil, that rich storehouse of vegetable beauties: being there detected by Mr. LOBB in 1841. It blossomed at Mr. VEITCH'S Nursery soon after it was received, namely, in April, 1842, when it was exhibited at the apartments of the Horticultural Society. When the plants become larger, and the blossoms, consequently, more copious, it will be a truly splendid species: and, like most of the BEGONIAS, its flowers continue a long time in perfection.

DESCR. The plant from which our drawing and description were made, was scarcely a foot high, with a rather stout, knotted

knotted *stem*. *Leaves* alternate, very oblique, or inæquilateral, between ovate and oblong, shortly acuminate, concave, very thick and fleshy, the margin sinuated and toothed, bordered with red. *Petioles* scarcely an inch long: at the base of the upper ones are very large, concave, obovate, membranaceous, coloured *stipules*, which soon fall away as the leaves attain maturity. *Peduncles* axillary and terminal, rather short, red, bearing a dichotomous, spreading, and drooping *panicle*: its branches everywhere red, and with oblong, concave, red, deciduous bractæas. *Flowers* bright scarlet, exceedingly beautiful. *Male flowers* of four rounded, spreading *petals*, or *sepals*; *female*, of five or six spreading, oblong-ovate, and equally-sized ones. *Stamens* and *styles* yellow. *Germen* and nearly-mature *fruit* clavate, or narrowly pyriform, triangular, with three almost equal, projecting, and, below, decurrent wings. The *germens* and young *fruit* are both red.

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Fig. 1. Section of a Germen. 2. Female Flower;—slightly magnified.