



W. Fitch, del et lith.

Vincent Brooks, Imp.

BEGONIA FALCIFOLIA.

The Sickle-leaved Begonia.

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.—MONŒCIA POLYANDRIA.

Gen. Char. (*Vide supra*, TAB. 4131.)

BEGONIA falcifolia; pagina superiore folii setosa excepta glaberrima, nitida, caule erecto subramoso, foliis petiolatis lanceolato-falcatis attenuato-acuminatis basi oblique cordatis, irregulariter serrato-dentatis uno latere sublobatis junioribus albo-punctatis, subtus rubro-purpureis supra saturate viridibus inflorescentia roseo-purpurea, perianthii foliolis ♀ et ♂ 2 orbiculatis roseis staminibus breviter monadelphis, ovario 3-alat. apice contracto, stylis 3, stigmatorum cruribus brevibus fascia papillosa semel torta basi continua cinctis, placentis integris.

A very lovely species, a native of Peru, from whence it was imported by Messrs. Veitch, being discovered by their collector, Mr. Pearce. For the plant here figured, which has been in flower almost ever since Christmas, the Royal Gardens are indebted to W. Wilson Sanders, Esq., F.R.S. I am at a loss to which of Klotzsch's or A. De Candolle's sections of the genus to refer it, there being none of these with entire placentas which have but two leaflets of the perianth in both the male and female flower.

DESCR. *Stems* one to two feet high, glabrous, terete, erect, more or less branched. *Leaves* petiolate, four to seven inches long, petiole an inch and a half to two inches, falcate-lanceolate, gradually narrowed to the tip, base two-lobed-cordate, the larger lobe produced laterally, irregularly serrate or duplicate dentate-serrate, four or six smaller teeth occurring between the larger, veins very oblique, prominent beneath, under-surface deep red-purple, upper very deep green, often bronzed, covered with short, stiff, scattered, erect hairs, the younger spotted with white. *Stipules* small, oblong, acute. *Panicles* short, axillary, hermaphrodite, six- to ten-flowered, much shorter than the leaves, rose-pink; peduncles and pedicels very slender; bracts small, oblong. *Perianth* of both

sexes of two orbicular, glabrous, rose-coloured leaflets, half an inch long. *Stamens* monadelphous at the base, in a unilateral, curved bundle, filaments about as long as the clavate anthers. *Ovary* oblong, equally three-winged, contracted to a short neck at the apex; styles three, free, except at the base, bifid, the lobes short, with a short, twisted, continuous fascia; placentas quite entire.—*J. D. H.*

Fig. 1. Stamen. 2. Ovary. 3. Transverse section of do.:—*all magnified.*