



## TAB. 5160.

## BEGONIA FRIGIDA.

*Frigid Begonia.*


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 Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.—MONŒCIA POLYANDRIA.

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

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*BEGONIA frigida*; suffruticosa erecta glabra, foliis longe petiolatis inæqualiter oblique cordatis brevi-acuminatis brevissime sinuato-lobatis serratisque, lobis acutis supra intense viridibus subtus rubro-roseis, stipulis ovatis acuminatis roseis integerrimis, pedunculis axillaribus folia excedentibus bis dichotomis, floribus parvis albis, masculis 4-sepalis quorum 2 ovatis 2 multo minoribus linearibus, staminibus 9 erectis, fœmineis sepalis 4-5 æqualibus lineari-oblongis, capsula membranacea 3-alata, alis 2 majoribus.

*BEGONIA frigida.* *Hortul. Alf. De Cand. in Ann. des Sc. Nat. 4th Ser. v. 11. p. 51.*

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The foliage of this small species of *Begonia*, which we received from Continental gardens under the name here adopted, is more attractive than the flowers, which are unusually small and insignificant, and quite colourless; but our artist, Mr. Fitch, while making the drawing, detected a curious morphological structure, in the fact of one of the flowers having an *inferior* perianth of four very unequal sepals (such as are indicative of a male flower); and above their point of insertion are four stamens (apparently perfect), alternating with four *superior*, free, ovate ovaries, each with a short style, and two, downy, linear stigmas. It is to be regretted that no section was made of these ovaries, which from situation and in form so little resemble the three-celled, inferior fruit of *Begonia*. Indeed, all the flowers had an imperfect appearance, a weak and starving aspect, as if likely to prove abortive; for they are not only small, but the stamens were few in each flower, never more than nine: in the female flower the petals vary from four to five, and the fruit was in one instance four-sided and four-winged.

De Candolle, in his admirable "*Mémoire sur la Famille des Bégoniacées*" in the *Annales*, l.c., makes brief mention of this species as cultivated in the garden of M. Boissier at Geneva, and refers it to a section, "*Dasysteles*," whose character is "*Flores*

*masc. disepali, dipetali. Stamina libera, antheris oblongis, filamentis longioribus. Fl. fem. lobis tribus, æqualibus. Styli tres, liberi, bifidi, a basi usque ad apicem ramorum undique papilloso, ramis erectis linearibus. Placentæ integræ. Capsula subæqualiter trilobata.*"

DESCR. *Stem*, in our plant, not more than a span high, glabrous, as are the *leaves*, which are from three to five inches long, long-petioled, unequally cordate, shortly acuminate, sinuate at the margin with small, sharp angles or lobes, and serrated, slightly pilose; upper side dark coppery-green, beneath deep rose-red, especially upon the veins. *Stipules* half an inch long, membranaceous, pale rose-colour, deciduous, ovato-acuminate. *Peduncles* longer than the leaves, twice dichotomous. *Flowers* white, small. *Male flowers* with four, spreading *sepals*, two oval, and two very small linear ones. *Stamens* nine. *Female flowers* larger. *Sepals* four to five, equal, oblong-oval, spreading. *Capsule* with two large and one small and very narrow wing.

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Fig. 1. Male flower. 2. A stamen. 3. Female flower. 4. Transformed hermaphrodite? flower :—*magnified.*