



## BEGONIA FUCHSIOIDES.

*Fuchsia-like Begonia, or Elephant's Ear.*

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.—MONŒCIA POLYANDRIA.

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

*BEGONIA fuchsoides*; subdioica, caule erecto ramoso glaberrimo, foliis semiovatis obliquis subfalcatis acutis serratis ciliatis, paniculis in ramos terminalibus floribusque pendentibus; masc. sepalis 4 in globum conniventibus quorum 2 int. oblongis minoribus, 2 ext. majoribus ovatis carnosis cymbiformibus; fem. petalis 5 ovatis conniventibus, ovario fructuque trialato ala unica multo majore, pedicellis triquetris.

A most lovely new *Begonia*, detected by Mr. Purdie on the Ocaña mountains of New Grenada, during his mission for the Royal Gardens of Kew. It is easily propagated by cuttings, grows rapidly, bears small but copious foliage, and is a plant to which he particularly requested our attention, on account of the copious, elegant, drooping, red flowers, at first sight resembling those of a *Fuchsia*; and because it is much eaten to allay thirst by the Arrieros (mule-drivers) of the country. He also observes that the globular buds (meaning, probably, the buds of the fertile blossoms, which are globular) contain a fluid, which, together with the acid of the flowers, proves highly grateful in the dry season and where there are no rivers. It has bloomed during the autumn months with Mr. Veitch of Exeter, and he has at this time (December 18th) one plant three feet high loaded with the richly-coloured flowers. It has been three months in bloom, and has abundance of buds yet to expand. Our plants are now, at mid-winter, beginning to flower. It is singular that, as far as they have yet blossomed, the plants have proved only male-flowered, except the tall one of Mr. Veitch, which has one cluster of female flowers at the top, and of which two are represented at fig. 2.

DESCR. *Stem* erect, two to three feet high, terete, succulent, glabrous, slightly tinged with red. *Leaves* copious, distichous, alternate, rather small, about an inch and a half long, dark full green, obliquely oblong-ovate, slightly falcate, acute, serrated,



glabrous, the margins obscurely ciliated, often tinged with red. *Stipules* oblong, obtuse, coloured. *Flowers* on dichotomously branched, pendent *panicles*, dicecious, rarely moncecious: all of a rich deep scarlet colour. *Pedicels* bracteated; *bracteas* lanceolate, acuminate, opposite. *Male flowers*: *Sepals* four, almost closed over the stamens; two ovate, large and boat-shaped, thick and fleshy, opposite and external; the other two smaller, oblong or approaching to obovate, slightly concave, of a thinner, almost membranaceous texture: *column of stamens* forming an ovate mass. *Female flowers*: *Sepals* five, rarely spreading, oval, nearly equal, concave. *Stigmas* six, erecto-patent, subulate, waved. *Ovary* of young fruit white, broadly obovate, triangular, the angles winged; two wings very short and one long, divergent; all red, and decurrent, so as to form a triangular pedicel.

Fig. 1. Male flower, with one (inner) sepal removed:—*magnified*. 2. Female flowers:—*natural size*. 3. Pistil (or young fruit):—*slightly magnified*.