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BEGONIA HERACLEIFOLIA; var. NIGRICANS.

Hog-weed Begonia; blackish-leaved var.

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.—MONŒCIA POLYANDRIA.

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

BEGONIA *heracleifolia*; acaulis, foliis subæqualiter cordatis profunde palmatis, lobis 7 lato-lanceolatis magis minusve acuminatis incisiss serratisque ciliatis sublonge petiolatis, petiolis scapisque elongatis patenti-hispidis, panicula composita, corollis dipetalis, fructu trialato, alis 2 rotundatis brevibus tertia elongata ovata porrecta maxima.

BEGONIA *heracleifolia*. Schlecht. et Cham. in *Linnaea*, v. 5. p. 603. Lindl. Bot. Reg. p. 1668. Grah. in *N. Phil. Journ. Ed. July*, 1833. Lindl. Bot. Reg. p. 1668. Hook. Bot. Mag. t. 3444.

GIREOUDIA *heracleifolia*. Klotzsch, in *Begon. Gatt. und Art.* p. 94.

Var. *nigricans*; foliis nigro-variegatis.

BEGONIA *punctata*. Link et Otto, *Ic. Pl. Rar.* p. 17. t. 7. *Begonia punctata et B. nigricans*, Hort. Berol.

GIREOUDIA *heracleifolia*, β . *punctata*. Klotzsch, in *Begon. Gatt. und Art.* p. 95.

This is a very handsome variety, but assuredly nothing more, of the well-known *Begonia heracleifolia*, and justly recorded as such by our friend Dr. Klotzsch, in his beautiful work on the *Begoniaceæ* above quoted; yet it still continues to be dispersed as a species, sometimes under the name of *B. punctata*, sometimes under that of *nigricans*. It is a misfortune when a genus of plants becomes a favourite, as is just now the case with that under consideration, with cultivators: for then it becomes an object with horticulturists and nurserymen to multiply the species in all manner of ways; till at length, as with Cape Heaths, Cape *Geraniaceæ*, *Calceolaria*, etc. etc., to name them becomes a hopeless task. The present species is a native of Mexico; and the variety a very handsome one: the leaves being green, blotched with a deeper and almost black tint at the margins of the lobes: the petioles, scapes, and ramifications of the flower-stalks are tinged with red: the bracts are pale green, the

petals nearly white, and the broad wing of the fruit is rose-coloured. It flowers in winter.

DESCR. *Rhizome* short, thick, horizontal. *Stems* none. *Leaf-stalk* three to five inches long, pale yellow-green tinged with red, hispid with patent hairs: at the base is a pair of broad triangular *stipules*. *Leaves* broad-cordate, with nearly equal sides, deeply palmate, with usually seven lobes which are broadly lanceolate, more or less acuminate, sinuato-incised, subserrate, ciliated; beneath slightly hairy, of a pale purplish-green; above deep green, much darker almost black at the margins. *Scapes* erect, much longer than the leaves, terete, hispid, bearing a moderately large *panicle* or compound *raceme*. *Bracts* large, ovate, horizontally patent, pale green, membranaceous. *Pedicels* slender, glabrous. *Male flowers* dipetalous; the *petals* white, suborbicular, concave. *Stamens* several, erect. *Filaments* short. *Anthers* elongated, linear-cuneate. *Female flowers* dipetalous: the *petals* nearly oval, also white. *Fruit* green, dotted: the *wings* rose-colour: two of them very short: the third elongated, very large, obscurely striated.

Fig. 1. Fruit, scarcely mature:—magnified.