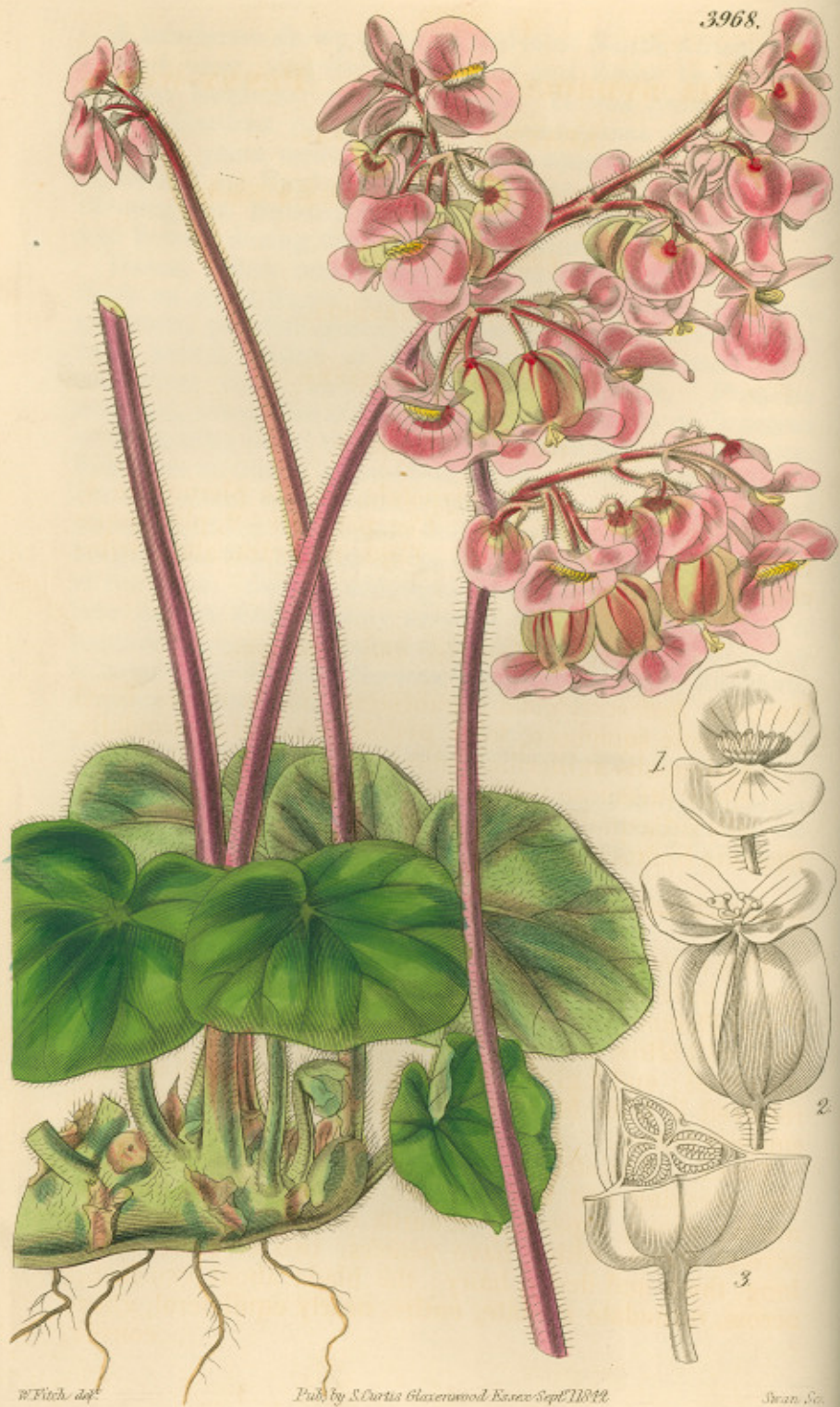


3968.



W. Fitch del.

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Stran. Sc.

BEGONIA HYDROCOTYLIFOLIA. PENNY-WORT-
LEAVED BEGONIA.

Class and Order.

MONŒCIA POLYANDRIA.

(Nat. Ord.—BEGONIACEÆ.)

Generic Character.

MASC. *Cal.* o. *Cor.* polypetala, petalis plerumque 4, inæqualibus.—FÆM. *Cal.* o. *Cor.* petalis 4—9, plerumque inæqualibus. *Styli* 3, bifidi. *Caps.* triquetra, alata, trilobularis, polysperma.

Specific Character and Synonym.

BEGONIA *hydrocotylifolia*; pubescens, caule crasso brevi repente squamoso, foliis petiolatis cordato-rotundatis, pedunculis axillaribus folio multoties longioribus, floribus racemoso-paniculatis omnibus dipetalis, fructus alis subæqualibus.

BEGONIA *hydrocotylifolia*. *Hort. Berl.*

This is one of the many pretty BEGONIAS with which our stoves have been enriched through the liberality of the Royal Botanic Garden of Berlin. As far as my investigations will allow me to judge, it is not a species anywhere described: and I give it under the name by which we have received it from M. OTTO. It flowers with us during the summer season.

DESCR. The *stem* is short, thick, succulent, but perennial, creeping and throwing out fibrous radicles from beneath; above, especially towards the apex, throwing up several *leaves*, which have *petioles*, two or more inches long, thick and fleshy, hairy: the blade about two inches across, rotundate cordate, entire, nearly equilateral, above convex,

convex, shining and nearly glabrous, the margin and beneath pubescent. At the base of the petioles are membranaceous, fringed *stipules*, which soon become brown, and give a scaly appearance to the stem. *Peduncles* axillary, eight to ten inches to a foot high, clothed with spreading hairs, and bearing a compound *raceme* or *panicle* at the apex, pale red. *Flowers*, of both kinds, with two spreading, deep rose-coloured, rounded *petals*. *Stamens* and *styles*, as in the Genus. *Fruit* oval, triquetrous, with three moderately broad, nearly equal wings.

Fig. 1. Male Flower. 2. Female ditto. 3. Transverse Section of a Capsule:—*magnified*.