



W. Fitch del.

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BEGÓNIA NÍTIDA. SHINING-LEAVED
BEGONIA; or Elephant's Ear.

Class and Order.

MONŒCIA POLYANDRIA.

(Nat. Ord.—BEGONIACEÆ.)

Generic Character.

MASC. *Calyx* o. *Corolla* polypetala, petalis plerumque 4, inæqualibus. FŒM. *Calyx* o. *Corolla* petalis 4—9 plerumque inæqualibus. *Styli* 3 bifidi. *Capsula* triquetra, alata, trilocularis, polysperma.

Specific Character and Synonyms.

BEGONIA *nitida*; fruticosa, elata, foliis oblique ovatis acutis obsolete crenatis nitidis, stipulis oblongis cuspidatis carinatis, fl. masc. petalis 4 quorum 2 rotundatis 2 oblongis triplo minoribus, fl. fœm. petalis 5 æqualibus, capsulæ ala unica maxima subrotundo-ovata.

BEGONIA *nitida*. *Dryandr. in Linn. Trans. v. 1. p. 159. et in Hort. Kew. ed. 2. v. 3. p. 352. Salisb. "Stirp. Rar. p. 17. f. 9." et Parad. Lond. t. 72. Spreng. Syst. Veget. v. 2. p. 625.*

BEGONIA *obliqua*. *L'Hérit. Stirp. Nov. v. 1. p. 95.*

BEGONIA *purpurea*. *Sw. Prodr. p. 86.*

BEGONIA *minor*. *Jacq. Ic. Collect. p. 126.*

This is one of the many handsome species of a Genus, which, we have before remarked, is not so much cultivated as it deserves to be, a native of Jamaica, and introduced to the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew (where our figure was made) by Dr. WM. BROWN, in the year 1777. It bears its large, copious, showy flowers during most of the summer months,

months, when it makes a fine appearance, with its pink panicles, and large glossy foliage.

DESCR. *Stems* erect, or nearly so, for they require support, from four to five feet high, between succulent and woody, branched. *Leaves* large, glossy, especially the younger ones, green on both sides, petiolated, obliquely ovate, acute, thick and succulent, obscurely crenated at the margin. *Petioles* about an inch long, terete. *Stipules* large, membranaceous, oblong, mucronate and carinate, deciduous. *Panicles* terminal and axillary, many-flowered; *flowers* large, handsome, especially the stamiferous ones, which are an inch and a half across: *Petals* four, of which two opposite ones are large, rounded, deep rose colour, the two smaller ones broadly oblong, inclining to yellow, all of them spreading: *Stamens* twenty or more, as in the Genus. *Pistilliferous-flowers* with five nearly regular and equal *petals*, rose-coloured. *Germen* and mature *fruit* with three wings, two of them comparatively small and equal, the third very large, somewhat triangular, or between ovate and subrotund.

Fig. 1. Pistilliferous Flower: *magnified*. 2. Fruit, scarcely *magnified*.