



W. Fitch, del. et lith.

Vincent. Brooks, Imp.

## BEGONIA PRISMATOCARPA.

*Prism-fruited Begonia.*

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.—MONŒCIA POLYANDRIA.

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

*BEGONIA prismatocarpa*; herbacea humilis, caulibus teretibus repentibus pilosis, ramis ascendentibus, stipulis ovatis acutis membranaceis fimbriatis, foliis longe petiolatis oblique cordato-ovatis subpalmato-lobatis, lobis acuminatis inequaliter serratis hinc latioribus, petiolis teretibus pilosis, pedunculis axillaribus pilosis petiolo longioribus umbellatim bi-trifloris, umbella bracteis duabus stipuleformibus, floribus dipetalis, masculis staminibus monadelphis, antheris lineari-cuneiformibus, filamento perbrevis, capsula (immatura) elongata lineari-oblonga quadrangulata vix alata angulis æqualibus 4-loculari, stylo profunde 4-partito, stigmatibus capitatis pubescentibus.

If this is wanting in floral beauty, it is nevertheless a very interesting plant, a *Begonia* with an elongated, four-celled, four-sided capsule, a quadripartite style, and capitate stigmas. It is discovered by Mr. Gustav Mann in Fernando Po. It will probably constitute a new genus among *Begoniaceæ* with M. Alphonse de Candolle, who has already alluded to some imperfect specimens of the plant in his valuable 'Mémoire sur la Famille des Begoniacées,' in the eleventh volume of the 'Annales des Sciences Naturelles' (quatrième série, Botan.): "L'Herbier de Sir W. J. Hooker m'a fait connaître une espèce de Fernando Po, trop incomplète dans la collection pour qu'on pût la décrire, et qui semble un genre ou une section très-distincte, remarquable par un ovaire étroit et allongé, analogue à celui des *Prismatocarpus*." It is one of the many interesting new plants we have lately received through our collector from the mountain regions of tropical Western Africa. It flowered in the stove at Kew in December, 1861. Its locality was rocks and trees at an elevation of 3000 feet above the sea-level.

DESCR. The *plant* is small and insignificant-looking; it has creeping, herbaceous, rounded, hairy *stems* and ascending *branches*. *Leaves* on long petioles, also hairy, the largest of

them scarcely two inches in length, obliquely cordato-ovate, sub-palmately three to five lobed, but the lobes are much larger on one side than the other, acuminate, coarsely and unequally, but sharply and submucronately serrated. *Stipules* small, ovate, fimbriated. *Peduncle* axillary, solitary, longer than the petiole, bearing a small imperfect *umbel* of two to four dipetalous *flowers*. *Petals* ovate, yellow, with a tinge of orange towards the base. *Male flower* pedicellate, with a cluster of many *stamens* borne upon a short stalk (hence monadelphous), all inclined to one side. *Filament* very short. *Anther* linear-cuneate, most of it made up of the *connectivum*, yellow. *Female flower* sessile, apparently one to each umbel. *Ovary* or immature *fruit* linear-oblong, tetragonal, a little attenuated upwards; the four angles are prominent, but scarcely form wings, and these angles are equal, four-celled, with numerous ovules attached to the four central receptacles. *Style* short, soon dividing into four erecto-patent branches, each crowned with a large capitate downy *stigma*.

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Fig. 1. Stamens from the male flower, the petals being removed. 2. Single stamen. 3. Female flower (or immature fruit), the petals only removed. 4. Transverse section of the capsule:—*all magnified*.

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