



W. J. H. del!

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Swan Sc.

BEGONIA RENIFORMIS. KIDNEY-LEAVED
BEGONIA.

Class and Order.

MONŒCIA POLYANDRIA.

(Nat. Ord.—BEGONIACEÆ.)

Generic Character.

Mas. *Cal.* o. *Cor.* polypetala, petalis plerumque 4, inæqualibus. Fœm. *Cal.* o. *Cor.* petala 4—9, plerumque inæqualia. *Styli* 3, bifidi. *Caps.* triquetra, alata, trilocularis, polysperma.

Specific Character and Synonyms.

BEGONIA *reniformis*; caulescens, foliis reniformibus angulatis dentatis, capsulæ ala maxima acutangula, reliquis parallelis minimis. *Dryan.*

BEGONIA *reniformis*. *Dryandr. in Linn. Trans.* v. 1. p. 161. t. 14. f. 1, 2. *Spreng. Syst. Veget.* v. 2. p. 625.

DESCR. *Stem* three to four feet high, the thickness of one's finger, fleshy. *Leaves* large, upon petioles as long as themselves, reniform, with a deep sinus, in comparison with other species of the Genus, very slightly unequal, many-angled, serrated, somewhat pubescent, opaque, marked with numerous veins, which are sunk on the upper surface; prominent beneath; green on both sides, but much paler beneath. The larger leaves are nearly a span in diameter. *Peduncle* six to eight inches long, terminated by a di-trichotomous *Cyme*, the ultimate branches umbellate and very slender, white. *Flowers* white, small, slightly downy. Of the *male*, the *Corolla* consists of four unequal, pure white *petals*, two of them orbicular or inclining to heart-shaped, two oblong and much smaller. *Anthers* numerous, yellow. *Female flowers* few in the specimens before me, very small,
the

the *petals* closed. *Germen* with one large, white, almost triangular wing, and two obsolete ones.

From the Botanic Garden of Liverpool, whence it was communicated as having been received from Professor LEHMAN, of Hamburgh, under the name of *B. grandis*; but there is already a Japanese species of that name, and certainly very different from our's, which, moreover, appears to me to accord with the *B. reniformis* of DRYANDER, a native of Brazil, the native country also probably of our plant.

It is a good deal allied to the *B. longipes* of this work, t. 3061, especially in the general structure of the inflorescence; but in that species, the flowers are considerably larger, the leaves are much more oblique, and extremely glossy, and quite glabrous above.

B. reniformis requires the heat of the stove, and its flowering season is January.

It is quite impossible, by a drawing, to convey an idea of the peculiar pearly and semi-transparent appearance of the blossoms, and of the panicle in which they are borne.

Fig. 1. Female Flower, considerably *magnified*.