



BEGONIA GRIFFITHII.

Mr. Griffith's Begonia.

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.—MONECIA POLYANDRIA.

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

BEGONIA *Griffithii*; acaulis, hispido-pubescent, foliis longe petiolatis oblique cordatis brevi acuminatis crenato-sinuatis pictis, scapis folio sublongioribus, floribus cymosis masculis tetra- fœmineis penta-sepalis, sepalis duobus interioribus minoribus exterioribus dorso convexis piloso-hispidis, fructu ovali hinc gibboso hispido alis duabus brevibus tertia basin versus ala majori cristæformi crenato-lobata.

We received this very beautiful *Begonia* from Messrs. Henderson, of the Wellington Road Nursery, St. John's Wood, under the name of *B. picta*, a name that must have been given to it by mistake, for it is extremely different from the well-known *B. picta* of Sir J. E. Smith, figured by us both in the 'Exotic Flora,' t. 89, and in the present work, Tab. 2962. A decidedly caulescent species. We find in our Herbarium specimens of a *Begonia*, in every respect corresponding with this, gathered by the late Mr. Griffith in Bhotan, whence, through some channel or other, the plants now in cultivation were probably derived. It flowers in the stove in the winter and spring months.

DESCR. Stemless. *Leaves* rising directly from the subterraneous *rhizome*, large in proportion to the size of the plant, obliquely cordate, shortly acuminate, having a deep sinus at the base, forming two rounded lobes, which lap one over the other, the margin sinuate-crenate, hairy, the hairs short, rising from a small, pellucid tubercle, which gives a granulated appearance to the surface; colour a dark green, beautifully variegated; some way within the ciliated margin is a broad, pale green line, and the margin itself is dark purple, beneath the colour is pale green, but deep blood-colour in the centre and at the margin. *Leaf-stalks* nearly as long as the leaves, rather thick, red at the base,

glandularly downy. *Scapes* resembling the petioles, but longer than they, shorter than the leaves, though rising above them on account of the horizontal or deflexed position of the blade. *Cyme* few-flowered, with deciduous *bracts*. *Flowers* large, white internally. *Male flowers* of four sepals; *stamens* numerous, capitate; *female* of five sepals; in both cases the two innermost are smaller and generally narrower: the outer are cordato-subrotund, externally convex or ventricose, more or less downy, tinged with blush. *Fruit* or *capsule*;—the only one I have seen on the living plant;—of a peculiar form, obliquely oval, almost terete, hispid and somewhat tuberculated, with two narrow wings, and one large projecting one from the base, and there forming a crest, crenated at the edge: the whole fruit a good deal resembling the body and tail of a barn-door fowl. *Stigmas* large, green.

Fig. 1. Fruit:—*magnified*.
