



## BEGONIA HERNANDIÆFOLIA.

*Hernandia-leaved Begonia.*

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.—MONŒCIA POLYANDRIA.

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

BEGONIA *hernandiæfolia*; acaulis, foliis omnibus radicalibus aggregatis longe petiolatis suboblique rotundato-ovatis breviter acumipatis glanduloso-serratis coriaceis peltatis concavis subtus atro-purpureis, scapis folio longioribus apice dichotome corymbosis, pedicellis nutantibus, floribus rubris: *masc.* 4-sepalis, sepalis 2 minoribus; *fem.* 3-sepalis sepalo unico minimo, fructu alis rotundatis, ala unica duplo 3-plo majore.

Received at the Royal Gardens of Kew from seeds sent from Veraguas by Mr. Seemann. I have failed in finding the description of any species that will tally with it. Much of the character, indeed, of *B. peltata*, Haskrl., as given in the fifth volume of Walpers' Repertorium, p. 766, well corresponds with this; but that is placed in a group called "*Repentes*," is said to be "*caulescent*," and is a Java plant. Further, the same species is described in the second volume of the Repertorium, p. 210, as having the leaves tomentose: whereas our plant is not caulescent, nor creeping, and has glabrous foliage. It is indeed a most lovely species, with singularly shaped, very thick, concave and peltate leaves, deep blood-colour beneath, and the copious petioles, peduncles, and flowers of a full rose-red. It flowers readily in the stove during the summer months.

DESCR. Stemless. From the top of the root spring numerous bright red terete *petioles*, stipuled at the base, two to four inches, or rather more, long, which are inserted underneath, and at nearly an inch distance from the base of the very thick, between fleshy and coriaceous, subrotundo-ovate, acuminate, rather oblique, concave *leaves*, indistinctly glanduloso-serrated at the margin,

quite glabrous, dark green above, with a pale spot at the insertion of the petiole, from which a few indistinct nerves radiate, deep blood-red beneath, with the nerves slightly prominent. *Scapes* radical, longer than the petiole, about as thick and of the same colour as it, bearing a dichotomous *corymb* of drooping, deep rose-red *flowers*; at the setting-on of the branches a pair of opposite small stipules are present. Each fork generally bears one male and one female *flower*. *Male flower* of four spreading *sepals*, two (opposite) larger and orbicular, the two smaller oblong-spathulate. *Stamens* a small head of many nearly sessile oval anthers. *Female flower* of three *sepals*, two large, and a small, oblong-spathulate one. The *fruit* (nearly mature) is bright red, triangular, obovate, with a narrow rounded wing at two of the angles, and a much broader rounded one at the third angle. *Style* short. *Stigma* sinuato-lobate.

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Fig. 1. Fruit :—*magnified*.

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