



BEGONIA PEARCEI.

Mr. Pearce's Begonia.

Nat. Ord. BEGONIACEÆ.—MONŒCIA POLYANDRIA.

Gen. Char. (*Vide supra*, TAB. 4131.)

BEGONIA Pearcei (§ *Huszia*, §§ *Paucipetalæ*, A. De Cand.); caule herbaceo erecto folioso pubescente, foliis palmatim plurinerviis oblique ovatis acuminatis basi cordatis irregulariter crenato-serratis, petiolis laminâ brevioribus, stipulis ovatis ciliatis, pedunculis folio longioribus bifloris, bracteis ovatis rotundatisve ciliatis, floribus flavis; *fl. masc.* sepalis 2 amplis rotundatis petalis 2 obovatis vix brevioribus, *fl. fem.* lobis 5 obovatis obtusis, ovario pubescente trialato.

A very beautiful species, nearly allied in botanical characters to *B. cinnabarina* (Bot. Mag. 4483), introduced from La Paz by Messrs. Veitch, where it was obtained by Mr. Pearce, whose name well deserves to be associated with it. The foliage is very pretty, the leaves being of a dark velvet-green above, dull-red traversed by pale-green nerves beneath, and in agreeable contrast with the rather large, bright-yellow, overtopping flowers.

DESCR. *Stem* succulent, pubescent, leafy. *Leaves* obliquely ovate, acuminate, cordate at the base, irregularly crenate-serrate, on petioles of about half their length, dark velvet-green and nearly glabrous above, dull red beneath excepting the nervures. *Peduncles* erect, two-flowered, exceeding the leaves. *Bracts* rotundate or elliptical, entire, pubescent or ciliate. *Flowers* yellow, about an inch to an inch and a quarter across; *male fl.* perianth quadripartite, two outer segments ample, rotundate, two inner rather smaller, about equal in length to the outer; *female fl.* with a quinquepartite perianth, lobes obovate-oblong, obtuse. *Stamens* indefinite, free; *filaments* filiform; *anthers* obovate, obtuse, two-celled. *Ovary* three-winged, three-celled, with indefinite *ovules* on each side of the forked placentas; *styles* spirally stigmatose; *capsule* not seen.

Fig. 1. Stamen. 2. Ovary and styles. 3. Transverse section of an ovary :—*magnified.*