

"A rare and little-known West Australian species of *Fugosia*, a genus, as observed by Bentham and Hooker fil., very nearly allied on the one hand to *Hibiscus*, on the other to *Gossypium*; differing from the former chiefly in the style, from the latter in the bracteoles. The present species seems to have been discovered in Dirk Hartog's Island by Allan Cunningham, who gave it a manuscript name implying that it has a goatlike odour. Milne, during the voyage of Captain Denham in *H. M. S. Herald*, found it on the same island, and remarks that it is a seashore plant (as indeed might be expected from its very thick and fleshy leaves). A much-branching and very woody shrub, with copious oblanceolate or spatulate, rather than cuneiform, leaves, thick and fleshy, readily breaking off in a dry state. Flowers large, axillary, solitary; the peduncles clavate; the calyx leafy, downy; the petals broadly obovate, pure white, with a deep blood-coloured spot at the base. Anthers also blood coloured, beautifully arranged in whorls, as in the *Hibiscus huegelii*; and the style and stigma, erect and connivent, are the same as in *H. huegelii*, from which this seems hardly generically distinct." (*Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, pl. 5413.)

**40526. BEGONIA SOCOTRANA Hook. f. Begoniaceæ. Begonia.**

From Nancy, France. Presented by Messrs. V. Lemoine & Fils. Bulbs received April 14, 1915.

"It is necessary to keep the bulbs at rest during the summer, in pots, the soil not being absolutely dry; they will grow in autumn." (*Lemoine.*)

"A winter-flowering species; stems annual, stout, and succulent, forming at the base a number of closely set scales or suppressed leaves resembling bulbs; leaves dark green, orbicular, peltate, 4 to 7 inches across, center depressed, margin recurved, crenate, flowers all male except the terminal one of each branch of the cyme, in terminal few-flowered cymes, bright rose. Bulbs or semitubers were brought from the hot sandy island of Socotra by I. B. Balfour, and grown at Kew in 1880. This excellent plant requires to be grown in a light position in a stove to develop at its best. The bulbs should be shaken out of the old soil in September or October and potted up in a light soil, rich in humus, and placed in heat and moisture, and when well established should be liberally supplied with manure water. The flowers appear during the winter months, after which the plant dies down, forming a number of large resting buds or bulbs; the pots should then be placed in an intermediate temperature and be kept nearly dry until the following growing period comes round. On account of its habit of producing flowers in winter, this species has been largely used by the hybridist in the production of a race of winter-flowering begonias, of which there are many named varieties. Following are leading *socotrana* derivatives: *Gloire de Lorraine*, *Gloire de Sceaux*, *Triomphe de Lemoine*, *Incomparabilis*." (*Bailey, Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture*, vol. 1, p. 473.)

**40527. PLATANUS ORIENTALIS L. Platanaceæ.**

**Oriental plane tree.**

From Lahore, India. Presented by the superintendent, Government Agricultural Gardens. Received April 9, 1915.

See S. P. I. No. 34342 for previous introduction.

**40528 to 40531. ALOE spp. Liliaceæ.**

From Barberton, Transvaal. Presented by Mr. George Thorncroft. Received April 9, 1915.