

Com. name – *Binuang* (Bag., Mbo., Tag., Tagb).

Exsicc. – *Gates CA 1927** (CAHP).

109. BEGONIACEAE

Herbs erect or succulent, creeping, climbing or undershrubs. Stems often reduced to a rootstock. Leaves alternate, entire, toothed or lobed, usually very unequal-sided. Inflorescences axillary or terminal, cymose, usually dichotomous, rarely fascicled; flowers unisexual, zygomorphic or actinomorphic, perianth of staminate flowers of 2 valvate, petaloid sepals and 2 usually smaller valvate petals, that of pistillate of 2 to many similar imbricated, petaloid tepals; stamens epigynous, 4, 8 to many; filaments free or united; anthers narrowly obovate; perianth of pistillate flowers of 2-5 segments; ovaries inferior, 2- to 4-celled; styles 2-5, free or united below; stigmas branched or twisted; ovules numerous. Fruits usually winged, angular, thin-walled capsules, variously dehiscent or irregularly breaking up; seeds very small, numerous.

Genera 5, species 810, in most moist tropical countries: 1 genus and 98 species in the Philippines.

1. BEGONIA Linnaeus

Tepals in staminate and pistillate flowers free, 2-9, in pistillate not in 2 regularly alternating rows (thus, not differentiated into sepals and petals). Fruits loculicidally or irregularly (but not apically) dehiscent. For other characteristics, refer to family description.

Species 800, in most tropical countries.

1. Climbing on tree trunk; capsules almost equal, wings complete from base to apex
 2. Branches and whole plant glabrous; leaves oblong-ovate, 2-6 cm long, coarsely and sharply toothed at middle; stipules lanceolate, as long as petioles, deciduous 1. *B. aequata*
 2. Branches, petioles and veins of leaves ferruginous-hirsute; leaves oblong, 3-5 x 10-15 cm, unequally and coarsely toothed; stipules not as above 2. *B. cumingii*
1. Creeping on soil or stone, but not climbing on tree trunk; capsules, including wings subequal
 3. Leaves dark green, without mottling, light green beneath, base deeply incised 3. *B. muricata*
 3. Leaves green or mottled above, often purplish beneath, base not incised 4. *B. nigritarum*

1. *Begonia aequata* A. Gray, Bot. Wilkes U.S. Explor. Exped. 658, 1854; Merr., En. Philip. 3: 119, 1923.

Climbing on tree trunk. Stems slender, occasionally with rootlets at nodes, branches and whole plant glabrous. Leaves nearly equal-sided, ovate-oblong, 2-6 cm long, thin, coarsely and sharply toothed at middle, acuminate, 3- or 5-nerved at obtuse or rounded base; stipules lanceolate, pointed, scarious, deciduous, as long as petioles. Peduncles axillary, very short, fork; pedicels shorter than leaves, 1- to 3-flowered. Capsules orbicular, equally 3-winged, complete from base to apex.

Endemic. Philippines. Luzon (Laguna); in primary forests at 400 -1000 m; in Mt. Makiling, Luzon, often encountered in the mossy forest.

Exsicc. – *Orlido CA 12545; Pancho CA 1931 (CAHP); Elmer 854542. 123742; Merrill 1238350, 711095; Robinson 901663 (US).*

2. *Begonia cumingii* A. Gray, Bot. Wilkes U.S. Explor. Exped. 658, 1854; Merr., En. Philip. 3: 121, 1923. – *B. oxysperma* A. DC. in Ann. Sci. Nat. Ser. 4, XI. 122, 1859

Climbing on tree trunk, glabrous, young parts especially petioles and veins of leaves beneath more or less ferruginous-hirsute. Leaves long-petioled, 10-15 x 3-5 cm, pale beneath, punctate, half-cordate or half-sagitate, acuminate, base rounded, unequally and coarsely toothed, often denticulate. Capsules elliptic, 2 cm long, smooth, almost equally 3-winged, wings complete from base to apex.

Endemic. Philippines: Luzon (Laguna); in primary forests at 700-1400 m; in Mt. Makiling, Luzon, often encountered in the mossy forest.

Com. name – *Taingang-babui* (Tag.).

Exsicc. – *Estioko, Jr., CA 1928, 1930 (CAHP); Robinson 627668; Merrill 711096 (US).*

3. *Begonia muricata* Bl., Cat. 103, 1823. Backer & Bakh. f., Fl. Jav. 1: 309, 1963. – *B. repens* Bl., En. Fl. Jav. 1: 95, 1830, non Lam

Leaves obliquely ovate-cordate, 4.5-17 x 4.5-13 cm, dark green above, light green beneath, with long hairs on both surfaces, sometimes glabrous above, acuminate, base deeply incised; petioles 5-25 cm long. Cymes on 3- 30-cm long peduncles, 5- to 12-flowered; pedicels in staminate 2-10 mm long; in pistillate 9-15 mm long; perianth pink or white; tepals 6-20 x 5-18 mm, sparsely red-pubescent dorsally; stamens 45 or more. Capsules 0.5-1.25 x 1.25-2 cm, wings subequal, broad.

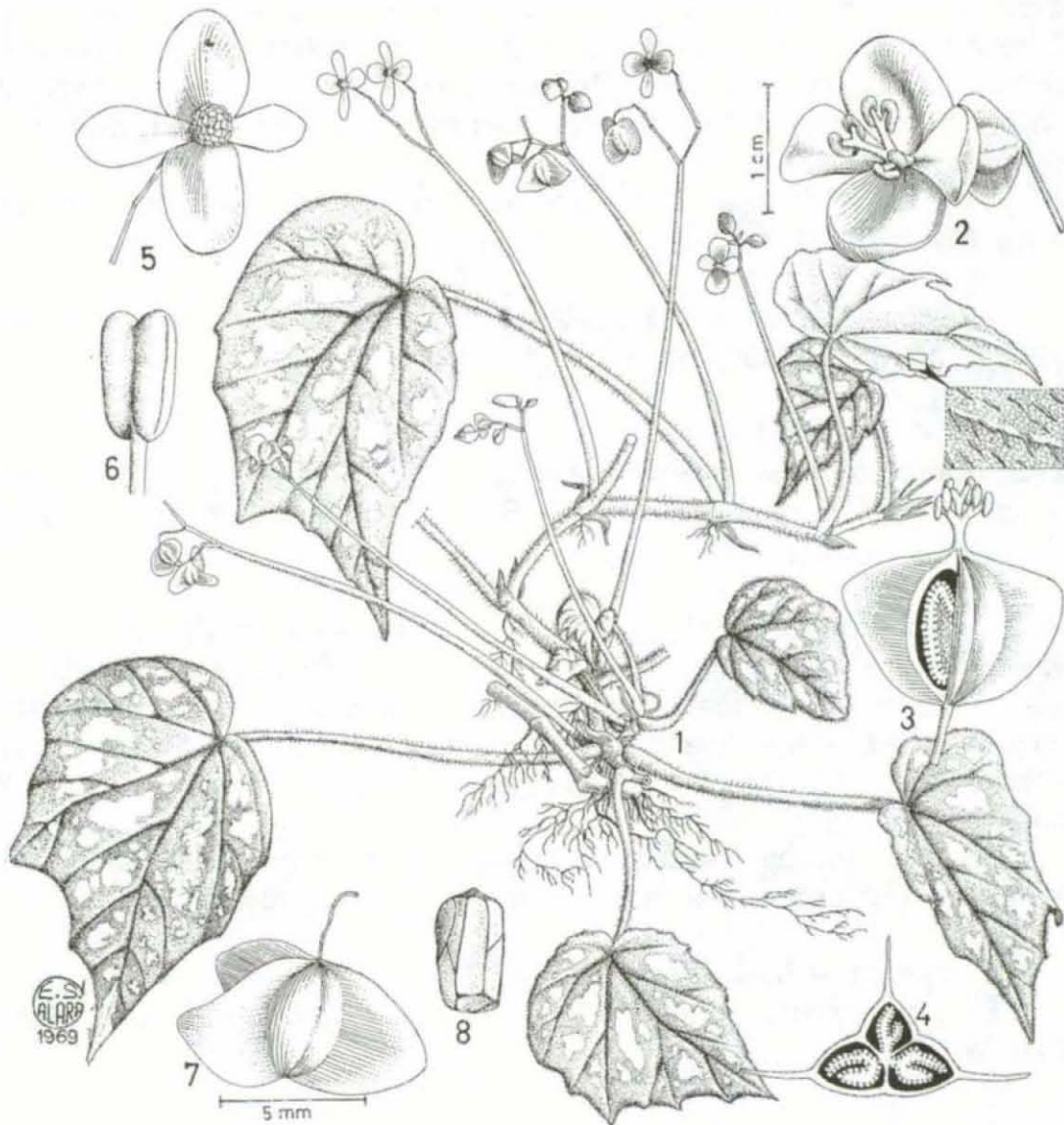


Figure 139. *Begonia nigritarum*. 1 habit; 2. pistillate flower; 3 ovary, vertical section; 4. ovary, cross section; 5. staminate flower; 6. stamen; 7. fruit; 8. seed.