Begonia hirtella Link

**Family:**
Begoniaceae


**Common name:**
Brazilian begonia; Begonia

**Stem**
Fibrous-rooted, short-lived perennial herbs 10-60 cm tall; stems red-tinged, erect, branched and covered with long flexuous hairs, especially when younger.

**Leaves**
Leaves widely spaced, membranous, blades oblique to the petioles, reniform-ovate, 3-11 x 2-4 cm, upper surface sparsely hirtellous, lower surface sparsely hirtellous only along the secondary veins, margins irregularly shallowly toothed and ciliate; petioles reddish, 1.5-7 cm long, stipules lanceolate-oblong, 0.7-1.1 cm long, conspicuously long-ciliate, persistent.

**Flowers**
Flowers pendent, fleshy, bracts deciduous; staminate perianth parts 2 or 4, outer broadly suborbicular, 5-7 mm long, inner when present, narrowly elliptic, 2-3.5 mm long; female perianth parts 5, similar to male but smaller.

**Fruit**
Capsules ellipsoid, 0.6-0.8 cm long, with 3 prominent wings, the larger wing 10-15 mm wide.

**Seedlings**
Features not available.

**Distribution and Ecology**
An introduced species originally from South America now naturalised in NEQ. Altitudinal range from 30-100 m. Grows in margin of rainforest and along creeks in rainforest.

**Natural History & Notes**
A popular garden plant in tropical areas.

**RFK Code**
4187