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The BEGONIAN

The BEGONIAN

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AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and purposes

TO stimulate and promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants.

TO encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants.

TO standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

TO gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and companion plants.

TO issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the society.

TO bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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See inside back cover

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THE COVER: An unidentified begonia species from the Brazil garden of Roberto Burle Marx, commonly called "Brazil species No. 3," and given an official number of U003 in the new ABS system of numbering unidentified species in cultivation. See article on page 33. Plant grown by Doug and Goldie Frost of Garden Grove, Calif., and photographed by Dennis Maley of El Cajon, Calif.

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NOTES/From the editors

Mildred and Edward Thompson of Southampton, N.Y., whose new book, *Begonias*, is nearing publication, have reached agreement with a college of Long Island University to house their extensive begonia collection in a way that will make it available for public visits daily.

Under the agreement, the Thompsons will build a greenhouse at Shinnecock Botanic Gardens of Southampton College to house the collection. Plants will remain the Thompsons', and they will care for them and maintain their mail-order

begonia business as well.

The arrangement provides a permanent place for the collection, whose current home in a private greenhouse will no longer be available to the Thompsons.

The new greenhouse will be open for visitors three to four hours a day.



Published in this issue is the last round robin column written by Jan Clark. Jan is resigning as round robin reporter to resume her education.

—C.A. & K.B.

President's message

I will take this opportunity to thank you, the members of ABS, for the honor you have conferred upon me, and for your cooperation and help in making the past year a successful one.

It is now your duty to tell me what you want to have done and to help me in doing it.

We need the fullest cooperation from the officers and members in order to be a happy and successful organization.

We are happy to report that final financial report from the 1980 show treasurer gave the Society a net gain of \$4343.89.

In August the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch of Ventura, Calif., will host the 1981 ABS Show and Convention.

We are in the final phase of preparing the copy for the printing of Volume 1 of the ABS Registered Cultivars.

More information on the 1981 Convention and the printing of the Cultivar Book will be announced later.

May you and yours be blessed with an abundance of good health to enjoy a Happy New Year.

Gilbert A. Estrada
President

B. ficicola: how ABS research team grows it

Peg Spaete

With its distinctive yellow-orange flowers and its five-inch corrugated and scored, apple-green, peltate leaves, *Begonia ficicola* is a live, magnetic portrait of “cultivating” charm.

Dr. Edgar Irmischer chose the name (feye-sik-oh-luh, meaning fig-loving) because when James Dundas discovered this rhizomatous begonia in the District of Kumbra in Nigeria, West Africa, it was growing on a *Ficus*.

Epiphytic in nature, enjoying temperatures of 70-85 degrees and humidity ranges of 70-90 percent, *B. ficicola* is a winning candidate for a terrarium. Because of the dense growth of its natural habitat and because it is a dwarf grower, one would assume that low light conditions would be desirable for lush growth. However, growers reporting success furnishing good light outnumber those growing it in low light.

Sphagnum moss has been used successfully as a growing medium by Ben Herman and Sue Yamin. Trink Lie is using osmunda fiber, and Peg Spaete has had success growing it in a soil mix of sand, potting soil, perlite, and sphagnum peat.

Although *B. ficicola* thrives in a humid, warm environment, it displays a zest for survival if subjected to a chilly atmosphere. Trink Lie and Peg Spaete have plants that have experienced a

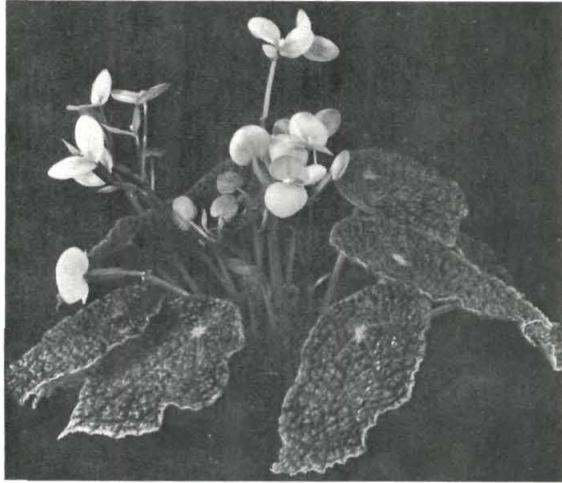
temperature drop to 50 degrees. While the drop in temperature for Trink's plant was gradual, the temperature drop was a sudden one (power outage for 5 days) for Peg's plant. Loss of leaves and blossoms occurred; however, after conditions (90 percent humidity, 70 degrees, 150-watt light at 3 feet) were again normal, it rebounded like a spurt of spring.

Reports of blooms show that *B. ficicola* is an unpredictable lady, bursting forth with color at any given time—spring, summer, mid-winter. The fruits of *B. ficicola* do not seem to open; instead, when they are ripe, the fleshy tissue simply rots away, and the seeds are liberated (*The Begonian*, July 1975, page 163). Hazel Harmon discovered young plants growing around her mature plant which tends to support the fact that the seeds are scattered (*The Begonian*, December 1972, page 275).

James Dundas, discoverer of *B. ficicola*, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1907. He was a forestry officer who collected plants throughout North and South Nigeria and in the West Cameroons. His collection is in the Herbarium at the British Museum. He died on May 29, 1966.

German-born Dr. Edgar Irmischer (1887-1968) spent most of his career studying the Begoniaceae and was recognized as the world's leading authority on this family. His specialty was systematic botany. His decision in 1942 to move all the begonia material to Stuttgart-Pleiningen from Hamburg saved this valuable collection from the devastation of the bombing which took place shortly thereafter. *Begonia ficicola* is only one of more than 120 species that he described and named.

Peg Spaete compiled this report based on growing experiments in which she was joined by John Bradley Jr., Duane Campbell, Ben Herman, and Trink Lie. The team was one of the ABS research department's grow-and-study projects under direction of Mildred Thompson, P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968.



Begonia ficicola

Until his death he was professor of botany at the Agricultural College of Hohenheim.

Dr. Irmscher describes *Begonia ficicola* in *Botanische Jahrbücher* 76:213. 1954. (Translated by John Bradley, Jr. and edited by Dr. Fred Barkley):

A perennial plant, rather rhizomatoid. The rhizome creeping or rising, 1.5-2.8 cm long, when dry is 2-3 mm thick, with dense foliage, glabrous, with fibrous roots. The rhizome bearing at the apex 2-3 lateral, dense cymes rising from the reductive foliage near the stipules. The stipules are membranaceous, triangularly oblong, 6-7 mm long, 3 mm broad in the middle, hairy, with a glabrous and setiferous apex. The thin petioles of the foliage, when dry, are 4-10 cm long, glabrous with hair only at the apex, up to 2 mm long, forming a corona; chartaceous laminae, reticulate veined between the nerves distinctly bullate, fitted out with bulla over the middle, having one or few hairs situated at the convex cone. Underneath the leaves, between the nerves and nervillas, it is sparsely haired and densely pitted with unequal sides, eccentrically peltate, obliquely oval, 6-8.5 cm long, 5-7 cm broad, bearing a hilum 0.6-2.6 cm removed from the lower edge. The base rotundate, at the apex barely acuminate; entire-leaved, or the vertex of the leaves is dentate or denticulate, smooth and undeveloped suffulcated, with 6 veins radiating from the hilum. The cymes are bisexual with a few

flowers, 10-14 cm long, glabrous, the cincinnus contracted, bearing very few internodes. Each cyme forms 3 male flowers, and a fertile female flower. The flowers are suffluate with a peduncle 8-14.5 cm long. Small bracts, somewhat orbicular, are 2 mm long, margin long ciliate. The pedicels of the male flowers are 1-2.5 cm long, glabrous, having 2 tepals, yellow in color, reddish on the back of one of the petals; the flower somewhat orbicular, in the second flower 15 mm long and broad, glabrous, the stamens are observed to be on one side, the filament in front 0.7 mm long, and in back 2 mm long; anthers curvate on the outside, linearly oblong, 2.2-2.5 mm long. Apex emarginate, the anthers fitted out with narrow connective, scarcely extended in the dry state, forming a rostellum, curved forward at the apex between the rimae and with rimae situated at the front, converging at the apex. The pedicels of the female flowers are 4-6 mm long, two tepals, colored like the male, suborbicular, 10-11 mm long, glabrous. 4 styles, free at the base, 3 mm long, split at the apex $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ the length into two branches 0.7 mm long with a papillose, spiraled and hippocrepian fascia. A quadrilocular ovary, fusiform, 9-11 mm long, 2-2.8 mm broad, exalate; placentae entire, separated transversely, often lobate.

Definitely distinctive, complete with a colorful crown and an untiring determination to flourish, *Begonia ficicola* is surely a begonia to enchant its possessor.

Selby Gardens: Florida's begonia showcase

Alan Meerow

Begonias are important at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, established in 1974 on 14 acres of Florida's Gulf Coast as a research institution devoted to the study of epiphytic plants, those denizens of the world's tropics that have left behind terra firma for an airborne existence in rain and cloud forest trees. With the completion of a lushly planted display greenhouse and adjoining trellis in 1976, the Gardens opened. Intensively landscaped grounds completed the picture and in a short time the Gardens have become a well-noted feature on the Sarasota scene.

The genus *Begonia* features prominently in the display greenhouse, designed to simulate a rain forest environment in miniature. Plants are used to effect a naturalistic setting and a lava rock wall—part of which is kept dripping via a small recycling pump—hosts a plethora of gesneriads, orchids, bromeliads, ferns and countless rare and seldom-seen species. Most of the begonia species and cultivars are concentrated in one area of the greenhouse.

Specimen plants of such stalwart varieties as *Begonia* 'Lucerna', *B.* 'Sophie Cecile', *B.* 'Jack Golding', and *B.* 'Thurstonii' are planted directly in the ground and allowed to develop their shrubby nature to full glory. *Begonia pustulata* 'Silver Jewel' and the creeping, unidentified Brazilian species are utilized as an effective ground cover for specimens of *Begonia masoniana*,



Photos/Alan Meerow

Begonia convolvulacea climbs live oak

B. hidalgensis, *B. goegoensis* and various Rex-Cultorum cultivars. Also on display is the seldom-seen *Begonia rex* Putz., the wild collected species from Assam that has been hybridized ad infinitum to give rise to an entire class of cultivated material. In every way as elegant as its hybrid brethren, *B. rex* was a feature selection this year in our annual plant distribution to Garden members.

Begonia glabra refuses to accommo-

Alan Meerow until recently was on the staff of The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. He lives at 1028 SW 3rd Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601, and studies botany at University of Florida.



Begonias in Selby Gardens research collection

date itself to any sort of boundaries. It can be found scrambling up a wooden support beam, up the trunk of an *Areca* palm, and competing for ground space with *Begonia listida*. In early spring its numerous cymes of white flowers elicit much comment from Garden visitors.

On a drier section of the lava rock wall, *Begonia nelumbiifolia* adds a bold accent with its large and distinctively peltate leaves. *Begonia macdougalii* provides a nice touch to the wet portion of the wall. The high humidity of the pool and waterfall provide perfect conditions for growing New Guinea species *Begonia serratipetala* and the troublesome *Symbegonia sanguinea*. Careful observers will also note specimens of *Begonia herbacea*, *B. velloziana* and *B. squamosa* nestled among the ferns and selaginella in this part of the display greenhouse.

Hanging basket specimens of *Be-*

gonia paleata, *B. acetosa*, *B. mannii* and *B. loranthoides* ssp. *loranthoides* (syn. *B. mauriceii*) are on display as well, illustrating the vast disparities in form and growth habit that exist within the genus. These are rotated with other species in the research collection to provide an ever-changing panorama to our visitors.

In Florida, the horticultural possibilities of begonias also can be explored outdoors, particularly in protected areas that remain free of occasional winter frosts. At the perimeter of an outdoor *Neoregelia* (Bromeliaceae) bed, a canopy of palms and heading philodendrons provides a nook for the rhizomatous *Begonia popenoei*, a robust Honduran species. Seedlings of the hardy begonia, *B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana*, bedded out late last summer just as bulbils were appearing in the leaf axils, are, at this writing, beginning to break out of dormancy. A min-



***B. popenoei* in outdoor bed**

ature Rex-Cultorum hybrid (probably 'Peridot') has also proven reliably hardy in the outdoor trellis.

Last summer, a spare plant of *Begonia convolvulacea* was stuffed into the crotch of a live oak near the trellis, a small quantity of sphagnum moss wrapped around the root ball. To my surprise the plant took to its new roost with great alacrity and several stems are ascending the tree trunk, fixed to the furrowed bark by short holdfast roots.

The Garden's research collections are housed in four greenhouses not

generally open to the public. Selby boasts the world's largest collection of neotropical gesneriads, a fine aroid collection, and representative material from other epiphytic plant groups such as Bromeliaceae, Ericaceae, Cactaceae and Asclepidaceae, as well as ferns and lycopodiums. The orchid collections encompass several hundred genera and an air-conditioned cool house provides the necessary growing conditions for high-elevation species.

The begonias to be found in the research collection are a varied lot, about half gathered in the wild by the Garden's research staff, the other half acquired from commercial growers or personal collections. An active propagation program is maintained such that our plant shop is supplied with a ready supply of begonias, particularly those species and cultivars seldom available commercially. Here, too, the author indulges his hybridizing whims and the progeny of a dozen begonia crosses are scattered about the greenhouse awaiting evaluation.

Visitors to Florida are urged to stop by the Garden, located in downtown Sarasota. Membership is invited and entitles the bearer to free admission at any time, receipt of the bimonthly bulletin, free annual distribution plants (usually rare species unavailable elsewhere), plus discounts in the Garden's plant and gift shops and on lectures and special events. A new Museum of Botany and the Arts recently opened at Selby and features art exhibits and botanical displays that change every few months. The Garden also publishes a scientific journal, *Selbyana*, featuring current research endeavors in the world of epiphytic plants. For more information write: The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 800 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota, FL 33577.

U-numbers to identify unnamed species

The influx of unidentified species of the Begoniaceae has led to some confusion in recent years, particularly when several species are attributed to the same geographic source. (For example, several so-called Brazil species are now in cultivation.)

The ABS nomenclature department and Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund now are instituting a uniform numbering system for unidentified species. A "U-number" ("U" means unidentified) has been assigned to each unnamed species and a number will be given to each new unnamed species that goes into circulation.

Many plants sold at the ABS convention in Long Beach, Calif., were labeled with U-numbers. Seeds of unidentified species offered by the seed fund will carry assigned numbers.

When positive identification has been made, the correct name will be published and collectors can change their labels.

Plants listed as numbered unidentified species in the catalogs of Kartuz Greenhouses and Mildred Thompson have been assigned U-numbers using as last digits the numbers used in the catalogs. They are species 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14. One exception is the plant listed as No. 10 in the Thompson catalogs, which is U009.

U-numbers assigned to Philippine species sold at the ABS Long Beach convention include U006, U007, U011, U015, U016, U019, U020, U021, U022, U023, U024, and U025. (See the August 1980 *Begonian*, pages 216-217.)

ABS encourages hobbyists and com-

mercial growers to use U-numbers on seeds, plants, and cuttings. U-number coordinator Phyllis P. Bates will keep files on all numbered species containing the source, collection information, growing and distribution information, description, and tentative identification for each. The coordinator will compile information, but will not make identifications.

Notes on unnamed species will be published in *The Begonian*, but the coordinator will respect confidential reports.

Numbers are to be assigned to seeds or plants as they are first distributed, even to a limited degree. No hybrids are to be included. Contact the coordinator for information.

U001

Brazil species with blue-green leaves bearing white scurf. Thick stemmed to 6 feet. Rhomboid leaves, felted. Flowers profusely, white. Collected by Ralph Spencer, deceased. Distributed by Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

U002

Brazil species with medium-small bronzy leaves flushed red, covered with red hairs. Small white flowers.

U003

Brazil species with dark green, large leaves with pustulated surface, marked distinctively with light green radiating from the center, edged red. Small white flowers. Source: Burtle Marx, Rio de Janeiro, via Gilbert Daniels. Photo: See cover.

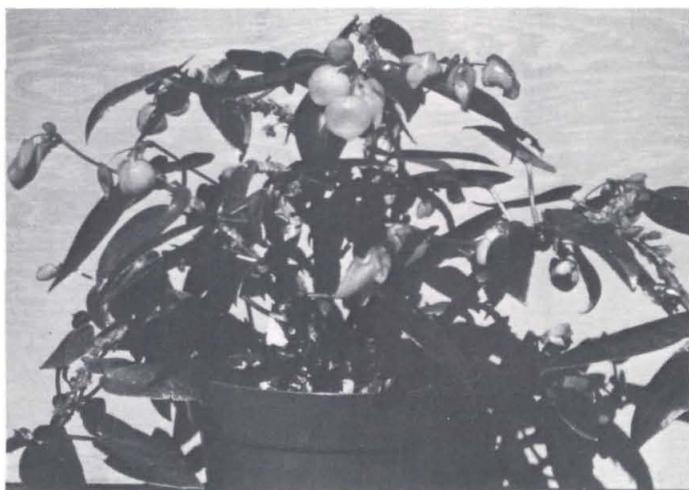
U004

Africa. Tuberous. Tiny glossy leaves with silver markings. Light pink flowers. Dwarf with compact habit. Forms bulbils along stem.

Coordinator of the ABS nomenclature department's U-number files is Phyllis P. Bates, 554 Arden Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024.



U001



U014. Plant above,
flowers below

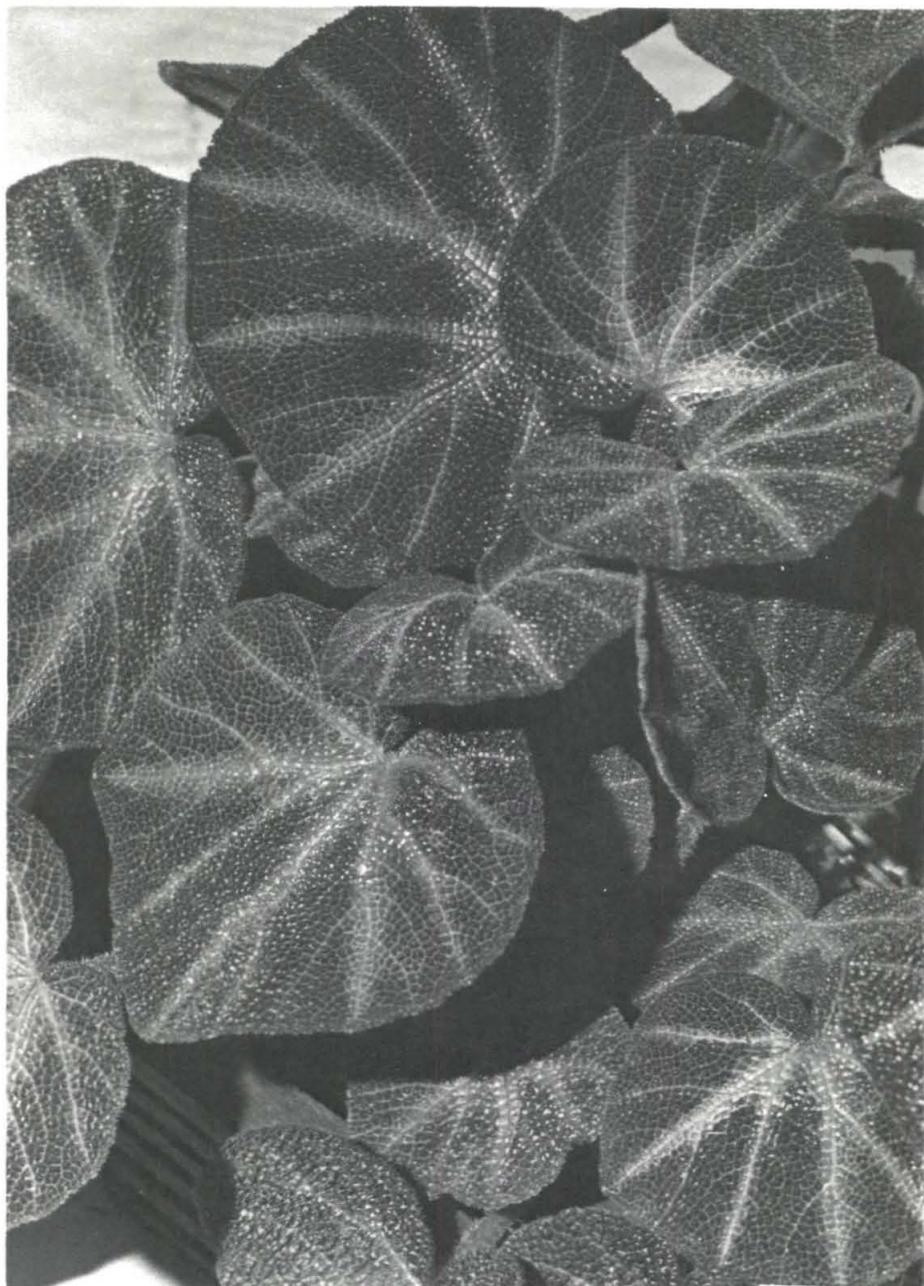


U005

New Guinea. Tapered leaf, green. Small white flowers.

U006

Atimonan, the Philippines. Creeping plant
Seeds collected by Martin Johnson in
1979.



U003

U007 ✓

Lucban, the Philippines. Collected as seeds by Martin Johnson. Cane or shrub-like with spotted and/or plain green leaves. May be seedlings of two species mixed

together.

U008

Shrub-like, medium leaved, kidney-shaped

Continued from page 33

light green leaves covered densely with silvery white hairs. Upright, branching. White flowers flushed pink year-round. Source: Hungarian Botanical Gardens.

U009

thehuae
Brazil species. Small felted leaves, dark green with light green radiating along center veins. Leaves set closely on red trailing stems. White flowers. Succulent. Distributed in Seed Fund as Brazil species No. 1 (creeping). Source: Burle Marx, Rio de Janeiro, via Gilbert Daniels.

U010

Puerto Rico. Small leaved, shrub-like. Glossy, lobed leaves set closely. White flowers, dense, vase shaped.

U011

Baler species. The Philippines. Collected by Martin Johnson as seeds. Photo: *The Begonian*, August 1980, page 217 (upper left).

U012

Symbegonia. Small, elliptical, olive-green leaves bordered with bright pink. Pink stems. Low growing. Tubular flowers.

U013

Symbegonia. Small, light green, fluted leaves covered sparsely with red hairs. Low growing.

U014

Argentina. Shrub-like. Bright orange, waxy flowers; everblooming. Small, narrow, satiny leaves, flushed red underneath. Low, spreading habit. Fred Fuchs and Tom Mentelos from Florida imported this plant. They obtained it from an orchid collector who lived off the highway that divides Argentina and Paraguay.

U015

Mt. Banahaw, the Philippines. Shrub-like. Orange flowers. Collected by Martin Johnson as seeds. Photo: *The Begonian*, August 1980, page 216 (top).

U016

Taiwan. Imported as seeds by Martin Johnson.

U017

Distribution limited.

U018

Costa Rica. Rhizomatous. Collected by Martin Johnson on 1976 tour with Dr. Mildred Mathias.

U019

Majayjay, the Philippines. Cane or shrub-like with bright orange flowers. Imported by Martin Johnson as seeds. Photo: *The Begonian*, August 1980, pages 216-217.

U020

Majayjay, the Philippines. Climber. 12-inch leaves. Orange flowers. Martin Johnson imported as seeds.

U021

Majayjay, the Philippines. Climber. Red flowers. Imported by Martin Johnson as seeds. Photo: *The Begonian*, August 1980, page 217 (right).

U022

Mt. Makiling, the Philippines. White flowers. Imported as seeds by Martin Johnson.

U023

Mt. Makiling, the Philippines. Red flowers. 2-inch leaves. 1½ feet tall. Martin Johnson imported as seeds.

U024

Mt. Makiling, the Philippines. Large yellow flowers. Martin Johnson imported as seeds. Not identical to U025.

U025

Mt. Makiling, the Philippines. Large yellow flowers. Large leaves and stem. Not identical to U024.

U026

Baguio, the Philippines. Leaves zoned attractively. May be related to *B. laciniata*. Martin Johnson purchased as a plant.

U027

Baguio, the Philippines. Thick-stemmed. Purchased by Martin Johnson as a plant.

Please turn to page 39

QUESTION BOX/ *What's that gray, fuzzy mold?*

Elda Haring

Question: Several of my begonias have become covered with a gray fuzzy mold on leaves and stems. Is this botrytis and, if so, what can I do to remedy the situation?

Answer: You do not say how and where you grow your begonias or the time of year the mold appears. However, botrytis can be a problem especially in winter in certain areas of the country.

Rapid drops in temperature create high humidity which is conducive to the development of both botrytis and mildew. Never splash water on plants at time of highest susceptibility. Spraying with Ferbam or Zineb may help, but be sure leaves and stems are dry by nightfall.

It may be necessary to cut plants back to crown level and treat with a fungicide to protect new growth.

Send questions about begonia growing to Elda Haring, P.O. Box 236, Flat Rock, NC 8731. She'll mail you her reply promptly.

Question: I do not have much luck with *B. masoniana* but many people tell me it is easy to grow. I keep it quite moist and grow it on a tray of pebbles and water to increase humidity.

Answer: Where you live, normal outdoor humidity is usually quite high. Unless you keep your home very warm in winter I do not think you need extra humidity.

Too much moisture at the roots—especially in winter—will cause rotting because the plant is not in active growth. Keep it quite dry at that time and, when new leaves are showing, give more moisture and feed the plant throughout the growing season. Give it good light but no direct sun.

Question: How can I get a hybrid of my own crossing registered?

Answer: Write to ABS nomenclature co-director Thelma O'Reilly (address on inside front cover). Ask for application blanks and instructions for registration.

BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

Pro-Max 27-9-9 plant food with its unique pH-neutral, high-nitrogen formulation is guaranteed to surpass or equal in performance any other soluble fertilizer on the market. One pound, \$6.00 postpaid. United Applied Research, Inc., Dept. BE, P.O. Box 1164, North Riverside, IL 60546.

Begonias—violets—episcias. Cuttings only. List 50¢. Springtime Gardens, 2212 Hickory, Sulphur, LA 70663.

Violets - Begonias - Episcias
Cuttings only. Send 35¢ for list.
Wilson's Greenhouse, Route 1
Box 165-4 Ozark, MO 65721

African violets, begonias, gesneriads, terrarium and dish garden minis, cuttings only. Windowsill Gardens, Box 943, Center Moriches, NY 11934. List 35¢.

Mini-ads are \$1 per line per insertion with a minimum of \$4. A line is about 36 characters. Payment must accompany order. Send to Pam Mundell, advertising manager, 2324 Connie Dr., Sacramento, CA 95815.

Begonias. Blue ribbon winners. Odd. Rare. Unusual. Price list available. Tropical Greenery, formerly Begonia Paradise Gardens, 22140 S.W. 152 Ave., Goulds, FL 33170. (305) 248-5529.

Pink Chaser, everblooming, deep pink basket; Raspberry Swirl, silver & pink spiral rex; China Curl, plum, black & silver spiral rex; 1 gift plant—\$12.00 prepaid. Catalog 35¢. Visitors welcome. Leslie & Winkey Woodruff, Fairyland Begonia & Lily Gardens, 1100-B Griffith Rd., McKinleyville, CA 95521.

ROUND ROBINS/ *A way to get hiemalis blooms*

Jan Clark

Joy Porter, Massachusetts, tried a successful experiment in blooming hiemalis begonias. She put them in a room which was kept dark from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. for four weeks. They produced lots of bloom.

Mary Harbaugh, Wisconsin, also varies the light period. After cutting her lights back to 10 hours in the winter, she gradually sets them back up to 14 hours. As a result, most of her rhizomatous begonias are covered with bloom.

□

Marion Cross, Oregon, prefers coarse sand for propagating begonias. She feels she gets faster results and better root systems. She finds vermiculite alone is too wet for begonia cuttings.

Cynthia Smith, California, roots difficult begonias in sphagnum that she chops into ½"-1" pieces. She puts wedges into the sphagnum in small clay pots and puts them in a clear plastic shoe box. She puts this in a propagation box with bottom heat.

Dorcas Resleff, Washington, has a novel method of rooting Rex Cultorum leaves. She pokes holes in a half-inch thick sheet of styrofoam to admit the stems. The leaf rests on top while the stem is in an inch or so of water.

If the leaves are too large, she cuts them back and cuts outer portions into wedges, then sets them in the water between the styrofoam and the side of

This is Jan Clark's last round robin report—she's resigning as round robin reporter. Information about joining a robin—a packet of letters circulated among begonia lovers—is available from Mary Harbaugh, round robin director. Write to her at Rt. 4, Box 343, Shawano, WI 54166.

the pan. They are held upright with just the vein end in the water.

□

Dottie Lillestrand, Minnesota, recommends adding lime to begonia potting mix. She points out that leaf mold in the mix tends to make it acid, so lime is necessary to neutralize the soil.

Cynthia Smith, California, found she needed to make her growing medium more acid. She added vinegar to her water before giving a pan of reluctant *Platyceerium ridleyi* spores a drink. A few days later the ferns germinated. Jan Clark, North Dakota, uses a phosphoric acid solution to acidify her alkaline tap water, since vinegar is harmful to plants when used over a long period.

□

Claire Tuoto, California, reminds growers who use foliar feed on their begonias to keep plants out of direct sun or bright light to avoid burning them.

□

In the battle with the bugs, it seems every grower has his favorite weapon. Vickie Jackson, Louisiana, has found Acti-dione PM very useful in combating mildew. Donna and Norman Bakewell, British Columbia, use household bleach, 3 to 4 teaspoons to a gallon of water, to keep mildew in check. They also found this treatment keeps down red spider mites and whitefly during the summer.

Agnes Hodgson, Pennsylvania, adds "good Fels Naphtha soap" to her chlorine bleach solution. She shuns insecticides to avoid hurting birds and animals in her yard.

Kathleen Chamberlain, Louisiana, advises growers to take a good hard look at an infested plant. "I have learned the hard way that if I can't get rid of mealy bug or scale, rather than spending a lifetime trying it is better for the rest of my plants to place the buggy one in a bag and sadly but gently place it in the trash."

□

Experience can teach some bitter lessons, but it also can give us some good ones. Diann Goetten, Minnesota, had to dismantle a basement light setup. Now she grows at her windows. She reports:

"It's a whole new growing experience for me. I found some things do better at the windows than under lights. *B. manicata aureomaculata*, for

example, began growing like a weed when moved to the windowsill."

Joan Campbell, Montana, was lucky (or smart) enough to see possibilities for good growing in a most unlikely spot:

"Our hay barn has a tin roof, wooden floor, and best of all, rows of wooden lath set two inches apart around three sides. We hadn't intended to put on sides, but my husband got a buy on all these sturdy laths and when he started nailing them on, the electric light went on over my head and I knew right then I had a lathhouse!

"It has been just perfect for the rexes; I had never been able to grow them successfully, but since they went into their barn they have been so happy—growing well, mildew free, and have begun to set flower buds."

More unidentified species

continued from page 36

U028

aguio, the Philippines. Seems to be small shrub with glabrous leaves, cleft with small red spot at petiole, shaded red slightly at nodes. Purchased as a plant by Martin Johnson.

U029

'Mystique'. Dr. Fred A. Barkley gave seeds several years ago to Logee's, which listed it as 'Mystique' in its catalog. Also listed as species from Honduras in ABS seed fund. Fimbriated flower tepals, white with pink flush at tepal margin. Leaves leathery when young.

U030

aguana, the Philippines. Imported as seeds by Martin Johnson. 1.5 m. tall.

U031

Sao Paolo, Brazil. Imported as seed by Martin Johnson. Cane-like. White flowers. More than 3 feet tall when growing in garden.

U032

Sao Paolo, Brazil. Imported as seed by Martin Johnson. Collected on road descending to Ubatuba. Habitat overgrown forest overlooking sea, mist, and fog.

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In the citations of cultivar parents, the female (seed) parent is listed first.

Begonia 'Firedance'

No. 808—*Begonia* unnamed *rex* cultivar x *suffruticosa* 'Firedance'

Rex Cultorum group, with erect stem. Leaves of bright red with 6 black veins are edged in black with red spots, measure $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$, and are obliquely ovate with serrulate margin and slightly bullate, glabrous surface. Petioles are $2\frac{1}{2}''$; stipules are papery and persistent. Pink flowers with 4 male and 5 female rounded tepals and unequal ovary wings are $\frac{3}{4}'' \times \frac{3}{4}''$. Arranged in a few-flowered cyme with $3\frac{1}{2}''$ peduncle, flowers bloom intermittently. This compact cultivar is distinguished by its bright color, shimmering surface, and dwarf size. Originated in 1977 by Patrick J. Worley, 1408 Sunset Dr., Vista, CA 92083; first bloomed in 1979; first distributed in 1980; first published in Kartuz Greenhouses catalog, 1980. Registered March 8, 1980.

Begonia 'Sudan'

No. 809—*Begonia listida* hort. x *paulensis* 'Sudan'

Shrub-like with 2'-3' stems. Deep-bronze-brown leaves with silver-green marking and red undersurface are $10'' \times 4''$, with serrate margin, puckered surface, sparse hairs, and 6 veins. Petioles are $4''$ long; stipules, $1'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$, papery, persistent. Flowers, $\frac{3}{4}'' \times 1''$ and carried in a few-flowered cyme on a $4\frac{1}{2}''$ peduncle, are white with pink backs and short red hairs; 4 male and 5 female tepals are rounded. Bloom is intermittent over a long season. Shape and color of this distinct

cultivar are inherited from the female parent, size and leaf surface from the male. A webbing effect is prominent on young leaves and near the petiole on mature leaves. Originated in 1977 by Patrick J. Worley (address above); first bloomed in 1979; to be distributed in 1981. Registered March 15, 1980.

Begonia 'Lady Circe'

No. 810—*Begonia* 'Lospe-tu' x *wollnyi* 'Lady Circe'

Thick-stemmed with 1'-1½' stems. Deep-olive-green, $8'' \times 4\frac{1}{2}''$ leaves with 7 depressed red veins and silver spots are obliquely ovate with elongated tip dentate margin, and sparsely hairy, bullate surface. Petioles are $7''$ long with sparse white hairs; stipules are persistent. Flowers, $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$, are pink with 4 male and 5 female rounded tepals and are arranged in a few-flowered cyme on a $5''$ peduncle blooming in winter. B. 'Lady Circe' has an unusual overlap at the basal sinus. Originated in 1978 by Patrick J. Worley (address above); first bloomed in 1979; first distributed in 1980; first published in Kartuz Greenhouses catalog, 1980. Registered March 21, 1980.

Begonia 'Red Zephyr'

No. 811—*Begonia suffruticosa* X 'Twist Spot' x 'Curly Merry Christmas' 'Red Zephyr'

Rex Cultorum group. Double-spiraled obliquely ovate, $5'' \times 3''$ leaves have deep-red center, forest-green band, and red edge. The margin is serrulate and the surface sparsely hairy with 12 veins. Petioles are $2\frac{1}{2}''$ long; stipules are persistent. Flowers, $\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1''$, are light pink with 4 male and 5 female rounded tepal and are arranged in a few-flowered cyme with $3\frac{1}{2}''$ peduncle; everblooming. Distinct features of this small cultivar are the double-spiraled leaves, everblooming habit, and ease of culture. Originated in 1977 by Patrick J. Worley (address above); first bloomed in 1979; first distributed in 1980; first published in Kartuz Greenhouses catalog, 1980. Registered March 21, 1980.

Applications to register Begonia cultivars may be obtained from Thelma O'Reilly, 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041. Each must be typed or printed in ink. A \$2 check or money order payable to the American Begonia Society must accompany each completed application. Photos, drawings, and/or dried specimens to accompany applications are encouraged. ABS is the International Registration Authority for Begonia cultivar names.

The 1981 ABS convention will be in Ventura, Calif., and the 1982 golden anniversary convention in Santa Cruz, Calif.

Arrangements for the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch to host this year's convention in Ventura—between Santa Barbara and Los Angeles—were announced by President Gil Estrada to ABS directors Jan. 19. The board ratified the plan.

Santa Cruz was decided by mail vote of directors. The choice was Santa Cruz over Oklahoma City, 26 votes to 14. Of the 86 ballots mailed out, 40 were returned, 17 of which came from outside California.

The Santa Cruz convention will be hosted by Northern California branches.

Dates and details of both conventions will be published later.

show on the Potomac

Anna Jane Martin of Spencerville, Md., who chaired the first-ever show of the Potomac Branch Oct. 25-26, won best-of-show and sweepstakes awards.

Sixteen members exhibited 163 plants in the show at the National Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C.

Anna Jane's best-of-show plant was *B. Concord*. She also had these division winners: *B. 'Bill Cook'*, thick-stemmed; *B. schmidtiana*, semperflorens; *B. ficicola*, begonia in contained atmosphere; and *B. Charm*, hanging containers-wall pockets.

Other division winners were Mary Kennedy, best cane-like begonia, *B. 'Sophie Cecile'*; Linda Record, best shrub-like begonia, *B. 'Alto Scharff'*, and best begonia collection; Martha Meehan, best rhizomatous begonia, *B. brooksii*; and Marcia Litwach, best hobby item, a needlepoint willow.

The botanic garden loaned begonias from its collection for display and is receiving in return cuttings from many members' show plants.

in memoriam

Louise Schwerdtfeger

Louise Schwerdtfeger, an early ABS member and pioneer begonia hybridizer, died in December at age 86. Born in Canada, she had come to the U.S. in 1922.

A Santa Barbara resident, Louise began collecting begonias in 1934 and amassed a huge number over the years. She joined ABS in 1940 and served the Santa Barbara Branch as secretary and in 1946-47 and 1953 as president.

In September of 1947 she became ABS public relations director and helped organize numerous branches. She also was ABS vice president from 1953-56. In 1960, she won the ABS Eva Kenworthy Gray award for her articles in *The Begonian*.

She maintained Casa de Begonias nursery in her home for many years. When health required her to give up begonias, she became an artist specializing in pastels and watercolors and painted desert and ocean scenes.

Her hybrids include the frilly, silvery *B. rex* cultivar, 'Kitty'; thick-stemmed *B. 'Marie Reed'*, and rhizomatous *B. 'Otto Alfred'* and *B. 'Zaida'*. Others are described in the March 1978 *Begonian*, pages 69-73.

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- FB 3 — *B. hydrocotylitolia*: Rhizomatous from Mexico with small round, thick, waxy green-brown leaves. Needs shallow pot with careful watering in winter, when it bears pink blooms on 6-inch stems. per pkt 1.00
- FB 4 — *B. metallica*: Shrub-like with large, dark green leaves with bronze luster; veins sunken above and deep red beneath. Backs of flower tepals red-hairy. Distinctive. per pkt 1.00
- FB 5 — *B. sartorii*: syns. *lobulata* and *rubro-setulosa*. Thick-stemmed to 5 feet, little or not branched and large (7- by 5-inch) widely ovate leaves with a wine red spot at sinus. Small two-tepaled white flowers. See photo, August 1976 *Begonian*, page 213. per pkt 1.00
- FB 6 — *B. echinosepala*: Shrub-like with small, serrated leaves. Name means "spine-like sepals," which describes the hairs on backs of white-tepaled flowers. *B. dietrichiana*, its lookalike, does not have the hairs. For 30 years, in this country, another begonia was grown under this name. Dr. Edgar Irmischer corrected the error in *The Begonian*, February 1957. per pkt 1.00
- FB 7 — *B. ottonis*: Small, shrub-like with oval, waxy, bright green leaves and interesting white stems. Good subject for bonsai or trellis. White flowers. per pkt 1.00
- FB 8 — *B. popenoei*: Classified as thick-stemmed, hairy, and large leaved, this species from Honduras is not grown widely. It is often called "Florida species" and has white flowers. This variety does not have elbow-like runners. See January 1975 *Begonian*. per pkt 1.00
- FB 9 — *B. rex* cultivars containing some spirals; from California growers. An opportunity to get something new. per pkt 1.00
- FB 10 — *Lygodium japonicum*: Japanese climbing fern. per pkt 1.00



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B. oxyphylla

ABS SERVICES

These services are available to all ABS members. For names and addresses of department heads and other officers, see inside front cover.

AT-LARGE MEMBERS—Services for members who don't belong to branches are handled by the members-at-large director. Contact him for details. If you are interested in finding a branch or starting one in your area, contact the branch relations director for help.

THE BEGONIAN—The monthly journal of the society publishes how-to articles, scientific information, and ABS news. Articles on a member's personal experiences with begonias are welcomed, as are black-and-white photos of begonias and color slides suitable for use on the cover. Contact the editors. Individual copies of *The Begonian* more than a year old are available from the back issue sales chairman (75 cents). A full year is \$6.50 for any year in the 1940s, \$5 for any year from 1950 through 1978. Back issues less than a year old are ordered from the membership secretary for \$1 each.

BOOKSTORE—Books on begonias and related subjects can be purchased mail-order from the bookstore librarian. Contact him for a list of books available. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The bookstore also sells reproductions of antique begonia prints.

JUDGING DEPARTMENT—The judging department offers a course by mail with which you can learn to become an accredited begonia show judge. Also available are a booklet on point scoring, information on fuchsia and fern judging, and other requirements to become a judge.

LIBRARY—Books about begonias and gardening may be borrowed by mail from the lending library. Contact the librarian for a list of books and the procedure. Include a stamped self-addressed No. 10 envelope.

NOMENCLATURE—The nomenclature department monitors newly published findings on begonia names as well as handling official international registration of new begonia cultivars. Registrations are published in *The Begonian*.

RESEARCH—The research department conducts a Grow and Study project in which members experiment with various begonias and compile their findings. The department also has other activities, including the review of requests for ABS backing of outside projects. For details, contact a co-director.

ROUND ROBINS—Members exchange information about begonias and their culture through a packet of letters which circulates among a small group of growers. There are dozens of these packets—called flights—on many specialized subjects. To join one or more, contact the round robin director.

SEED FUND—The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund offers seeds of begonia species and cultivars by mail. New offerings are listed in *The Begonian*. Donations of seed are encouraged. Please contact the Seed Fund Director.

SLIDE LIBRARY—A series of slide shows on begonias and begonia growing can be borrowed by mail for showing at meetings and seminars. New shows are under preparation. Contact the slide librarian for fee information.

SPEAKERS BUREAU—The speakers bureau maintains a directory of speakers on begonias and related subjects. Contact the director.

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