



November-December, 1994

The BEGONIAN



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 that will be mailed to all members of the society.

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

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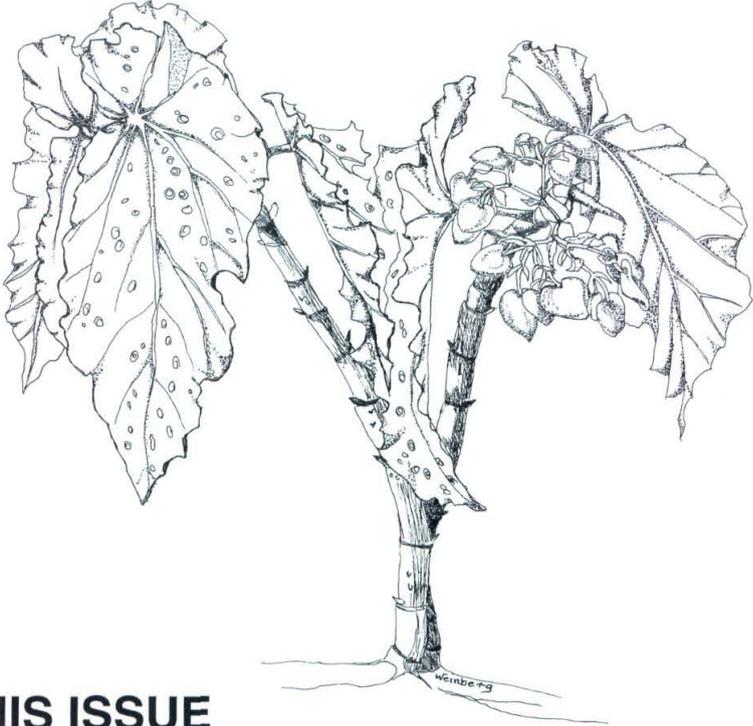
American Begonia Society - P.O. Box 231129, Encinitas, CA 92023-1129

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COVERS:

Front - Artist Miem Elzenga has adopted *B. chlorosticta* through the ABS Conservation Department's Adopt-A-Species project. Her watercolor and sketch illustrate an interesting inflorescence (see article, p. 198)

Back - Brad Thompson's *B. albo-picta* took first place honors as Westchester Branch defied superstition to put on their 13th annual show (more show results, p. 218; photo courtesy of Westchester Branch newsletter).



IN THIS ISSUE

Articles

B. 'Flamingo Queen'	197
About <i>B. chlorosticta</i>	198
China Discoveries	200
Want to Get Rid of the Gray?	202
<i>Symbegonia fulvo-villosa</i> ?	206
Begonia Spotlight	216

Regular Features

President's Message	196
Bulletin Board: ABS News	218
Show News	218
In the News	218
Round Robin Notes	219
Conservation News	221
Seed Fund Notes	222
Coming Events	223
Seed Fund Listing	224
ABS Officers	226

B. 'Anna Christine'
drawing by Mary Weinberg
cane-like, low growing
B. 'Salmon Rubra' x *B. dichroa*
Kusler, 1955

Quick!

Check your mailing label: if it says 11/94 or 12/94 your membership is about to expire. Please renew! We don't want to lose you!

President's Message

Back in 1932 when the American Begonia Society was founded, discussions between members who were more than a few hundred miles apart were seldom. By the 1950's, long-distance communications were more frequent, but still uncommon. From the 1970's up to the present day, we get together and communicate even more frequently. We have all seen this happen in our life span.

If we can judge the next 5 to 10 years by the past, we must assume that we will be more able to gather and communicate worldwide on a frequent basis.

This brings up the thought that a large number of the specialists in fields such as taxonomy, horticulture, commercial growing, and other professionals, as well as hobbyists, might become better acquainted through more frequent association. Would not the whole begonia world benefit from this sort of fraternization?

This may sound overly idealistic. But is it? Three major catalysts would be necessary: devotion, thought, and funding. I believe the first two are there. For funding, maybe if we could more openly exhibit our enthusiasm for begonias and gain more commercial interest in begonias, financial backing might be forthcoming from the maze of interested parties. *I am sure you all see where I am heading.*

We all know that we have the most interesting subject in the plant world. Begonias have much more to offer than other plant families that have captured more commercial interest. The entire world of horticulture-related industry and science would be supporting begonias more enthusiastically if begonias were more *economically* interesting. Could this be the key to a new era in the begonia world?

We need the help and promotion of the commercial interests, but we must offer this group our support and assistance. Here are some thoughts on how we can increase economic interest in begonias:

Encourage commercial entries in our shows. Include more commercial divisions. *Invite local nurseries to participate - either competing in the show, or with a display.* Publicize our shows through local nurseries that carry begonias, and let the nurseries publicize their begonias and begonia-related items through our show.

Let nurseries and garden centers know there is a branch in the area. Invite nurserymen as guests and as speakers.

When you visit a nursery, garden center, or plant shop ask about begonias. Thank the nurserymen for carrying begonias, or ask them to do so. Again, let them know there are begonia fans in the area.

In the last issue I threatened you with more random thoughts. As usual, I would like to hear *your feedback on these thoughts.*

Gene Salisbury



B. 'Flamingo Queen'

Text & photo by Don Miller

"As showy as a Flamingo and as Regal as a Queen..."

This spectacular Australian hybrid was created by Ross Bolwell of Annangrove, Australia, a small town outside of Sydney.

A few years ago when I visited Ross, his wife, and family, I was shocked to see all the beautiful begonias he was growing. Ross has a commercial nursery and begonias play a big part in it. His begonia hybrids are really outstanding. The test plants of his cane hybrids were three feet tall, and most were covered with blooms.

While walking through his greenhouse I heard "Look at me! Look at me!", and there she was. Begonia 'Flamingo Queen' had called, "Look at me, look at my big beautiful leaves covered with large silvery spots, look at my big gorgeous clusters of bright pink flowers. I am Regal."

Well, she certainly is. Her average leaf measures 11 inches long and 3 inches wide. Leaves are dark green and covered with large silver spots. The leaf margin is wavy. This begonia blooms freely, with

bright pink flowers. The female flowers hang in large pendulous clusters.

This Regal Aussie is not only beautiful, but it is easy and a fast grower. It roots quickly and easily from stem cuttings. A young plant grows rapidly and branches readily. Can you guess its parentage? You are right if you said *B. maculata* and *B. 'Lenore Olivier'*.

I was very honored when Ross agreed to let me take cuttings of his new hybrids back to Dallas. Unfortunately, the only one to survive was this very special and hardy "Aussie Queen".

Don Miller lives at 1010 Mt. Auburn, Dallas, Texas 75223, and treats his lovely Aussie well: his B. 'Flamingo Queen' won a Cultural Award at "Begonias: OK!", the 1994 ABS Convention in Oklahoma City. Don is associate editor of the Southwest Region's Begonia Leaflet, where his article first appeared.

About *B. chlorosticta*

by Miem Elzenga

There is something interesting about the flowers of *B. chlorosticta*.

Dr. Doorenbos writes in his article in the **Begonian**, September 1976, that "The female flowers open first, and have already dropped their petals before the first male flowers open. This is unusual: in most begonias it is the other way around."

My observation is: when the inflorescence starts (around May-June) I see two female flowers and in between them a "male" flower with stamens (and two small stigmas?), and above this the cluster of buds of the tiny and many male flowers. You can see that in my drawing and watercolor painting.

Could this small "male" flower possibly be for self-pollination? I used this flower for pollinating, with both a pencil and a brush; both ways were successful.

I grow my *chlorosticta* in a northwest window with an additional grow-lux light 14 hours a day. I use a standard soil mix plus sand and coarse grit and some bone-meal.

One flowering gives me 4 packets of seed. The next year around February-March I start sowing in a small terrarium on central heating and beneath a grow lamp in a mixture of 2/3 standard soil mix to 1/3 sand.

This had been successful; but this summer was very hot and the lamp was too hot for my begonias.

Heat may not have been the only problem. Two of my plants got a kind of cork growth on the branches and on the leaves. I have pinched them back considerably and set them apart in a small terrarium. I would appreciate hearing about cork growth, and what I can do to prevent it.

Fortunately I have one still beautiful *chlorosticta* left, and my four small packages of seed, so I can go on.

Miem Elzenga is a member of ABS and of the Begonia Werkgroep Nederland, and has adopted B. chlorosticta. Her address is Else Mauhsiaan 69, 2597HB Den Haag, Netherlands.

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China Discoveries

Text & photos by Jan Goodwin

This unidentified rhizomatous species was field collected by Bob Cherry from an area in Yunnan, China, near the border of Burma, where it was growing on an open roadside bank at an altitude of 5,500 feet.

The large leaves (22" x 15") are supported by tall petioles measuring approximately 2 feet in height.

Flower size is normally 1 1/2", and flowers are borne on very short peduncles (1 1/2" -2") that are attached to the thick rhizome. It is unusual to see begonia flowers so close to the base of a plant with huge leaves towering overhead.

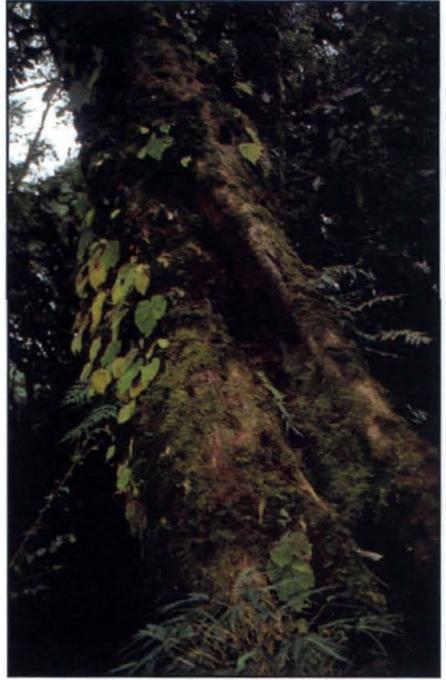
The seed pod, which has either four or five wings, one longer than the others, is round and somewhat flattened when in a dry state and full of seed - a completely different shape to any I have seen in the past.

I am told the petioles taste like rhubarb in their raw state and the Chinese people make them into a soup.



The plant pictured is growing in the garden of Bob Cherry, New South Wales, Australia, and while it is quite exposed to the elements of nature, especially rain, it enjoys the filtered sunlight during the summer months. Obviously, this is a very hardy begonia species.

The two unidentified begonias pictured on this page were photographed in China by Bob Cherry. The one to the right is a dwarf tuberous type.



Jan Goodwin is past Seed Fund Director for the Association of Australian Begonia Societies. She will be speaking of these begonias and other new species at the upcoming Australian convention in Brisbane in April, 1995.

Want to Get Rid of the Gray?

by Richard King

Has the rain and cooler temperatures of Fall put new life into your begonias? It has around the Dallas Area Branch, and yet, if you are like me and don't have a greenhouse, it doesn't take more than a week or so of gray cloudy Fall weather to get me wishing for Spring again. Knowing that Spring is a long time away and wishing won't make it come any sooner. The next best thing could be a lighted plant stand.

Now, if you're thinking it would be too difficult, let me take you through the steps I took last Fall to build a "lighted begonia stand." Even if you at first don't think you can build a plant stand, read through the steps, give it some thought, and then read them again. It's really not too difficult and you just might pleasantly surprise yourself.

First is the list of planning steps, then a description of what I did at each step, and finally a summary.

Step 1: Size Planning

Make some notes about how much room you have for a plant stand, how tall you would like for it to be (one shelf, two, three?) How wide would you like it to be (one row of plants, two rows deep - more)?

Step 2: Light Planning

Make some notes about what kind of fluorescent fixtures you want (one bulb or two)? Based on Step 1, how long do you want them (24", 36", 48" or 96")?

Step 3: Shelf Planning

Make some notes about shelving material: do you want to allow air flow through the shelves or hold water for humidity? How about both humidity and air flow? (The space between shelves will be determined by the plants you want to put on the shelves.)

Step 4: Materials Planning

Make some notes on how you want the legs and shelf supports to look, and remember they have to be strong enough to do the job. Do you want casters so the stand can be moved easily?

Step 5: Cost Planning

Decide how much you can and want to spend. This is where you don't want any surprises! Maybe you have some of the items you need on hand.

Step 6: Make a Sketch

Based on Steps 1-4, draw a rough diagram of what you have in mind. (There really aren't many places to go to look at plant stands for ideas. Local nurseries might have one where they keep their African violets.)

Now here is what I did...

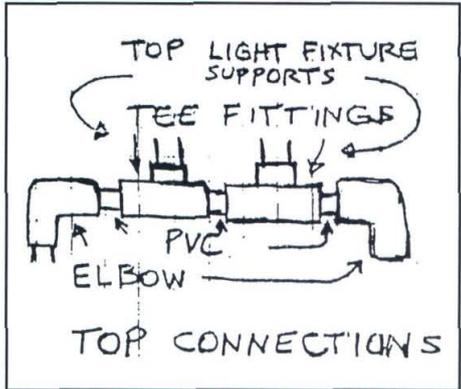
My Step 1: Looking around the house, I didn't have anything on which to put a single shelf plant stand. So I wanted at least two shelves. I also decided that I needed it to stand by itself.

My Step 2: I did a simple rearrangement of a picture and a chair, and made a space about 50" wide near an electrical outlet. Now, I could go with the 48" fixtures and bulbs.

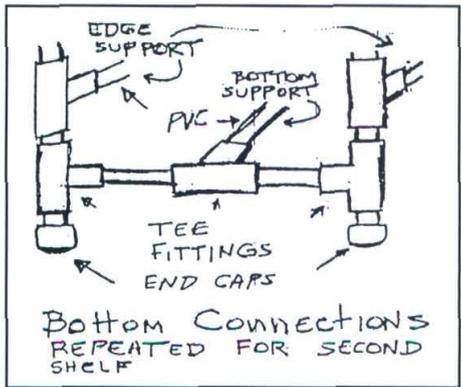
My Step 3: With a notepad in hand I went to a nearby hardware/building materials store to look at shelving. I found some of the white wire mesh kind that I liked. It comes in several widths and can be cut to any length. I also found some bins used as shallow drawers made of the same material with optional liners available. With two bins 20" x 16" and one piece of 12" wide shelving, I could make the shelves 52" long

and 16" deep. I could easily light it with a two-bulb 48" fixture and get a good number of plants on it I could also use the drawer liners to put water in for humidity.

My Step 4: I then went to the plumbing section of the store and looked at the PVC pipe. It comes in several diameter sizes, any length, gray or white, and with all sorts of fittings. There was everything I needed to build both the legs and the light fixture and shelf supports, too. The thick wall white PVC in 1 1/4" diameter was strong enough to do the job and it looks good with the white bins and the shelving material.



My Step 5: Comparing some bulb prices, I noticed the only size available in cool-white, day-light, full-spectrum and garden-grow types was the 48" bulb. The shorter bulbs were not any cheaper and the longs were too long. The white PVC was inexpensive per foot of length and the fittings averaged less than \$1.50 each. I calculated for a two-shelf unit it was going to cost in the neighborhood of \$115 with the drawer liners.



My Step 6: While looking at the different fittings available for the PVC, I pictured all the things I could do with elbows and tees and end caps. With the bin and shelving sizes, the bulb length decided, and the different fittings in mind, I made some sketches. I showed enough detail to see how the fittings could be used to make the shelf and light fixture supports connect to the legs and where I wanted end caps (instead of casters).

Summary

From the sketches I counted the numbers of different things I would need and approximately how many feet of PVC it would take to accommodate the shelves I wanted at 52" x 16". I got the PVC, the fittings, the shelving, the bins, the light fixtures, the 48" bulbs, and headed home.

All I needed was some time, a measuring tape, and a saw. Almost any kind of saw will do, a hack-saw, a hand-saw, a radial-arm saw. You don't even have to cut it straight. Every cut made goes into a fitting, and the sawed edge is out of sight.

I kept in mind the first rule of carpentry: "Measure twice, cut once." I also made note of the amount of space inside each type of fitting, so I would know how much PVC it would take to go all the way into a fitting to make any given combination of the fittings and PVC pipe I might need.

Since the bins had a nice little edge around them, I decided to use two pieces of PVC to support the bins on the front and back edges. I used another piece of PVC the same length to support the bin bottoms.

I also decided to use the bottom support for the top shelf bins to hang the fluorescent fixture used to light the bottom shelf. Every piece from the bottom shelf was duplicated for the top shelf. I used tee fittings to connect all the pieces used to support the shelves, and to connect the shelves to the leg pieces. I put end caps on the bottoms of the legs to give them a finished look and get them to slide more easily when I might need to move the plant stand.

For a light fixture support for the second shelf, I used two pieces of PVC connected together like the ones used to support the bin bottoms. Instead of using tee fittings to connect the leg pieces, I used elbow fittings since this was the tallest point on the plant stand and not connecting to anything else above it. The elbows also gave it a finished look.

Some small link chains came with the light fixtures, and were used to hang them from the PVC support pieces. With the small links, you can hook the light in different loops to raise or lower the light above the plants. And since the PVC is just slipped into the fittings, pieces can be pulled out and shortened to permanently change the spacing between shelves or to add or remove shelves from the stand.

For a last touch, I used nylon cable ties to secure the shelving and the bins to the PVC support pieces. This gave me a basic,

nice-looking plant stand and with the materials used it will never need painting. You should see it! Just drop by some time and have a look for yourself.

The plant stand must make its begonias happy: Richard King won two cultural awards at the ABS Convention in Oklahoma City. He lives at 1809 Greenway Dr., Plano, TX 75075.

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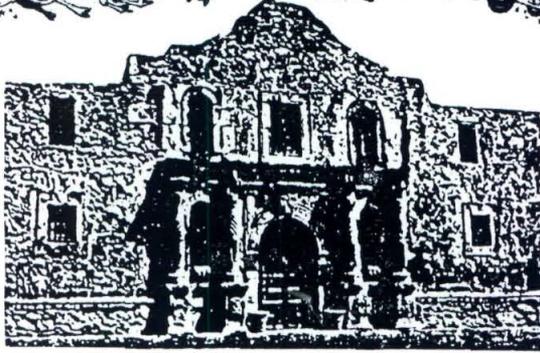
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Symbegonia fulvo-villosa - No?

(J. D. Thought Not)*

by Carrie Karegeannes

In 1971, **Begonian** 38: cover and pp. 127-128, June, 1971, carried a black-and-white photo of a *Symbegonia* species - a close-up of the white tubular female flower and the strikingly white-bordered leaves, as described in the text pages.

It is the same photo sent as a color slide by Dr. Jan Doorenbos of the Agricultural University, Wagenigen, The Netherlands, to Thelma O'Reilly in December 1971. Thelma shared the photo with me, both as slide and color print. It shows the contrasting white band even more vividly. Dr. Doorenbos had labeled the slide as an unidentified *Symbegonia*.

In his 1971 article, Dr. Doorenbos wrote, under the title "An Unusual Begoniaceous Plant":

"In July 1969, M. J. F. M. Zieck sent us stems of two *Begonia* collected in mountainous country south of Wau in New Guinea. The material was barely alive, but under the care of Mr. J. J. Karper it was slowly revived, and a year later we had strong healthy plants. Both proved very shy to flower. So far, only one species has formed a female flower. This, however, had a surprise in store; it is sympetalous, which shows that our plant is a species of *Symbegonia*.

"This genus was set up by Warburg in 1894 for a species he had previously described as *Begonia fulvo-villosa*. It is characterized by the fact that the female flowers are more or less bell-shaped, because the five petals are joined over most of their length. Our picture shows this very clearly. The two petals of the male flower are either free, or fused at the base, dependent on the species.

"Twelve species of *Symbegonia* have been described, all from New Guinea. Our species has been compared with each of these descriptions, but it does not conform to any of them. Its leaves are oblong to oval, very oblique at the base, and doubly serrate. Their most striking characteristic is that they are bronze green with sharply defined broad white band along the edge. The whole plant is densely pubescent with long, pale green hairs. In this respect it differs from all species described, which (if pubescent at all) have brownish hairs. The plant has 44 chromosomes, the prevalent number of the Papua species of *Begonia*, section *Petermannia*, which the species of *Symbegonia* closely resemble in their vegetative characteristics."

Dr. Doorenbos went on to discuss *Symbegonia fulvo-villosa* and the *Symbegonia* that flowered in England in 1911 and was pictured in Curtis's Botanical Magazine erroneously under that name (plate 8409). Later, Henry N. Ridley said it didn't match the description of *S. fulvo-villosa* and he thought it more likely to be *S. mooreana* Irmscher. Dr. Doorenbos thought this one also differed from *S. mooreana* in several respects.

Surprisingly (to me today), Dr. Doorenbos said that his present *Symbegonia* pictured on the cover was easy to grow. Growers in ABS have long found most *Symbegonia* species very difficult. Dr. Doorenbos continued, saying that it was "very ornamental with its white-edged leaves. Unfortunately it appears to be shy flowering and it seems unlikely that we will soon be able to distribute seed. Nevertheless, it seems worthwhile to report on this

plant, as it may well be the only *Symbegonia* cultivated today."

Page 127 also carried a small black-and-white photo of a similar-appearing plant with the caption "Unidentified *Symbegonia*, donor unknown."

In **Begonian** 38: 215, September 1971, two paragraphs by Dr. Doorenbos under the heading "More on *Symbegonia*" said, "The first *Symbegonia* bloomed white and had bronze green foliage (the cover photo had been in black-and-white, so hues were not self-evident).

Dr. Doorenbos also corrected his statement about *Symbegonia fulvo-villosa*: Irmscher was the botanist who had found the Botanical Magazine plate 8409 in 1911 to be different from that species, and Irmscher had named the plant pictured in the plate a new species, *S. mooreana*.

The *Symbegonia* grown at Wagenigen and pictured in the 1971 **Begonian** looks very much like the one later numbered *U012* (which see) - except that *S. U012* has strikingly pink-bordered leaves. I have not seen or read a description of color of flowers on *U012*.

John Scott, Victoria, Australia, published an article "*Symbegonia fulvo-villosa*?" accompanied by a black-and-white photo in **Begonian** 44: 246-248, September 1977. He said the plant he shows appeared to be very similar to the one on the June 1971 cover. He also noted that Dr. Doorenbos had noted it as unidentified, so "there may be some doubt as to its correctness. The plant had not flowered, so we cannot compare the flowers."

John's photo showed a plant with leaves that did look the same as those on the June 1971 cover, described by Dr. Doorenbos (who thought the pale green hairs differentiated it from all other described *Symbegonia*, which had brownish hairs). The label on the plant in John Scott's photo was *S. fulvo-villosa*. John had ob-

tained it from or photographed it in the Melbourne Botanic Gardens; evidently they had identified it - or perhaps been given the identification by Edinburgh Botanic Garden?

John also reported that the small photo in the June 1971 article was another view of the plant in his present (1977) article, and was one he had taken.

John wrote there had been three species in the Melbourne, Australia Botanic Gardens: labeled NG No. 1, NG No. 2, NG No. 3, "all in very poor condition, in fact, only just surviving. One did pass out and the other two were removed to a more humid situation. The one photographed improved considerably and was named *S. fulvo-villosa*. The other one has remained very small, making very little growth. Its leaves are like a pale green *B. foliosa* but of course, as it has not flowered, it cannot be definitely identified as a *Symbegonia*. It has been tried in the close atmosphere of a propagator with little improvement." (Could this last plant be *B. U010*?? A *Begonia* that has puzzled us. - C. K.)

John continued:

"The "fulvo-villosa" has been tried on the floor of the tropical house, where it is at present, with some success but certainly does not appear to be an easy plant. It drops its leaves in winter and takes some time to recover in spring, and unless cut back, becomes a leggy plant. On a recent visit to the Nursery, I noticed six small rooted cuttings and the intention is to try them in different locations. So far, none of these plants have flowered."

John quoted a letter from Mr. J. S. Womersly, then at the Department of Botany {Division of Botany, Department of Forests}, Lae, Papua, New Guinea, on collection localities and growing conditions.

Mose Fadeem's black-and-white photo of a *Symbegonia* (captioned unidentified *Begonia*) in the **Begonian** 58:217, November-December 1991, was of a plant

growing in the Glasgow Botanic Gardens. It is evidently either this *Symbegonia* with the striking white-bordered leaves or else the very similar one with vivid pink-bordered leaves, U012. Text and caption give no information.

Bill Voss, on phone August 3, 1992, told me he decidedly did not believe Fadeem's photo to be the same as *S. U012* - which Bill has grown for some time, to handsome large plants, although still without flowers.

John Scott had written me about the *Symbegonia* species in the Melbourne Botanical Gardens at least as early as 1970. In February 1971 he said they had three species, but in such poor condition as to be unrecognizable. They had been rebuilding the glasshouse and he thought the *Symbegonia* had been growing too dry. In May 1971 he wrote this one had improved greatly, with leaves up to 2 1/2" long by 1 1/4" wide. "It was growing in their propagating house with a misting system. These high humidity conditions are more in keeping with the description I had from Lae (New Guinea)."

In January 1973, John Scott wrote me that Melbourne still had the so-called *S. fulvo-villosa*. "It appears to do better if propagated every year here. Otherwise

leaves drop of and it becomes very 'leggy.' I am still waiting to see it flower..It has flowered on several occasions, but I've not heard until too late." In August 1973, he wrote that it was in poor condition, down to one leaf and he thought growing conditions wrong. "The house it was in was very humid, but much too hot. This plant thrives in N. G. at around 6000 ft., where the temperature seldom exceeds 80°F and, whilst very humid, is more like low cloud or light rain."

In January 1979, John wrote me that it had been in flower, but he was in the hospital. By the time the Gardens had informed him and he had arranged for his grandson to go photograph the flowers, they were finished.

Very sadly, I lost a good friend when John died in July 1979.

*Warburg's specimen on p. 421 of Begoniaceae, Smithsonian Contributions to Botany No. 60, shows a narrower, more deeply serrate leaf for *S. fulvo-villosa*, I note. - C. K.

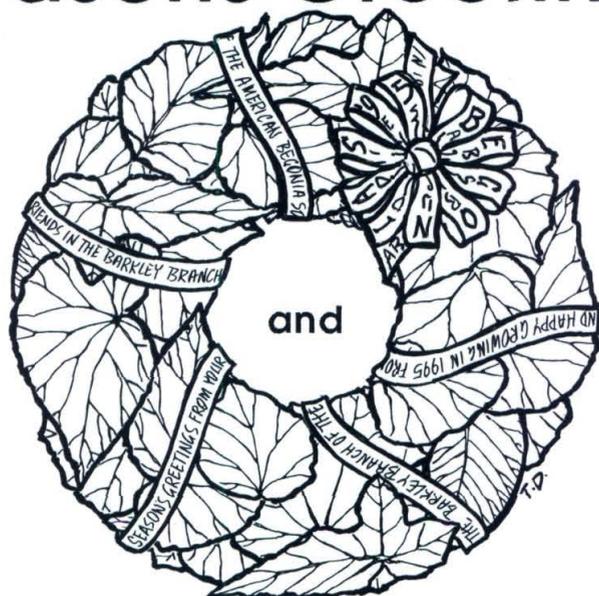
Carrie Karegeannes is Chairman of the ABS Nomenclature Department. Her address is 3916 Lake Blvd., Annandale, VA 22003-2319

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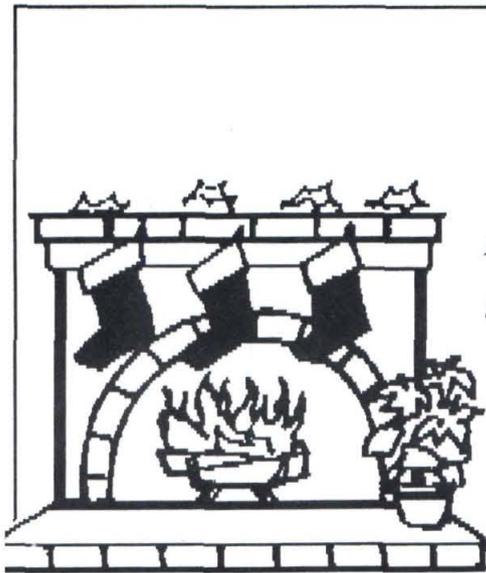
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Sylvia Pendarvis
Linda Perry
Adela Rojas
Gene and Ann Salisbury
Louie T. Sullivan^H
Rennie Taylor
Diana Wilkerson
Ruth Wills^H
Vernona Youngblood

And Special Friends of the Barkley Branch

Maurice Amey, Mae Blanton, Bruce Boardman, John Ingles, Jr.,
Carrie Karegeannes, Kit Jeans Mounger, Carol Notarus,
Thelma O'Reilly, Millie and Ed Thompson, Rudolf Ziesenhenné.

An H beside name indicates Honorary Members.



SEASONS GREETINGS

*May you always carry with you a
little of the beauty, warmth and love
of Christmas.*

Gene and Ann Salisbury



PALOMAR BRANCH

*May Peace and Joy
Be Yours at
Christmastime
and throughout
the New Year.*



Carol L. McGonegal
Pauline Mueller
Mildred Murray
Tim & Thelma O'Reilly
Mrs. J. E. Passmore
Patricia Roubidoux
La Rose & Patrick Shields
Raymond Sodomka
Pearl Swatsek
Mary Zemic
Crystal Zook

Francis Devargas
Rumi Dover
Ingeborg Foo
Lorraine Frinchaboy
Michael Golub
Ramona Greb
Edalee Harwell
Michael Kartuz
Mary & Robert Knight
Margaret Lee
Mike Ludwig
Billie Mahaffey

Robert Ammerman
Toni Baker
Edgar & Phyllis Bates
Albert & Katherine Belz
Kathleen Blumling
Eleanor Calkins
Eileen M. Clause
Carolyn Collman
Ralph & Mabel Corwin
Margaret R. Curtin
Juana Curtis



May all the special sights
and pleasures of Christmas
live on in your memories

**Astro Branch
Houston**

Wishing you a joyous holiday season!



**Kelton Parker, the staff, and the begonias
Fort Worth Botanic Gardens**



Best Wishes for
a Happy Holiday
and a Prosperous 1995
from the

**Greater
Atlanta
Branch
of ABS**

and site of the
1996 Summer Olympics

SEASON'S GREETINGS



FROM THE
SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

THE
MOST SOUTHWESTERLY BRANCH
OF THE
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
AND ITS
SOUTHWEST REGION

Members of

Alfred D. Robinson Branch

Wish you a Joyous Holiday Season
and a
Happy Begonia Growing New Year



PINELLAS COUNTY BRANCH

Wishes all of you

Peace and Happiness for the coming year.

While visiting the Tampa Bay Area come
visit our meetings, 7:30 P.M. - Third Tuesday -
Fellowship Hall, Church of Christ
6045 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park, Florida
for more information, call 347-1472





Carol and Peter Notaras
wish all "Begoniacs"
a year filled with
good health, happiness, and
successful Begonia growing.



*As your begonias sleep,
Don't weep.
Christmas is here
And spring is near.
Have a happy growing year!*

**Happy Holidays
Orange County Branch
ABS**



**Santa Barbara
Branch**

*Wishes All of You
Peace and Happiness
for the Coming Year.*

Whittier Branch

*sends Season's Greetings
and
Best Wishes for a Happy 1995*

Celebrating our 54th Anniversary



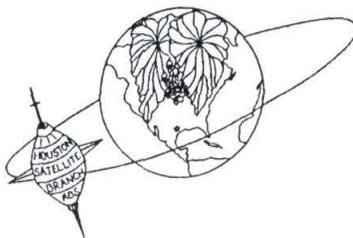


CHRISTMAS

a time to Love
a time to Share
a time to Care

San Francisco Branch

Best Wishes for 1995



The Houston Satellite Branch

Beams Rays
of
Peace, Joy, Love
to ALL
for the
Holiday Season
and
New Year

Peace
Love
Joy

now and in the coming years
the staff of the **Begonian**

Garden Grove Branch

Merry Christmas
to all



Let's keep Christ
in Christmas

*Holiday Greetings
& Happy Growing
in 1995 & always*

from



**Westchester
Branch**



We Wish You Joy, Hope,
and Peace
For the Holiday Season
and the New Year

MAE BLANTON BRANCH



Our 57th year
Theodosia
Burr
Shepherd
Branch
happy holidays

Season's Greetings
from
Rio Dell, California
Arlene & John Ingles

*Wishing You
the Best of the Season!*



**San
Gabriel
Valley
Branch**

"I'M NOT SANTA BUT I CAN
'HO-HO-HOPE'
YOUR SEASON WILL BE JOLLY!"
MARGARET LEE

Season's Greetings
Dallas Area Branch

SPOTLIGHT ON:

B. subscutata



Text and drawing by Mary Weinberg

B. subscutata is placed in section *Tetraphila*. It was discovered by De Wildman in the Congo of tropical West Africa in 1908, and has also been collected in primary and secondary forests in Gabon, Africa.

B. subscutata does not seem to have been grown in the United States until 1983, when Dr. Jan Doorenbos of the Netherlands sent seed to Mildred Thompson and she subsequently shared plants with members of ABS.

B. subscutata is a trailing-scandent species. Leaves at maturity measure 1 1/2" - 2" long and 3/4" - 7/8" wide; leaf shape is obtuse, acute, obovate, with slightly undulate margins that tend to curl under; the fleshy leaves have a dark green smooth shiny upper surface, with light green pinnate veins. The undersides of the leaves are light green, adult leaves having short sparse brown felted wool-like hairs. Stems are long and branching, mature stems are woody, while newer stems have short brown felt-like hair. Stem nodes often produce roots. Both male and female flowers have 4 tepals each. The ovary of the female flower is spindle-shaped, 4 celled and wingless. Stipules are small brown, lanceolate. Female flowers do not open at all times; my experience has been that they only open when there are male flowers on the plant. Flowers are a creamy-white color with reddish pink margins on the tepals. *B. subscutata* is almost everblooming.

Physical Geography of the Congo

The climate of the Congo is tropical, having heavy rainfall and high temperatures and humidity. Temperatures vary little between seasons and between day and night. The annual average temperature is between 68° and 81°F, although in the south currents may produce temperatures as low as 54°F. The average daily Humidity is 80%. Precipitation averages more than 48 inches annually, and often is over 80 inches.

Most of the Congo is covered with tropical rain forest, with much of the soil being coarse-grained, containing sand and gravel; because of the hot humid climate organic matter is destroyed before it can decompose into humus, and top soil is washed away by the heavy rains.

CULTURE

Humidity: *B. subscutata* requires high humidity but can be grown outside a terrarium. The humidity in my light garden averages 50% in winter and 60% in summer. However, when rooting cuttings or growing young just-rooted plants it is best to keep them in a terrarium for the additional humidity.

Light: I grow *B. subscutata* under fluorescent lights, but do not place it directly under the light, but off at the edge where the light is less intense.

Water: Keep moist.

Temperature: *B. subscutata* grows well in warm temperatures. My winter temperature in the house is in the mid-to-upper 60's; I think that is why my plant goes semi-dormant.

Growing Medium: I use a porous mix, one that retains moisture as well. I include a pinch of bone meal and limestone in the mix. For cuttings and young plants in terrariums, use long-grain sphagnum moss; soak it in water and squeeze out excess moisture. Cut into small pieces and mix in perlite (about 2/3 sphagnum moss to 1/3 perlite).

Feeding: I feed with a 20-20-20 fertilizer during the growing season.

B. subscutata tends to go semi-dormant for me during the winter months, losing a good number of its leaves. Stems will be quite bare except for a few stubborn leaves, an occasional bloom will appear now and then. In early spring new leaves develop on stems to form a dense mass.

When I repot *B. subscutata* I wind a stem or two around in the pot and pin them down to the soil, where sometimes roots appear from the nodes and send out new growth.

Artist/writer/begonia gower Mary Weinberg lives
at 1527 W. Highland Ave., Chicago, IL 60660.

BULLETIN BOARD

ABS News

Appointments

Book Store Chair: Betty Benningfield
Betty's address is P. O. Box 969, Anahuac, TX 77514. And a big thank you! to **Anita Ruthenberg**, who has done an outstanding job with the Book Store for the past four years.

Horticultural Correspondent: Greg Sytch
Write to Greg at P. O. Box 1033, Port Richey FL 34673 if you have questions about growing begonias!

In the News...

There's a Begonia Double-Feature in the Summer 1994 issue of HousePlant Magazine: **Greg Sytch** wrote the four-page Centerpiece feature, "Ever-blooming Semperflorens Begonias", and photographs by **Don Miller** are featured in a column titled "Begonias: A World of Diversity" by **Tamsin Boardman**.

Directory Update

Add to our International Directory the **Begonia Werkgroep Nederland**. President is **Beatrice Huckriede van der Laan**, 9 Gaelstraat, Wateringen 2291 SG, Netherlands.

Meetings of the **Long Beach Parent Chapter** are now held on the 3rd Monday from 1 to 3 p.m. The meeting place remains unchanged: Apollo Neighborhood Center in Apollo Park, 12458 Rives Ave., South Downey, CA.

Risa Young is President of **Pinellas County Branch**. Her address is 7811 1st Ave., South, St. Petersburg, FL 33707.

Sacramento Branch President is **Joan Coulat**, 4111 De Paul Court, Sacramento, CA 95821.

Howard Berg is new President of **Knickerbocker Branch**. His address is 16 Highview Terrace, New Canaan CT 06840.

Show News Around the Country

Westchester Branch ignored superstition and held their **13th Annual Show & Sale** July 23-24, 1994. *B. albo-picta* (see photo, back cover) took Best of Show for **Brad Thompson**, and scored 98 points for a Cultural Award. Brad earned another Cultural Award for *B. fernando-costae* (97 points) and B. 'Lee's Luxurians' (95 points). Novice winner was **Solveig Heimdahl**, with B. 'Ginny'.

More Cultural Awards, with all plants scoring 95 points, went to **Shelley Andros**, for Begonias 'Midnight Sun' and 'Peggy Frost'; **Janet Brown**, for B. 'Alpha Gere'; and **Mary Sakamoto**, for B. 'Sugar Candy'.

Judges were **Elaine Baxer**, **Elmer Lorenz**, and **Joy Blair**.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Virginia Hamann, Round Robin Director

#8, Tuberous Begonias:

Howard Siebold (WA) has five steps in his summer care program:

1. Scatter slug and snail bait around beds and next to pots. Keep a squirt bottle of one part household ammonia to four parts water to douse remaining slugs or snails.
2. Start spraying foliage with two teaspoons baking soda per gallon of water every five to seven days to prevent mildew. A commercial fungicide can be used also.
3. Remove any leaves in the center of the plant that might restrict air circulation; remove dead leaves, flowers, stems, or debris that could cause stem rot.
4. Fertilize when soil surface gets dry using 1/4 the recommended amount of fertilizer.
5. Take cuttings early in summer so tubers will be able to survive the dormant period.

Ken Mackey (NZ) finds a brew called Mite Killer will control tarsonemid mites: 1 teaspoon of washing soda to 2 gallons of water, plus a squirt of detergent. One hundred percent coverage of leaves, both upper and lower sides, is necessary to get all the mites. Instead of spraying, he dunks the plants in the solution, turning each plant upside down and immersing it to soil level.

#53, Rhizomatous:

Blooming seems to be a problem for some members. Pam Lee (TX) was thrilled to have her *B. 'Erythrophylla'* ("Beefsteak") bloom. Her plants had been summered outdoors on the north side of the house, with only a bit of morning sun.

#9, Growing Under Lights:

Daniel Haseltine (IL) posed a question about light: "How much energy of a light source is absorbed by the plants in their chemical process of manufacturing food for growth?" His answer: plants absorb light as it strikes their leaf and stem surfaces, so what goes in is greater than what comes through the leaf and stem.

Charles McGough (TX) suggests planting several begonias to a container to create a mini-garden under lights; the mini-gardens are not only lovely and interesting, but they save space on the trays. He uses *Miniature Gardens* by Joachim Carl as his reference book. Charles also makes artificial tufa: his recipe is 2 parts peat, 3 parts sand, 2 parts cement (not concrete), mixed with water to make "rock" planters that can be shaped or carved while still wet.

#46, Greenhouse Growing:

Glennis Crouch (TX) grows *B. soli-mutata* in a terrarium for extra humidity.

#25, Midwest Growers II:

Since the Midwest weather is unpredictable, it's difficult to know when to put begonias outdoors in spring. In Iowa April and May are not frost-free. Rhodora Buss (IA) has all her canes out after Memorial Day, hoping they will not get whipped by too much wind. Marie Holinger (IA) has a growing formula: porous soil, lots of light, cool dry winters. Spring, summer, and fall she mists her *Epiphyllum* (orchid cactus).

Mary McClelland (NE) grows her rex begonias in a large terrarium using Greenlight, a fertilizer she finds at Wal-Mart. Greenlight has a high middle number of 55; her cactus and begonias bloomed all winter.

#22/51, Propagation/Growing from Seed:

Rhodora Buss (IA) and Mary Simon (OH) discussed the fact the white or silver spots on the leaves of young begonias often disappear when the plant matures.

Russ Richardson (GA) tried rock wool for propagating cane-like and rhizomatous begonias; he found it worked better for canes, as it stays damp and has too much algae buildup for the rhizomatous types.

#33, Hybridizing:

Bill Voss (VA) crossed *B. partita* with *B. dregei*, getting all *dregei* seedlings. Seed from Asia of the same cross yielded *B. partita* seedlings. Charles McGough (TX) suggests that the plants' genetic make-up can be modified by choice of soil, light, and moisture - seedlings placed in a wet cool environment would take on the appearance of the parent plant that likes a wet cool environment.

#2, Tuberous:

This is a new Robin, in need of members. Nighttime cool temperatures in the state of Washington have slowed blooming for Howard Siebold and Jeanette Dupey. July is the time to take cuttings that will root in 5 to 6 weeks.

#55, Species:

John Keller (NY) has seedlings of *Begonias incarnata*, *obscura*, and *echinosepala* grown from Seed Fund seed. All are doing very well.

Jeff Stuart (NY) mentioned that *B. incisa* has an interesting growth habit of sending up new stems from the parent plant.

Pacific Horticulture

The color illustrated quarterly
for keen gardeners

\$12 a year
(\$14 Canada & Mexico,
\$16 elsewhere)

P.O. Box 485, Berkeley, CA 94701

#11, Canes:

Sharon Holtzman (OH) mixes her potting soil using 3 measures of *Promix*, 2 measures of perlite, 1 large chunk of vermiculite, 1 cup charcoal, and a bit of *Dexol* systemic as a precaution. She uses a 6" pot as a measure.

#82, General Culture:

Helen Tuttle (CA) is still looking for *B. 'Blooming Fool'*. It is a begonia her mother grew in the Midwest. Margaret Coats (TX) reports her *B. incisa* has had more bloom this year than ever before. It is grown under lights with intense lighting. Another *B. incisa*, grown in natural light, is also blooming vigorously, so light is not the factor that is making them bloom.

Join in the Robin fun! Drop a note to Round Robin Director Virginia Hamann, RR1 Box 10, Chester, IA 52134 and let her know of your special begonia interests - she'll put you in touch with others who share them.

GROW GREAT FERNS JOIN LAIFS

Annual membership \$20
LAIFS Journal with Fern Lessons
Spore Store, Books, Educational Programs
Los Angeles Int'l Fern Society
P.O. Box 90943, Pasadena, CA 91109-0943

Join the NATIONAL FUCHSIA SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP \$15 per year includes bi-monthly FUCHSIA FAN. The new A to Z on Fuchsias abridged version \$6.95 plus \$1 shipping (CA residents add 42c tax). Mail to: National Fuchsia Society, 11507 E. 187 St., Artesia, CA 90701.

THE AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY INC.

AIS is the International Registration Authority for Hedera, provides sources for new and unusual ivies; publishes three ivy newsletters, *Between the Vines*, and one Ivy Journal a year with reports on research hardiness testing, life-sized photos of ivies. Each member also receives an ivy plant..

Membership: General \$15; Institutional \$25; Commercial \$50

Information: **The American Ivy Society, P.O. Box 2123, Naples FL 33939-2123.**

Conservation News

New Species

Field collections are still turning up unidentified begonias that are possibly new species. Watch for more from Bob Cherry of Australia, who discovered the begonias featured on page 200-201, and an article soon by Darrin Duling, a diploma student at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, who received a grant toward travel expenses for a study trip to Brazil through the ABS Conservation Fund.

Adopt-A-Species Project

Thank You!

The **Edna Stewart Pittsburgh Branch** made a generous donation to the ABS Conservation Fund, which is being used to fund the expenses of this exciting new project. Thank you, members of ESP!

Species Adopted

The following species have found adoptive "parents" dedicated to keeping them alive in cultivation and sharing cuttings, seed, and cultural information.

B. acaulis, *aconitifolia*, *amphioxus*, *bartonea* hort. 'Winter Jewel', *bogneri*, *boliviensis*, *breviramosa*, *bufoderma*, *chlorosticta*, *convolvulacea*, *crassicaulis*, *crispula*, *dichotoma* (has also been grown as *sulcata*), *dipetala*, *dregei*, *fagifolia*, *ficicola*, *foliosa*, *formosana* f., *albo-maculata*, *gehrtii*, *hatacoa* 'Silver', *hatacoa* 'Spotted', *heracleifolia* (& its varieties), *herbacea*, *hydrocotylifolia*, *incarnata*, *incisa*, *kenworthyae*, *ludicra*, *maculata*, *malachosticta*, *micranthera* var. *venturii*, *morelii*, *partita*, *pinetorum* (*dayi* hort.; has also been grown as *nigrovenia*), *prismatocarpa*, *rajah*, *serratipetala*, *squamulosa*, *solananthera*, *subvillosa*, *sutherlandii*, *taiwaniana*, *thomsonii*, *triflora*, *ulmifolia*, *velloziana*, *versicolor*, *wolnyi*, U067, U074, U273, U303, U309 (MAL), "MAL 003".

Newsletters Out

Summer and Fall newsletters have gone out. George Macias (parent of *B. ulmifolia* - don't you know his adoptee is *big*) submitted a winner as the name for the newsletter: **Save our Species**.

Quote:

"Knowledge without action is like snow on a hot stove."

Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch
newsletter

Think about that quote for a minute.
You are fascinated by begonias.

You know begonia habitat worldwide is disappearing.

Are you doing anything about it?

During the holiday season many people celebrate by doing something for others.

Consider doing something for begonias, too - and for your children, grandchildren, and all the people of the future.

Join the struggle to preserve the species. Support organizations struggling to preserve remaining rainforests, and keep begonia species alive in cultivation.

Together we can make a difference.

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND NOTES

Our seed offering this time is varied not only in type but in country of origin. Friends in Canada, Holland, Belgium, and France joined donors from several states in our country to make this listing possible.

Thank you! to: **Mme. Dominique Benoit, Beth Castellon and the New York Botanical Gardens, Freda Holley, Piron Gilles, Beatrice Huckriede van der Laan, John Ingles Jr., Joy Porter, Evey McDuff, Phil Mudgett, Marjorie Smith, Mildred Swyka, Greg Sytch, and Dr. Elmer Wagner.**

Notes on Seeds Listed Species

Cane-like

B. leathermaniae is a Superba-type discovered in Bolivia (near the border with Brazil) in 1953 and named for ABS member Sylvia Leatherman, who brought it to the United States from Brazil. This begonia has several unusual features: a swollen base, a shaggy collar where the petiole joins the leaf base, and crystal-like glands that appear on the leaf undersides. It can reach 10 feet in height. Leaves range from medium-green to bronzy-green, with fine short hairs that give a satiny sheen. Lower leaves drop off. Flowers are large, white tinged with pink, infrequent, and appear November to April, unusual timing for a cane. Color photos can be found on the covers of the Sept.-Oct. (stem and collar) and Nov.-Dec. (leaves), 1983 **Begonian**.

Shrub-like

B. cubensis (Cuba, and West Indies; 1853) has small bare leaves and white flowers that are everblooming. It's a dainty plant; there is a black and white photo on p. 96, [Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide](#), by Mildred L. & Edward J. Thompson.

B. venosa (Brazil; 1899) has thick green leaves felted with white hairs, and fragrant white flowers from late summer through spring. Its natural growth habit is to shoot

straight up, but, weighted with leaves, the stem takes on some interesting curves. This growth pattern, its felted leaves, and its large thick persistent brown stipules give it a distinctive, unmistakable appearance.

Thick-stemmed

Not for the windowsill is *B. sericoneura*, an easy-to-grow species found in Central America and the Caribbean that can take up to four feet in diameter. Leaves are light green with darker veins, shallowly lobed. Flowers are whitish-green. It's happiest in warm weather and bright light. Incidentally, while *B. sericoneura* is classified as thick-stemmed for shows, Dr. Tracy McLellan lists it as rhizomatous; it has also been known as *B. U172*.

Rhizomatous

Like *B. venosa*, *B. floccifera* (India; 1874) has felted leaves. Its growth pattern is quite different, however: leaves appear in a compact cluster, growing so tightly that it is hard to water without soaking the leaves. Leaves are deep green, scalloped, and covered with fine white fuzz. White flowers push through the leaves in spring. For show purposes it is classified as medium-leaved, entire/subentire. [Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide](#) has a black and white picture on p. 152.

B. nelumbiifolia (Mexico to Colombia; 1930) has large, entire/subentire bright green peltate leaves; some specimens have red veins, which may or may not disappear with maturity. Flowers are white with deep pink edges, and come in winter-spring. See [Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide](#), p. 160, for black and white photo.

Tuberous/Semi-tuberous

B. wollnyi (Bolivia; 1909) is semi-tuberous. Leaves are parted, green-to-bronze with silver splashes; lower leaves tend to drop off, revealing thick, often slightly crooked stems. Winter flowers are greenish-white. May go dormant or semi-dormant.

Unclassified

B. U030, which was first described as a cane, has been determined to be the same as B. U007, which was initially described as shrub-like. Sometimes it's really hard to tell the difference! Introduced from the Philippines in 1981 by Martin Johnson, it has knobby nodes, thick bright green leaves, and large clusters of everblooming flowers (white in low light, pink in bright); this begonia can reach 10 feet. (Thanks to Thelma O'Reilly for help in describing B. U007/030.) Its first Seed Fund listing (**Begonian**, May-June, 1987) suggests it is quite versatile: "grow it as a standard, an upright, or even as a basket begonia if properly pruned and pinched." It's easy to grow; try it, and decide for yourself whether it's a cane or a shrub.

Hybrids

From Belgium comes seed for mixed Tuberhybrida of the fimbriata type: frilled double flowered begonias with the look of carnations (see plate 28, Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide, for a color photo of a yellow fimbriata type).

Also frilly are the semperflorens hybrids known appropriately as "Frillies". They're a bit taller than most semps, and the mixed seed should produce several colors.

Tuberous and semperflorens hybrids come true from seed, but canes don't. Mixed cane seed has been sent by two hybridizers - there could be some real winners in the seeds! If you get a spectacular new hybrid, it is your privilege to name it.

From Holland comes self-pollinated seed of B. 'Vanderveldiana', a begonia described as having hairy leaves that change from green to orange-red; flowers are white and profuse. The parent plant grows to about 80 centimeters (slightly over 2 1/2 feet).

Other Seed

Mixed columbine can be started this winter (indoors, if your area freezes) for outdoor beauty next spring and summer.

-Tamsin Boardman

See next page for Seed Fund Listing

Coming Events 1995

February 25-26: New South Wales Begonia Society Show & Sale at the Harvey Lowe Pavilion, New South Wales, Australia.

March 11-12: Fort Lauderdale Branch Show & Sale at Flamingo Gardens, 3750 Flamingo Rd (between Griffin Rd. & State Rd. 84/I-595) Davie/Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

April 14-17: "Begonias: Beautiful One Day, Perfect the Next" Fourth Australian Begonia Convention in Brisbane, Queensland, hosted by Queensland Begonia Society. Seminars, plant sales, visits to local begonia collections. Cost approximately \$150 Australian currency covers all events, dinner. For more information, contact Averil Thompson, 18 Kelly Rd., Virginia, Queensland 4014, Australia.

May 6-7: Miami Branch Show & Sale at Fairchild Tropical Gardens.

May 11-14: "Lone Star Begonias", 1995 Southwest Region Get-Together, at Seven Oaks Inn, 1400 Austin Highway, San Antonio, TX. Rooms: \$65 (1-4 people), suites \$125. Hosted by **Alamo Branch**.

Y'all come!

Deadline for next issue is November 15.

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND LISTING

Marilyn Goldstein, Seed Fund Director

The Seed Fund is a service to members only. It is a privilege of your membership.

The Seed Fund would appreciate receiving donations of any fresh seed, as our supply is very limited at this time. Thank you!

All packets of species seed are \$1 each, and all packets of hybrid seed are 50c each.

All orders must be accompanied by check or money order payable ONLY in US funds to The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

Costs of mailing:

US only: 1-12 packets, \$1; 13-24, \$1.35; 25-36, \$1.71; 37-48 (2 cans), \$2.30; 49-60, \$2.66.

Canada only: 1-12 packets, \$1.10; 13-24, \$1.46; 25-36, \$1.82; 27-48 (2 cans) \$2.35; 49-60, \$2.71.

Mexico only: 1-12 packets, \$1.15; 13-24, \$1.51; 25-36, \$1.87; 37-48 (2 cans), \$2.50 49-60, \$2.81.

All other international mail: 1-12 packets, \$1.85; 13-24, \$2.68; 25-36, \$3.68; 37-48, \$4.68; 49-60, \$5.68.

Please send your order with payment to:

Marilyn Goldstein
1001 Diplomat Parkway
Hollywood FL 33019-2209
U.S.A.

Species Seed

\$1 per packet

B. cubensis
B. floccifera
B. leathermaniae
B. nelumbiifolia
B. sericoneura
B. venosa
B. wollnyi
B. U007/U030

Hybrid Seed

50 cents per packet

B. 'Vanderveldiana' (self-pollinated)
mixed *Tuberhybrida*, *fimbriata* type
mixed canes
mixed "Frillies" (open-pollinated)

Other Seed

50 cents per packet
mixed columbine

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BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

Mini-ads are a service to our members. The charge is \$1 per line per insertion with a minimum of \$4. Payment must accompany order. Make checks payable to ABS and mail to:

Cynthia Bishop
4150 Auburn-Folsom Rd.
Loomis, CA 95650
(916) 652-7311

Deadline for next issue is December 15

BEGONIA CUTTINGS AND PLANTS.

Send \$2 for expanded 1994 list. Kay's Greenhouses, 207 W. Southcross, San Antonio, TX 78221.

SOUTHWEST REGION, ABS:

Annual Get-Together, show, sale; newsletter. Membership \$7, family \$10. Send to Marie Harrell, 317 N. 12th St., Donna, TX 78537.

"VICKI'S EXOTIC PLANTS" Beautiful Begonias, Episcias, and Hoyas. Large variety of each. Please send \$1 for list to 522 Vista Park Dr., Eagle Point, OR 97524.

BEGONIAS, FERNS, SHADE PLANTS.

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These services are available to all ABS members. For names and addresses of department heads, see preceding page. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope when you write.

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Members who do not belong to branches are represented at Board meetings by the Members-at-Large Director. MAL members receive a quarterly newsletter and work on projects by mail

Back Issues

Back issues of the **Begonian**, also current issues for branch use at shows, etc.

Bookstore

Books about Begonias! And more! Write for complete list.

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Certifies accredited judges through judging schools and correspondence course.

Nomenclature Department

Monitors newly published findings on Begonia names. Handles official international registrations of new Begonia cultivars and publishes these registrations. Gathers information about and assigns numbers to unidentified species.

Research Department

Works on problems relating to begonia culture.

Round Robins

Members exchange information about begonias and their culture through packets of letters that circulate among a small group of growers. There are dozens of these packets, called flights, on many specialized subjects.

Seed Fund

The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund offers seed of begonia species and cultivars by mail.

New acquisitions are discussed in the **Begonian**.

Slide Library

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Member Input Opportunities

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wants lists of species grown by members

Nomenclature Department

wants photos and information on "U" numbers members are growing from seed.

Research Department

solicits suggestions on projects and participation in research.

Seed Fund

seeks donation of seed and photos of plants grown from Seed Fund seed.

Slide library

requests individual slides of begonias as well as complete slide programs.

**See also "Openings", preceding page.
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