



THE

BEGONIAN

January/February 2015



B. nelumbifolia in Montreal Botanical Garden.
Photo by Craig Boyajian

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The Begonian

Publication of the American Begonia Society

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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Front cover: *B. 'Yorkes Whitsunday'*, an Australian *B. sizemoreae* hybrid.

Read more on. p. 28

Back cover: In Ecuador, people like flowers. See p.18.

President's Message

Happy New Year to All:

As the days become longer, my begonias are starting to "wake up." Hopefully the cold weather for us Floridians has passed. The rest of you may have to wait a while longer, unfortunately. So, let's just focus on the good things coming our way! The Southwest Regional Get Together is in Houston in May. This is always fun with great seminars and a relaxed atmosphere. At the end of July, I hope to be seeing all of you at "The Begonia Revolution" in Boston. Please check *The Begonian* and the website (<http://www.buxtonbegonia.org/abs-convention-2015.html>) for more information.

Good growing, Virginia Jens, ABS President

2015–2016 Officer Nominations

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate for officers 2015-2016.

President - Martin Delgado
1st Vice President - Carol Orozco
2nd Vice President - Sally Savelle
Secretary- Connie Saenz
Treasurer - Carol Notaras

Any further nominations should be sent to a member of the Nominating Committee (Richard Macnair RNMacnair@msn.com, 617-876-1356; Linda Lawson, Linda_Lawson@cox.net; or Carol Orozco, plantnut45@att.net, 210-614-1808).



ABS Conservation and Research Fund

Dear American Begonia Society Branches and Members,

The Conservation and Research Fund has been pleased to award two grants for the 2015 grant cycle. One grant was awarded to Dr. Mark Tebbitt for a research expedition to Peru in January 2015. The second grant was awarded to Jacky Duruisseau for a research and collecting trip to Madagascar in March 2014.

Through the Conservation and Research Fund, the ABS has supported these and many other worthy activities and studies over the years. Unfortunately, this important Fund runs the risk of eventually being depleted, so these latest grant requests have not been fully funded. In an effort to maintain the ongoing viability of the Conservation and Research Fund, ABS members and branches are respectfully asked to support these trips by making a contribution.

If you wish to contribute, please send a check to our ABS Treasurer, Carol Notaras (address on p. 39), with the intended recipient[s] clearly marked on the memo line. Donors may also choose to have their contributions directed toward the unrestricted support of any future Conservation and Research Grants Awards. Donations sent through Carol Notaras, ABS Treasurer, will be tax deductible.

Your consideration and generous support is appreciated.

Martin E. Delgado, Chairman

Grants Review Committee

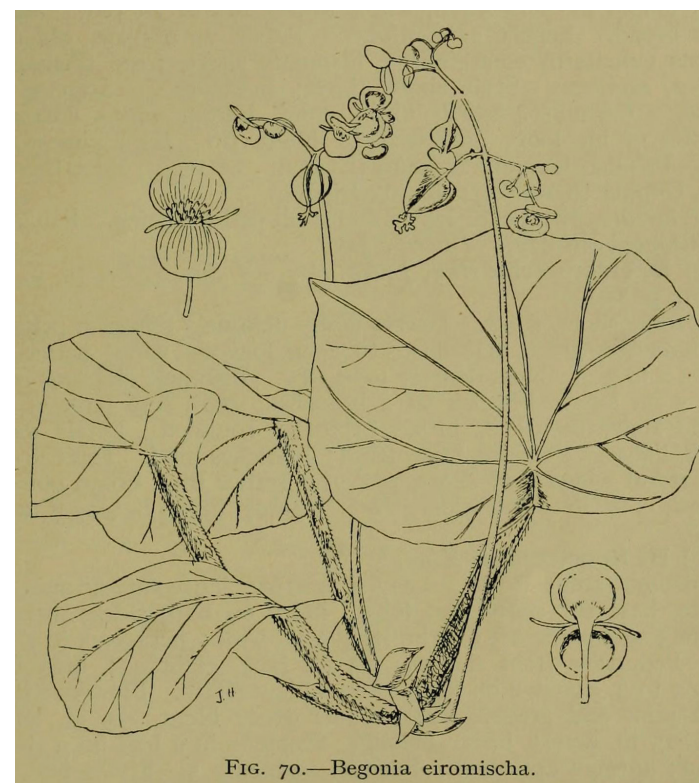


FIG. 70.—*Begonia eiromischa*.

Plants in Peril

In 2007 there were 12,043 plants on the IUCN Red List, with 8,447 listed as threatened. The Woolly-stalked Begonia (*Begonia eiromischa*; illustration on left, courtesy of <http://plantillustrations.com>) was the only species to have been declared extinct that year. This Malaysian herb is only known from collections made in 1886 and 1898 on Penang Island. Extensive searches of nearby forests failed to reveal any specimens in the last 100 years.

Seventy percent of the world's assessed plants on the 2007 IUCN Red List were in jeopardy.

See the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2014, on pages 6–7, which supplied this information.

Begonias - IUCN Threatened Species

IUCN 2014.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2014.3.

Genus	Species	Red List status	Year assessed	Population trend
Begonia	acerifolia	NT	2003	
Begonia	adpressa	VU	2014	decreasing
Begonia	aequatorialis	VU	2003	
Begonia	aeranthos	EN	2003	
Begonia	asypeltata	CR	2003	decreasing
Begonia	bonus-henricus	EN	2014	decreasing
Begonia	brandbygeana	VU	2003	
Begonia	cavaleriei	VU	2004	
Begonia	compacticaulis	VU	2003	
Begonia	consobrina	NT	2003	
Begonia	dentatobracteata	VU	2004	
Begonia	dodsonii	VU	2003	decreasing
Begonia	duncan-thomasi	VU	2014	decreasing
Begonia	eiromischa	EX	2007	
Begonia	exalata	VU	2003	
Begonia	froebelii	NT	2003	
Begonia	furfuracea	EN	2014	decreasing
Begonia	geminiflora	VU	2003	
Begonia	hainanensis	EN	2004	
Begonia	harlingii	EN	2003	decreasing
Begonia	hemsleyana	VU	2004	
Begonia	hitchcockii	EN	2003	
Begonia	holmnielseniana	VU	2003	unknown
Begonia	ludwigii	EN	2003	
Begonia	lugonis	VU	2003	
Begonia	napoensis	VU	2003	unknown
Begonia	neoharlingii	VU	2003	
Begonia	oellgaardii	VU	2003	
Begonia	oxyanthera	VU	2004	decreasing
Begonia	parcifolia	VU	2003	
Begonia	pectennervia	VU	2003	
Begonia	pelargoniflora	CR	2004	decreasing
Begonia	peltatifolia	EN	2004	
Begonia	preussii	VU	2004	

Genus	Species	Red List status	Year assessed	Population trend
Begonia	pseudoviola	VU	2004	
Begonia	salaziensis	CR	2000	decreasing
Begonia	samhaensis	EN	2004	unknown
Begonia	schaeferi	VU	2004	
Begonia	secunda	VU	2003	
Begonia	serotina	EN	2003	decreasing
Begonia	seychellensis	VU	2011	unknown
Begonia	socotrana	LC	2004	unknown
Begonia	sodiroi	NT	2003	
Begonia	sparreana	VU	2003	
Begonia	tetrandra	VU	2003	
Begonia	tiramosa	EN	2003	
Begonia	tropaeolifolia	EN	2003	
Begonia	truncicola	VU	2003	
Begonia	valvata	EN	2003	
Begonia	xerophyta	VU	2003	
Begonia	ynesiae	VU	2003	decreasing

IUCN Red List key:

EX – extinct; EW – extinct in wild; CR – critically endangered; EN – endangered; VU – vulnerable; NT – near threatened; LC – least concern



Listed as a vulnerable species in habitat, *B. hemsleyana* is a terrestrial begonia from China. Photo by Jem Wiseman



Heavy slash and burn agricultural on Madagascar has led to extreme erosion and deforestation. Another begonia expedition is planned. These photos are from the last two expeditions. A tuberous species (Fig 1); *B. lyallii*; (Fig 2); Another tuberous begonia (Fig 3); An undescribed species (Fig 4); In the primary Makira forest (Fig 5)

A New Begonia Expedition to Madagascar

Article & photos by Jacky Duruisseau, Bois France

We went to Madagascar in 2009 and 2013 and we found many begonias. As you know, most of them are endemic ones. Some of the Madagascar begonias are new species still not described.

The deforestation is very serious in North and East Madagascar and the forests will be completely burnt and destroyed before ten years. An example: Vodiriana, a small village on the West side of the Antongil Bay, in 2001, the forest began just after the end of the village - now, we must walk two hours before finding forest!

We go again to Madagascar next April, for three weeks. Why April? Because it is the beginning of the dry season and we hope to collect many seeds. In 2013, February was too early.

We plan to explore:

- the Makira primary forest, on the left of Antongil Bay, which has not been totally explored. This time we will go to the forest for a week, with a guide and porters.
- the Masoala Peninsular (on the right of the same bay) where many unknown begonias

grow. We'll need a boat for access to the small rivers that run down the mountains. Begonias grow near these streams.

- the Ankarana, in the north, a limestone area where we hope to find *Begonia razafinjohany*, a nice species which we didn't find previously and other ones which we have seen as dry specimens in the Paris National Museum, some of these haven't been seen for 50 years.

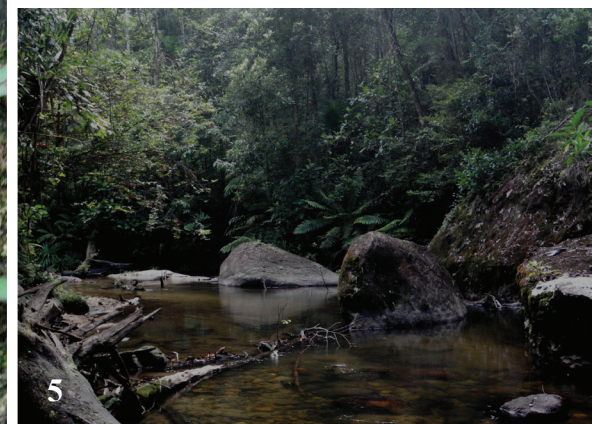
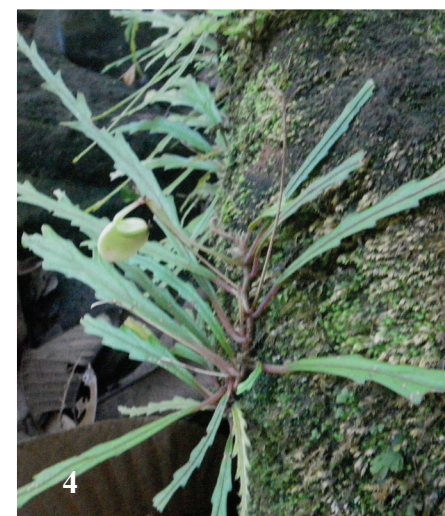
The main goal is always to bring back seeds, photos, and informations about begonias. After each trip, as you know, I send seeds to all the people who helped me.

I would be very glad if you could help me again. In return, seeds will be given to the donors and to the ABS Seed Fund. And, of course, you can read the account of my expedition in *The Begonian*.

Thank you for your help.

Please, send your donation to the ABS Conservation Fund with my name or directly to me at:

Jacky Duruisseau
24 rue de La Romade
17240 BOIS France



ABS National Convention 2015

Begonia Revolution

July 29 to August 2, 2015

Verve Crowne Plaza, Natick, Massachusetts

For more information visit www.BuxtonBegonia.org

The convention registration packet is complete and ready for distribution. Copies of the registration packet are available electronically or in paper version. If you would like a paper version of the packet to be mailed to you, please contact Sally Savelle, 978.287.4837, 65 High Pine Circle, Concord, MA 01742.

The convention schedule includes a Judging School on Tuesday, July 28. Send in your registration form early to reserve your place. A minimum of 15 people are needed. The cost of the Judging School is \$25, which includes the materials and the take-home, open-book exam.

Buxton member Bonnie Lambert spoke recently about her experiences participating in the ABS Judging School and serving as

a judge at Buxton's annual shows. She says that because growers are so accustomed to the appearance of their own begonias, they do not always see flaws that could be remedied by taking better care of their plants. Judging school helped Bonnie develop the ability to look at her begonias with a critical eye and to notice plant colors and textures more acutely. Bonnie feels that Judging School helped her develop an appreciation of what it takes to successfully grow more challenging aspects of plants. For example, when judging a begonia with a 12" leaf, she knows how much work it may take to grow that leaf to perfection. Bonnie summed up her experiences judging begonias by saying it is "almost like going through an art gallery from a botanical standpoint and an artistic standpoint."

Sign up for the Judging School so that you can support ABS by serving as a judge at shows and learn what it takes to grow prize winning begonias!

Judging school helps growers gain a more critical eye for their plants. From left to right are Helen Cohen (clerk), Julie Crocker, Bonnie Lambert, and Charles Jaros (judges), and Alan Winn (clerk).

Photo by Linda Kammerer



Epilithic v. Epiphytic?



B. herbaceae (on left) growing on a cork mount with *Ficus pumila* 'Oakleaf' (right) and *Sinningia pusilla* 'White Sprite' (center). Is the begonia **epilithic** or **epiphytic**?

Photo by Ken Wachendorfer

Watch for the answer in your next *The Begonian* brought to you by A Word With You!

Last month's answer to Picture Quiz

November/December issue, page 210

Glabrous v. Arachnose?

And the answer is... **GLABROUS!**

Glabrous leaves are smooth, bald, have no hair. Arachnose have many fine, entangled hairs giving a cobwebby appearance.

See *The Begonian* September/October 2010, p. 172


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Rex vs. Rhizomatous

by Greg Sytch, Horticultural Correspondent

In the Mailbox

At the recent meeting of the Florida West Coast Begonia Society, a question was brought up and then asked again, which was what makes a begonia a Rex, and what makes it rhizomatous. I thought that was a wonderful question to elaborate upon, because in the wholesale trade, Rex is common for all rhizomatous begonias. If you are new to begonias, or have this question yourself, this may help.

Any begonia that has *B. rex*, the species, in its parentage could technically be called a Rex. This species hails from India, in an area of some elevation, that experiences warm days and mild nights with monsoonal rainfall. That said, it is the mild nights and higher levels of humidity of its native land that can make some hybrids a challenge. However, in the past two decades, rexes have been crossed deeply with rhizoma-

tous begonias so that there is little of the Rex left in the ancestry.

Because of this deep hybridization, we are now getting some beautiful color on Rexes, but they grow as easily as many rhizomatous. All Rexes are rhizomatous.

Here in Tampa Bay, older Rexes or hybrids with a lot of *B. rex* in them, do poorly in our hot, rainy, summer weather. It is probably our hot nights that do them in. Yet, as winter approaches, the same plant wakes up to grow as the weather cools off despite the shorter days. An example of a colorful Rex/rhizo cross is *B. 'Betsy Firstburg'*, developed by Tim Anderson. This large growing begonia displays wonderful color, thrives in my hot summers, but continues to grow well through winter where other rexes may go dormant or sleep. Trial

and error is the best way I know how to judge if a Rex/rhizo will grow well for me.

CULTURE:

Native to shallow soils of the monsoonal forests, all rhizomatous begonias prefer more room to spread

continued on next page



B. 'Betsy Firstburg'
Photo by John Boggan

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You can renew on-line at www.begonias.org or send a check to:

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c/o Paul Rothstein
2 Flock Lane
Bella Vista, AR 72714

If you normally pay your ABS dues through your local branch, please continue to do that according to the date on the mailing label.

Attention all branches! When sending dues for new members please make sure to include the member's email address so they can access *The Begonian* online if they choose to do so. Thanks!

If you would like to receive an email reminder prior to the expiration date, please send your email address to Paul at paroan2001@yahoo.com

Rex vs. Rhizomatous continued from p. 14

than to go deep. Azalea or bulb pans are best suited for their culture. A well drained mix, with charcoal added, works wonders. Flowers appear either seasonally or may be ever-blooming, such as *B. 'Betsy Firstburg'*.

Keeping water off their leaves helps fight off diseases, and I spray a fungicide either monthly, or every other month, with an application of fertilizer mixed in. Fertilizer should be applied less in winter, if at all (dormancy means no fertilizer). Light should be moderate, but I have found as bright as you can get away with encourages better winter growth and stronger summer color.

Now that you are armed with this information, we will begin seeing beautiful *B. rex* hybrids in the coming years as more hybridizing occurs. My only hope is that they are heat tolerant so I can grow them to maturity winter, spring, summer or fall!

New Cultivars: *B.* 'Satin Doll' and *B.* 'Matchmaker'

Official International Registration 1010

Begonia 'Satin Doll'

Seed parent: *B.* 'Lenore Olivier'

Pollen parent: *B.* 'Kentwood'

Propagated over 50 times. Hybridized by Walter Dworkin, 8 Rugby Rd., Westbury, NY.

Developed in 1991 and first distributed in 1992. Mentioned in the Southwest Region Leaflet of December 2013. Registration applied for October 6, 2014 and approved November 21, 2014.

Begonia 'Satin Doll' is a small cane-type that matures at about 15 inches. The leaves are an extremely dark green with a maroon underside. The leaf sinus is apple green. The leaves are long (10") and narrow (3.5") with two points at the top



Begonia 'Satin Doll'

From Priscilla Purinton, Hybrid Registrar

of the leaf and ending in a single sharp point. Each leaf has a single main vein. The edges are slightly scalloped and wavy with a waxy, smooth and glossy surface. The smooth green petioles are $\frac{3}{4}$ " and the stipules are 1" long by $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide with an apple green color.

Both male (1.25") and female (1.5") flowers are white with pink edges, fading to all white. The abundant flower clusters spring from 4" peduncles. Blooming in spring to summer the male clusters have 14 flowers and female clusters have 18. The flowers are oval with 4 male tepals and 5 female tepals.

This cultivar has been tested by Greg Sytch in New Port Richey, FL, who hopes to make it available to the general public in the near future. It is also being grown by Gardino Nursery in Delray Beach, FL, and is in the collection of the Ft. Worth, TX, botanic gardens.

Official International Registration 1011

Begonia 'Matchmaker'

Seed parent:

B. 'Juanita Jewel'

Pollen parent: *B. maculata*

Propagated over 100 times. Hybridized by Walter Dworkin, 8 Rugby Rd., Westbury, NY.

Developed in 1992 and first distributed in 1993. Mentioned in the October 2014 Leaflet of the Southwest Region. Registration applied for October 6, 2014 and approved November 22, 2014.

Walter has given us another beautiful cane begonia with typical 'angel-wing' leaves that are covered with silver dots, large and small. The medium green, 10" by 3" leaves are rounded at the top and end in a long silver tip. The margins of these smooth, slightly glossy leaves are wavy and slightly scalloped, showing off their maroon undersides. The smooth green petioles are 1.25" long and each leaf has one main vein. Apple green stipules are 1" by $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

The plentiful flower clusters are held on a 2" stalk. Blooming in spring to summer, the female flowers (1.25") are shell pink with white tepals blushed with pink. The fifth tepal is very small and narrow. Ovaries are a brighter pink. Male flowers (1") have 4 tepals and are pink and white.

This hybrid, which will grow to roughly two feet, has been tested by Sherman Botanical Gardens in Corona del Mar, CA, and is being grown by Greg Sytch in New Port Richey, FL as well as at Gardino Nursery, Delray Beach, FL. It is also part of the collection of the Ft. Worth, TX, botanic gardens.



Begonia 'Matchmaker'

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The Begonias of Ecuador: 2nd Expedition - Part 2 May 29–June 20, 2014

Article & photos by
Jacky Duruisseau, Bois France

Macas area: Tungurahua Volcano (Fig A) was very quiet last night. We leave Baños and go over the 3500 m (11,500 ft!) Attilo pass towards the Amazon basin. We see many orchids on the descent; more than 4000 different Orchid species grow in Ecuador! Colette loves Ecuador... Farther down, at about 2800 m (9000 ft.), we find several patches of another species of the Gobenia section - maybe it is *B. maurandiae*? We found it in 2012 in the Mindo area and in Antisana Park. Mark Tebbitt believes this species is *B. maurandiae* but he thinks he must revise the taxonomy of this section and he'll need several years to do it!

At 5 km from the pass, we stop for a picnic. Just opposite us is a place where this species grows - very interesting because this begonia, a creeper, grows on a large slope along the roadside and above all, it is in blossom (Figs 16–18), with the staminate ones in full bloom. The stamens form a really amazing yellow column; the pistillate flowers are still small and will open later. Unfortunately, there are no fruits. We can't win every time! We arrive in Macas in the evening and find our lodging. Very nice, and so is the

British woman who receives us. We have a typical Ecuadorian dinner on the terrace, just above the garden (Fig 19).

Loja area: We go south towards Zamora in the rain. We are still on the Amazonia side of the mountains. Between Macas and Gualaquiza, we again see common species *B. parviflora* and *B. fischeri*. The seeds of this last one are reddish-brown.

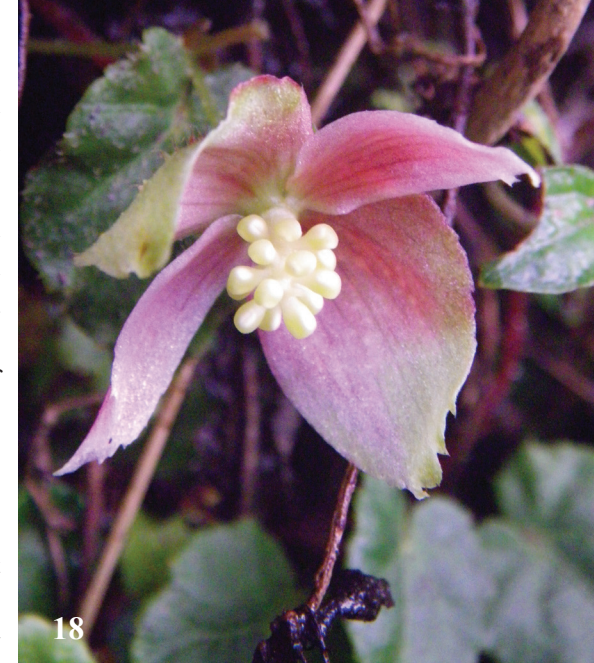
The next day, on the Zamora road, Sebastian finds (from the car!) a very nice place where *B. humilis* is growing; it covers all the slope and nearly all the rocks. We harvest many seeds.

We leave Zamora and a navigation error allows us to find a nice patch of *B. guadensis*: flowers, fruits and seeds! After finding our way again - the old Loja road - we wind along the Zamora River and cross forest areas and again we see *B. guadensis*, *B. fischeri*, *B. parviflora*, and *B. glabra*. And also many Chinese people who are building a dam! We are then pleased to see a wooden hut with many flowerpots on the façade (Fig 20): many plants in blossom, some begonias too, but hybrids only.

After passing Loja under a grey sky, we go towards Vilcabamba. We enter Podocarpus Park. We are again in the Andean area. In 2012, we discovered nice things here. Many orchids were in blossom, but today, in June, not one! Disappointment when we go through the primary forest: the roadsides were cut back! We see some remains of *B.*

continued on p. 22

Tungurahua Volcano Eruption, February 1, 2014 (Fig A; courtesy of www.alfazoom.com); *B. maurandiae* on a slope (Fig 16); *B. maurandiae* young pistillate flowers (Fig 17); *B. maurandiae* at last, a staminate flower! (Fig 18); At Macas. What a nice lodge! (Fig 19); In Ecuador, people like flowers... (Fig 20)





B. acerifolia in Podocarpus Park at 2800 m (Fig 21); White spots or no white spots on one and the same begonia (Fig 22); Different leaves: is it the same species? (Fig 23); At last ! Fruits and seeds of a species of the *Gobenia* section (Fig 24); A new species (Fig 25); In the cloud forest in Tapichalaca Reserve (Fig 26)



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acerifolia. Fortunately, hundreds of meters further on, the pruning was discontinued and we find a very nice place with *B. acerifolia*. We are at an altitude of 2800 m, it is almost cold and the humidity is very high (good to know for growing this begonia!). *B. acerifolia*, of the *Knesebeckia* section, has palmatilobate leaves with very nice silver stains along the nerves; some leaves are totally green (**Fig 21**) (we remember the same feature with *B. maynensis*); it has thick swollen rhizomes, not a tuber, as I had thought. It can be 1 m in size; unfortunately, it is difficult to grow in our climes; it prefers its cloud forests and does not like a warm greenhouse. In winter I grow it outside with 20 cm thick dry fern protection, covered with a plastic frame. On the trees is a lot of moss and there grows the nice epiphytic species of the *Gobenia* section which we saw near Baeza. Curiously, on the same plant, some leaves have white spots and other ones have none (**Fig 22**), some other plants have a red umbo and nerves (**Fig 23**) and we still have the question: is this the same species? No flowers on this species that was in blossom in 2012. But by a miracle, one has fruits with some seeds, at 3 m high (**Fig 24**)! We finish the

B. erythrocarpa Portovelo track (**Fig 27**); *B. piurensis* Portovelo track (**Fig 28**); *B. ludwigii* Portovelo track (**Fig 29**)



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Podocarpus Park visit with *B. urticae* in blossom. Still - a difficult growing one.

Vilcabamba area: In Vilcabamba, we return to warmth and sun. From this nice,

small town (where many foreign people live now) we explore some forest remnants. Actually, this area is especially deforested and the only places with forest are near the

continued on next page

streams where the land is too steep for cultivation. We find an unknown species, a rhizomatous one with large green leaves (**Fig 25**); it grows here in large quantities but now without flowers or fruit, along with the ever-present *B. parviflora*!

We are still in the Andean area in the Tapi-chalaca Reserve where we stay the night. It is cold (about 10°C = 50° F), and we are in fog or rain. But we can have tea, or beer, by the fireside and it is true happiness. This reserve was created by the Jocotoco Foundation: Jocotoco is the name of a very rare and amazing bird. In the morning, we to find it with the help of a guide who comes each day with grubs for the Jocotoco. He whistles and the bird comes! What a strange animal - short wings, no tail, long legs - it lives in thickets, so it doesn't need to fly. There are only a few in this area, totally protected, and, here, almost tame! But very timid, it disappears as soon as we move. However, we can easily watch it.

There are few begonias in the cloud forest (**Fig 26**) of Tapichalaca at 2500 m in the fog: a *B. urticae* variety with very hairy leaves and still the *Gobenia* section species with white spots, growing on the mossy trunks.

Piñas area: This day (Friday the 13th of June) will be a nice one because we will see four begonia species! We leave Vilcabamba and drive west. After Catamayo, people tell us that the road that goes to Portovelo is good, without washouts. We are between the two cordilleras with a sweet mountain landscape and many forest remnants. It is not a rain forest but a dry one, with high dense thickets lining the road. After 5 km, white flowers attract our attention: *B. erythrocarpa* (**Fig 27**). Its seeds are dark red (hence its name) and we can collect many of

them. In 2012, we saw only one, near Alausi on the Zhud road, but we didn't know this species. Here, it grows everywhere along the road. After some kilometers, Jean Louis (he is the AFABEGO* President), finds his first begonia! We'll call it: "Jean Louis sp." before knowing what it is. Mark Tebbitt will later identify it as *B. piurensis* (**Fig 28**). It is now starting into dormancy: leaves have fallen, a few flowers but many fruits and many seeds. In March 2012, it was in full blossom near Zhud and the slopes were all white: I had never seen such a "carpet" of begonia flowers! We see it until Portovelo, from an altitude of 2100 to 1300 m (7000 to 4000 ft). We are near Portovelo and stop at the Milagrosa waterfall: different conditions here because we have dropped more 1000 m (3000 ft) and it is warm and damp. We immediately see white flowers on thick and erect stems, almost without leaves: *B. ludwigii* (**Figs 29 and 30**). We nose about and, near the waterfall, I find on the earthy slope many tuberous begonias that are just starting: only a leaf (**Fig 31**): I think of *B. serotina*. Mark Tebbitt hesitates between *B. serotina* and *B. nervidens*. We must wait for identification with more precision. Only one certitude: it is a tuberous one that is starting again, contrary to the "stems" which start in dormancy upwards! It will be our last begonia of the day.

We arrive at the Buenaventura Reserve, another lodge of the Jocotoco Foundation, in rain forest. Hummingbirds are gathering, quick and multicolored, and wrangle over the best watering places (**Fig 32**).

In the evening we watch and listen to owls. A really nice day...

To be continued...

*AFABEGO: The French Society of Begonia Lovers



B. ludwigii – pistillate flowers (**Fig 30**); *B. serotina* or *B. nervidens*? (**Fig 31**); Hummingbirds at Buenaventura Reserve (**Fig 32**)



So Cal 2nd Annual Begonia Show and Plant Sale

By Martin E. Delgado, Downey, CA

The Southern California (So Cal) branches of the American Begonia Society (ABS) proudly conducted their 2nd Annual Begonia Show and Plant Sale at the beautiful Sherman Library & Gardens in Corona Del Mar on September 6-7, 2014. Once again spearheaded by Norman Nakanishi,

Show Chairman and Immediate Past President of the Orange County Branch, the stellar event served as a highly successful trial run for the ABS National Convention slated to take place in the Southern California area in 2016, less than two years away - more details to come in future issues of *The Begonian*.

The Sherman's elegant, Hispanic style meeting hall provided the perfect showroom for the 106 beautiful entries contributed by members of at least 10 So Cal branches, including the original Long Beach Parent Chapter. During Show set up and registration the Friday before, Chairman Nakanishi expressed concern about the number of entries needed to fill the Showroom, but members of the Palos Verdes branch suddenly arrived early Saturday morning with enough fine specimens to more than occupy volunteers with placement issues! Los Angeles-area traffic is somewhat lighter weekend mornings...

Hundreds of weekend visitors experienced a variety of beautiful and unusual begonia species and cultivars, complimented by short discussions on begonia care and propagation provided by ABS members on site. The non-judged show featured a "People's Choice" contest, with guests carefully

continued on next page →

People's Choice Award Begonia 'Lalome' (top); The Show almost ready to begin (center); Section view of the plant sale, with terrarium begonias provided by propagator Al Palacio (bottom)
Photos by Norman Nakanishi



B. 'Idolwood', an Australian *B. sizemoreae* cross. See more on p. 28. Photo by Bernard Yorke

So Cal Show continued

writing down their favorites on the ballot slips provided – How do you spell 'Erythrophylla Helix?'

First place in the number of ballots went to *B. 'Lalome'*, grown and entered by Arlene Hoskins, whose *B. masoniana* followed in 2nd place. After sweeping the first two places, Mrs. Hoskins had to graciously share third place honors with several of her fellow So Cal growers and friends. In 3rd Place were her *B. 'Looking Glass'* and *B. 'Little Darling'*, along with a perfect *B. bogneri* grown by Dean Turney of San Diego's Mabel Corwin Branch, and a splendid *B. 'Red Fred'* entered by Virgil and Janice Griffith of the Palos Verdes Branch. It might be added that the event's plant sale was also very successful, virtually selling out.

Under the inspired and energetic leadership of Director Scott LaFleur, the Sherman Library & Gardens serves as a 2.2 acre horticultural retreat just blocks from the Pacific Ocean, providing a museum of living plants, displayed amidst a setting of immaculate gardens, patios and conservatories linked by wide brick walkways, beds blooming with seasonal flowers and bubbling tile fountains. Bibliophiles will no doubt be fascinated by the superb research library of California and Pacific Southwest history, but the pride of the exquisite facility is the splendid collection of mature begonias lovingly tended by volunteers led by Bobbie West, also serving as current President of the ABS Whittier branch. Wonderful, magical plants!

A rewarding experience, the goals of the regional Southern California Show - stimulating and promoting interest in begonias, bringing into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias, practice for 2016 - were successfully met.



Australian Hybrids.. Some Interesting Results

By Bernard Yorke, Park Ridge, Australia

Years ago, *B. goegoensis* was pollinated with *B. sizemoreae*. At six months, we thought we had something different, but at twelve months, all appeared identical to *B. sizemoreae*, the pollen parent. It was then that I realized that *B. sizemoreae* had strong chromosomes but I kept those seedlings separate as I felt they would be good for hybridizing purposes in that they were of strong stock and came from good stock.

The following year, I used *B. U400* as the seed parent and pollinated some of these *B. sizemoreae* hybrids onto it. The results were rewarding, but they are all quite large growers, in fact some are extremely large growers... I have sent a few photos with a matchbox in the foreground so you can compare the sizes. These are *B. 'Idolwood'* (p. 27), *B. 'Logan Idol'*, *B. 'Logan Sensation'*, and *B. 'Yorke's Whitsunday'* (see front cover). I don't fertilize on a regular basis, only when I am planting out or dividing.

For the information of readers, I have enclosed a photo of the seed parent, *B. U400* and the *B. sizemoreae* hybrid (*B. goegoensis* x *B. sizemoreae*).

B. U400 (top); *B. 'Logan Sensation'*, size shown with matchbox (center); *B. goegoensis* x *B. sizemoreae*, a paler version than the original *B. sizemoreae* (bottom).

B. 'Logan Rainbow'. This one is delightfully unstable in that you can have silver and red foliage on the one plant (opposite page, top); *B. 'Logan Idolwood'* (opposite page, bottom).



MOBOT Researchers Discover High Levels of Omega Fatty Acids in *Plukenetia huayllabambana*

Article courtesy of the Missouri Botanical Garden

(ST. LOUIS): Researchers at the Missouri Botanical Garden's William L. Brown Center have discovered extraordinarily high levels of omega fatty acids in a species which they encountered in Northern Peru. Omega fatty acids are essential for human health and must be obtained through food sources. Omega-3 fatty acids are also widely used in cosmetics.

Rainer Bussmann and Ashley Glenn along with Peruvian colleague Caroline Tellez first described *Plukenetia huayllabambana* in 2009 after collecting it in the Mendoza forest region of the Peruvian Amazon. However, the high levels of omega fatty acids were only discovered in recent weeks.

Plukenetia species are known as "Sacha Inchi" or forest peanuts and the seeds of the *Plukenetia huayllabambana* contain omega-3, omega-6 and omega-9 fatty acids in large quantities. *Plukenetia huayllabambana* is also rich in proteins and vitamin E and the seeds have a 96 percent digestibility factor. The plant has high potential as a food source, not only for the local population, but also on a global scale if sustainable harvest methods can be developed. Given the potential for both consumption and cosmetic uses, it also provides economic potential for the area and is an alternative to illegal crops.

"This species illustrates the importance of taxonomy," said Bussmann. "Science takes time and previously unknown species often have great potential once they are fully studied."

The William L. Brown Center of the Mis-

souri Botanical Garden is dedicated to the study of useful plants and the relationships between humans, plants and the environment. Scientists strive to conserve plant species for the benefit of future generations. WLBC scientists work in 12 countries across four continents.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is one of the three largest plant science programs in the world.

The Missouri Botanical Garden focuses its work on areas that are rich in biodiversity yet threatened by habitat destruction, and operates the world's most active research and training programs in tropical botany. Garden scientists collaborate with local institutions, schools and indigenous peoples to understand plants, create awareness, offer alternatives and craft conservation strategies. The Missouri Botanical Garden is striving for a world that can sustain us without sacrificing prosperity for future generations, a world where people share a commitment to managing biological diversity for the common benefit. Learn more at www.mobot.org.

The Missouri Botanical Garden's mission is "to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment in order to preserve and enrich life." Today, 154 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in St. Louis, just south of I-44 at Vandeventer-Kingshighway (exit #287B). For general information, log on to www.mobot.org or call the 24-hour recording at (314) 577-5100 or 1-800-642-8842.



Plukenetia huayllabambana fruits and flowers; *Plukenetia huayllabambana* dissected fruit (inset)
Photos courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden

A Word with You: Cuneate

Let's go back to leaf/blade bases – the point where that petiole joins the blade. Last time we visited the base and the distinction between acute and obtuse, less than 90° or more than 90°. If only it were that simple. To complicate matters, the less than 90° base can be cuneate depending on whether the sides of the leaf at that point are curved or straight. Curved they are simply acute. Straight, they become cuneate. That's a long 'u' as in cucumber.

Mr. Webster says *cuneate* comes from the Latin *cuneatus*, wedge shaped. "In botany, wedge-shaped; said of a leaf which terminates abruptly with a blunted point and tapers gradually downward." I can and do get easily drawn into vocabulary associations and derivations. And *cuneate* is no exception. Visually it reminded me of 'cuneiform' when I first saw it, so I pursued that word too. Cuneiform writing is an ancient form of writing and is defined by its wedge shaped markings pressed into clay tablets. And, wouldn't you know, my *Roget's International Thesaurus* – I expanded my reference material – indexed cuneiform under "angularity." Synonyms include "triangular, trilateral, trigonal, ox-

By Claudia Goodridge, New Haven, CT
ygonal, deltoid; wedgeshaped, cuneiform, cuneate, cuneated." We're back to our starting point.

Thompson's glossary says *cuneate* is "wedge-shaped;" but it doesn't illustrate that type of base in the illustration of leaf bases. Tebbitt doesn't include *cuneate* in his glossary. Golding is more expansive; he defines a *cuneate* leaf base "with a narrow to broad wedge-like taper, acute, the sides straight." So, there you have it. Ancient writing and leaf/blade bases. Both related in their descriptors. Both intriguing and memorable. I doubt I'll lose this one in memory's vocabulary soup.

Begonias sporting this type of leaf/blade base include *B. buseyi*; *B. brevipedunculata*; I found the latter rigorously described on the internet*, including this month's vocabulary word *cuneate*.

*<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/2040605?uid=3739256&uid=2&uid=4&sid=21104550361651>



B. hongkongensis, a begonia with a cuneate leaf blade/ base (pictured on opposite page and above).
Photos by Shui Yu-Min, Ph. D.

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The seed fund is a service to members only. It is a privilege of your membership.

Please self-pollinate your species begonias, collect the seeds and send them to the seed fund. We depend on your contributions of seeds to make a wider variety of species available to the members. The Seed Fund now offers a PayPal option. This option is available through the ABS Website. Go to the Seed Fund Page and select the link "Current Seed Listing pay with PayPal". There is a small PayPal fee plus the shipping and handling fee to cover the cost of using PayPal. Choose the fee amount in the drop down menu at the bottom of the page as with the shipping and handling drop down menus.

By policy, new seed fund additions and the PayPal option are made after they are first published in *The Begonian* and it is received by mail by coordinator. It is updated as supplies vary with filling orders. The Website is the best source for the current available seed list or request from coordinator.

Packets of seeds are \$2.00. Very rare, limited or newly collected seeds will be \$3.00 or more per packet when noted. California residents please add 8.75% sales tax. All orders must be accompanied by check or money order, payable in US funds ONLY to the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund.

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DISCLAIMER: The seeds distributed by the seed fund are identified as received from the donors. The species names (in italics) reported here are correct based on the latest information from *BEGONIACEAE*, Ed. 2; Golding, and Wasshausen. Hybrid names are made consistent with the *ABS Check List of Begonia Hybrids* edited by Howard Berg dated 9/13/2005.

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