



THE
BEGONIAN

July/August 2016

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.

The Begonian is published bimonthly by the **American Begonia Society, Inc.** at The Sheridan Press, 450 Fame Avenue, Hanover, PA 17331USA. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the society, its officers, or the editor. Contents, except where labeled otherwise, may be reprinted without limitation, provided credit is given to *The Begonian*, magazine of the American Begonia Society. Contact: American Begonia Society, P.O. Box 471651, San Francisco, CA 94147-1651.

Membership (subscription) \$25, US, Mexico, and Canada. \$45, Overseas airmail except Mexico and Canada. Added member, same household, no charge. Consult Membership Chairman for sustaining, benefactor, and life membership dues. U.S. currency only. Back issues (current volume) \$2.50. Paypal accepted. Membership dues may be paid online at: <http://www.begonias.org/membership/membershipBenefits.htm> or mail membership dues to:

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Begonia hemsleyana spotted form (top). Notice the adventitious growth in the lower center of the top photo, with a closeup of the tiny plant in the bottom picture. Photos by Johanna Zinn

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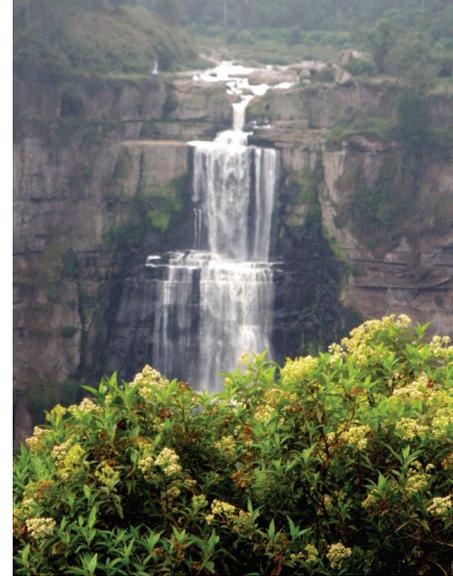
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Cover photo: *Begonia sodiroi* C. de Candolle growing in habitat in Columbia. The first part of Jacky Duruisseau's journey starts on page 138.

Back cover: Best Southwest Region Hybrid, *B.* 'Don Miller', Exhibitor: Cindy Moran
Photo by Johanna Zinn

On behalf of the American Begonia Society (ABS) Executive Board, I would like to express the sincerest gratitude to the members of our Southwest Region (SWR) for the strong and gracious support that made the recent 2016 Get-Together such a memorable event. I refer to all the volunteers that spent many hours of their time to prepare and set-up, provide hospitality, sell plants, serve as cashiers, clean-up, etc. Without the need to scan a membership roster, it was apparent that a majority of SWR members from near and far contributed and/or participated in one way or another, so all will pardon me for playing it safe by not trying to mention each person by name as I'd surely forget to name a few if I tried. Nevertheless, I will specifically thank the Convention Committee led by Leora Fuentes for their nonstop effort and consummate hospitality and leadership. We witnessed the results, and it would be impossible to feel more grateful of their commitment and spirit.

Congratulations to everyone who graciously entered their precious plants in the Show. Anyone who attended could see that the entries were of a uniform, high quality. The fact of which directly leads to well-deserved thanks to our hard working Judging Committee and all the Judges and Clerks for their painstaking work in carefully noting and reviewing every single specimen. Considering the large number of superior entries, the judging crew must have been kept busy throughout the morning - The hardest job they'll ever love?



The winner's table at the Southwest Region's 2016 Get-Together. Photo by Johanna Zinn

President's Message

And finally, we need to thank the good people who came on a beautiful Spring week to admire some of the finest examples of the most beautiful and unusual plant to grace our planet – A fascinating, pleasurable experience. One of the most satisfying aspects of our Get-Togethers and Conventions is simply seeing varieties and species of begonias one may have never come across before. Always unusual and fascinating, NEVER dull or repetitive – Exactly why I love begonias and joined our Society in the first place.

Yet, as I left Texas I had the same thought I always seem to have in mind every time I leave an ABS event: Perhaps the BEST things aren't the plants, but the group of people willing to make these memories possible, always with the goals to stimulate and promote interest in begonias, and bringing into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

A sunny, happy growing season to all of you.

Martin E. Delgado, ABS President



SWR Award Winners

There were many winners at the SWR Get-Together. Here are two that were recognized. Fig 1. Cheryl Lenert (right) presents Bobbie Price (left) with the Begonia Ambassador Award, which is awarded by the Houston Astros.

Fig 2. Nelda Moore (left), Awards Chairman for SWR, congratulates Don Miller (right) on winning the SWR Hybridizer of the Year. Photos by Johanna Zinn



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for the
Begonia Magic
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online at:
<http://www.begonias.org>

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The Begonian.
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Southwest Region Fund Drive Raises \$16,000

Your generous donations raised \$8,000. The Southwest Region will match that, raising the total to \$16,000. That's \$8,000 going to the ABS to help keep our national organization financially strong. The other \$8,000, along with \$1,280 raised at the SWR Get-Together in Dallas, was sent to the Fort Worth Botanical Society. That's \$9,280 that will help maintain the largest begonia collection in North America. With the FW Botanical Garden's new Director in place and positive plans for the future of the collection, our show of support could not have come at a better time. Thanks so much to these donors. It was all because of you.

Bronze \$1 - \$150: Sandy Justice; Bobbie Price; Lynn Sissney; Martin Delgado; Jim and Linda Lawson; Charles Jaros; Johnny and Donna Williams; Tom and Jane Anderson; Eric and Irma Challain; Fort Worth/Dallas Branch; Bill Rose; Alamo Branch; Orange County Branch; Cindy Moran; Don Miller; San Francisco Branch; Dot Miller; Mary Tooney; Carol Orozco; Wendy Flaring; Jim and Joan Estes

Silver \$151 - \$300: RL and Freda Holley; Nelda Moore; Johanna Zinn; Doug Byrom; Kenny and Dianna Wilkerson; Kay Jennings; Carol Notaras; Buxton Branch; Bob Hamm; Johnnie Shepard; Sally Savelle

Gold \$301 - \$499: Potomac Branch; One Unknown Generous Soul (brought the total to \$8,000);

Platinum \$500 Plus: Valerie Morris; Austin Area Begonia Society Branch; Rudy Ziesenhenn Branch; Leslie Hatfield Branch;

Diamond Studded Platinum \$1000 Plus: Wanda and Richard Macnair

Proceedings of the American Begonia Society Business Meeting SWR Get-Together

Richardson, TX May 6, 2016

President Martin Delgado called the meeting to order. Members present recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The Aims and Purposes of the American Begonia Society (ABS) were read by 1st Vice President, Carol Orozco.

President Delgado thanked Convention Chairman, Leora Fuentes and the members of the Dallas/Fort Worth Branches for their combined efforts in hosting the 2016 Southwest Region Get-Together.

The proceedings of the August 2015 ABS Annual meeting held in Natick, MA were approved as published in the September/October 2015 issue of *The Begonian*, and thus were upgraded to minutes.

Treasurer, Carol Notaras, presented the financial report for August 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016. The incoming balance on August 1, 2015 was \$8,609.73 and the ending balance was \$22,031.71. Income for the nine months was \$61,737.80. Disbursements totaled \$50,135.82. Combined totals of the checking and the savings account: beginning balance was \$250,607.53 and the ending balance was \$267,215.16. The increase was attributed to the Southwest Region Challenge Fund that collected \$7,564.00.

Carol also noted that the 4.9% increase in funds this year was due to three popular, new publications currently offered in the ABS bookstore. In addition, \$13,449.30 was realized from the ABS Convention in Natick, MA. Upon completion, this report will be submitted for fiscal review.

continued on next page

Report of the Executive Board

Proposal by the American Begonia Society Judging Committee of Charles Jaros and Johanna Zinn to make changes to the "American Begonia Society Requirements for Accredited Judges," clarifying the requirements needed to be fulfilled to become a judge and to advance to higher levels of certification, was unanimously approved by the Executive Board.

An initial order for 350 storage binders for issues of *The Begonian* from Holum & Son Company was approved.

An increase in the current allocation of all Seed Fund sales to the Conservation and Research Fund from 10% to 20% was approved.

A grant proposal from Mark Tebbitt for \$2,500.00 from the Conservation & Research Fund to fund a research trip to South America, was unanimously approved.

A request from the Publication Committee to reprint 100 copies of the "*Brad's Begonia World*" book and 100 copies of the "*Begonias of the Month*" book, with funds from the American Begonia Society's Thelma O'Reilly Reprint Fund, was unanimously approved.

President Delgado thanked the Judging Committee, the Conservation and Research Committee, the Grants Committee and the Publications Committee for their input on these issues.

Kenny and Dianna Wilkerson, Liaison to ABS and Southwest Region to the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens (FWBG), reported that the begonia species collection is in excellent hands and continues to thrive. Last year the begonia collection was accredited by the North American Plant Collections Consortium, a rare and prestigious accomplishment. He added that Bobby Price and Taddie Hamilton were recognized by the City of Fort Worth for achieving

over 500 volunteer hours in the past year. He said that the recent hailstorm damage to the greenhouse roof is in the process of being repaired.

Debbie Garrett, Curator of the Begonia Collection, reported that she hopes to have a new greenhouse built to house the begonia collection and funded by City of Fort Worth bond money. Bob Byers, Director of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, will address the society tomorrow. Debbie thanked everyone for their monetary support and plant material for the begonia collection.

President Delgado praised the FWBG begonia collection. He said the "Crowning Achievement" award certificates from the City of Fort Worth that went to Bobbie Price and Taddie Hamilton for their individual 500+ hours of volunteer work in one year were well-deserved and added to the prestige of the ABS. He acknowledged all the hard-working volunteers who worked at the begonia collection.

New Business:

A proposal by the American Begonia Society Judging Committee of Charles Jaros and Johanna Zinn to make changes to the Show Judges point scoring sheets, making these sheets easier for Judges to understand and score by combining the Quantity and Quality of Flowers categories was unanimously approved by the Executive Board.

The Executive Board is in the process of confirming a site for the 2017 American Begonia Society Convention. If any ABS Branch is interested in volunteering as a Convention site, please contact one of our Board members.

There being no further business, the meeting of the American Begonia Society stood adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Saenz, Secretary

ABS Award Nominations for 2016

It is time to send your nominations for ABS awards for 2016. Please send them by mail but only one nomination per page, per person. **Nominations must be received by August 1, 2016. Please state why your nominee should be chosen.**

Awards and Criteria

The **Eva Kenworthy Gray Award** is given for contributing original material toward helping the rank and file members further their study of begonias.

The **Alfred D. Robinson Medal of Honor**. Any hybrid or cultivar that is registered with the Nomenclature Department. The originator of the begonia must be a member of the American Begonia Society. (There are no time restrictions on the ADR Medal now.)

The **Rudolph Ziesenhenné Award** is presented to an Editor who collects and edits the works of others for a publication either U.S. or International who a) encourages a broad array of writers both scientific and practical to write and contribute articles and, b) issues a publication on begonias that is both excellent in design and content, and which contributes to our knowledge and appreciation of begonias.

The **Marge Lee Award** is given to a person who contributes something of a spiritual value toward cementing goodwill and harmony among members.

The **Gene Salisbury Award** is given to a grower who exemplifies the very best in cultural practice, but also brings to us

by their careful work the new species and hybrids. These are growers who contribute to our society simply through their excellence in growing begonias.

Send your nominations to:
Cheryl Lenert, 21744 E.M. 2920 Road,
Hockley, TX 77447, lenert@flash.net

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Begonia Magic Convention Speakers

The Begonia Magic Convention committee has worked very hard getting a great line up of speakers for the 2016 Convention. Below you will find the schedule, speakers, topics, and speaker background information.

Wednesday, 9/7 Evening

Growing Begonias for Show, Especially Novel Grown

Mike Flaherty, Santa Barbara, California, Past Vice-President ABS, noted grower & hybridizer, Owner of Gazebo Flowers in Montecito, CA

New and Fresh Ideas for Branches

Tom Keepin, Houston, Texas, Branch Relations Chairman, Editor of the Astro Branch Newsletter

U Number Begonias, New and Old

Charles Jaros, Dubary, Florida, U# Chairman, Twice ABS President, Judging Chairman

Thursday 9/8 Evening

Begonias in Scotland

Samuel Kennedy, Airdrie, Scotland, Past President Scottish Begonia Society, 2015 book published *Understanding Begonia* with Elizabeth Kennedy

"The Invisible Begonia"

Her new book is *Hybridizing with Chromosome Numbers* by Freda Holley, Choudrant, Louisiana, past Editor of *The Begonian*, published books: *Begonia Hybridizing: A Primer*, *Begonia Hybridizing By the Hybridizers*, *Raising Cane*

The Seed Fund - How We Do It

Michael Ludwig, San Diego, California, Past ABS President, Seed Fund Chairman, KOLZ Director

Saturday 9/10 Morning

"Controversial Species from the Eastern Himalayas of Araunchal" From her new book, Rekha Morris, Pendleton, South Carolina, intrepid plant hunter in Mexico and India

Begonias in Brazil

Mauro Peixoto, Sao Paulo, Brazil, Owner of Brazil Plants in Sao Paulo, Brazil, contributor to the ABS Seed Fund. He will be bringing seed to sell.

Begonias at The Huntington

Dylan Hannon, Curator of the Conservatory Collections at The Huntington Botanical Gardens, plant biologist, plant hunter in South America

Sunday Bus Tour at

Kartuz Greenhouses

Workshop on site at Kartuz Greenhouses Brad Thompson, Vista, California, noted and prolific hybridizer, past Editor of *The Begonian*.

Make your reservations for the Begonia Magic Convention today. Find all the information and registration forms online at: <http://www.begonias.org/>

Dates: September 7th thru 11th 2016

Location: Ayres Hotel,

14400 Hindry Ave.,

Hawthorne, California, 90250.

(310) 536-0400

Use **ABS916** to make reservations. Cost is \$139 a night for single thru quad. Rates are good 3 days before and 3 days after. Parking is free for those staying overnight at the hotel. High speed internet is complimentary.

Begonias in Provence

These photos were taken in the garden of the restored Hotel de Caumont, Centre d'Art, Aix-en-Provence, France, on May 23, 2016. The formal boxwood design (Fig 1) featured three flowering plants, one of which was a white wax begonia (Fig 2). Classic Provence container with trailing geraniums, (Fig 3).

Photos by Bill Goodridge

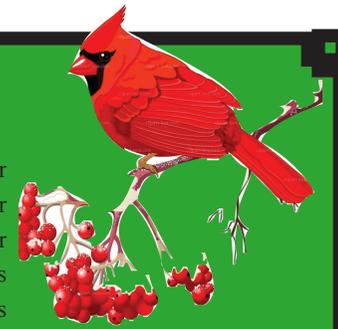


Request for Donations for 2016 Holiday Greetings

It is time once again to send in your donations for Holiday Greetings, 2016! This fund is a way for branches and individual members to offer their holiday greetings while also supporting ABS. Thanks to your generosity, \$4969 was donated last year! This money helped cover some of the expense of printing *The Begonian*, which in turn helped to keep the cost of dues down.

All donors will be listed by category of donation on a single page in the November/December issue.

Categories are: Bronze, \$1-\$50; Silver, \$51-100; Gold, \$101-\$150; and Platinum, \$151, plus. Contributions, which are tax-deductible, should be made out to ABS Holiday Greetings. Please send to Frances Drescher, 11529 Riverchase Run, West Palm Beach, FL 33412. The deadline for donations is September 15th. Please help spread the word about this annual program and request that it be added to the agenda of your next meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Frances by email at fkdrescher1@comcast.net. Thank you.



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Novel Grown Begonias

Charles and I would like to thank the SWR-GT Convention organizers, Show Chairman, judges, clerks, placement team and exhibitors, and everyone who made the convention such a wonderful experience. The tours, seminars, and hospitality were very enjoyable, especially the trip to the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

It is important that each judge updates his

contact information. When you send your contact information to us, please let us know if you are willing to travel to judge a Branch, Regional, or National Show. This information will help us help show chairmen find judges for



their shows. Please send the information to the e-mail addresses below.

There are two new forms for judged Branch, Regional, and National Shows. The first form records the names of the judges and clerks who worked the show. The second form records the Cultural Awards earned at the show. These forms can be sent to you and returned to us via e-mail. Please remember that Cultural Awards may only be awarded when all judges for the show are accredited ABS judges.

Charles and I have had lots of help getting our paperwork in order. Thank you to Wendy Corby for helping us design and clean up forms and point scoring sheets. Thank you to Freda Holley for designing and printing our new Judges' Cards. Thanks also to Linda Kammerer for our new Judges' Certificate. We appreciate your technical assistance.

We have had a few questions concerning classes involving novel grown versus novel container. A novel container could be a rock, a piece of driftwood or tree fern, a wooden box, or a sea shell. When a begonia is grown in a novel container, its habit of growth still looks as it would if grown in a traditional pot. A begonia that qualifies for novel grown would be one that one that is grown on a trellis, as a standard, miniature, bonsai, or into a ring.

continued on next page

Two Novel Grown plants. *B. boliviensis* (Fig 1) grown as a wreath. *B. scharffiana* (Fig 2) grown as a wreath. Plants grown and photographed by Mike Flaherty.

B. 'Hugh D. McLauchan' (Fig 3) grown in a wooden wall pocket. Novel Container. Plant grown by Priscilla Purinton. *B. scutifolia*, *B. versicolor*, *B. bogneri*, and *B. crispula* grown in small metal boxes attached to a magnetized piece of metal (Fig 4). Novel container winner at recent SWR-Get Together. Exhibitor: Leora Fuentes.

Photos by Johanna Zinn





A novel grown begonia is trained to grow into a form, size, or shape that is not its natural growth habit. We recommend that show schedules include both classes.

Please send any comments, questions, or concerns to the e-mail addresses below. We have had a few questions about judging terrariums. Perhaps terrariums could be the focus for the next Judges' Corner. We would like to have questions from both judges and exhibitors.

Charles Jaros
cjbegonia@yahoo.com

Johanna Zinn
jazinn@cox.net



Begonia crassicaulis (Fig 5) grown on tree fern bark. Novel container. Plant grown by Bob and Dee Stewart. Photo by Johanna Zinn

Several begonias grown as standards (Fig 6). From left to right, *B.* 'Nakomis', *B.* 'Barely There', *B.* 'Carmen', a little *B.* 'Barely There', and the last one is a rhizomatous, *B. cardiocarpa*, Novel grown. Plants grown and photographed by Mike Flaherty



Getting High with *Begonia*

Article and photos by Dr. Mark C. Tebbitt, California University of Pennsylvania, PA

I recently visited a wild population of begonia that likely held the upper altitude record for the entire genus. The plants were located near the small town of Limbani in the far south of Peru.

Reaching this relatively remote part of the Andes involved crossing a high mountain pass, where, despite the fact that it was mid-summer (late January in the southern hemisphere), large patches of snow still dotted the mountainsides (Figure 1). Dropping down from this mountain pass, with its stunted alpine plants and grazing alpacas, we entered a fog bound valley. Here the vegetation consisted of a type of short natural grassland known as puna. At about 13,400 ft. we reached the lower limit of the Puna, and encountered the first patches of agriculture – small terraced fields of potatoes. Archeological evidence shows that stone terraced fields

like these have been used to grow potatoes in this region for thousands of years. Growing on the rocky slopes between these wonderful, ancient terraced fields were hundreds of wild begonias (Figures 2 and 3). Seen from a distance, growing en masse in the short turf, these *B. clarkei*, with their disproportionately large flowers (Figure 4), looked more like hardy alpines than tropical begonias. A search of the area found that begonias grew here at altitudes up to 13,356 ft. (4,071 m) (Figure 5), which is likely very close to the upper altitude limit at which the genus is capable of growing in the wild. These particular begonias were able to survive at such high elevation in part because they lacked a stem and grew close to the ground among

Figure 1. High mountain pass near Limbani, with grazing llamas and alpacas.



rocks. This gave them protection from the cold, fog-laden winds that constantly sweep down from the snow covered mountains. When conditions become even more adverse during the winter months these plants will retreat entirely below ground and survive as dormant tubers.

Of the approximately 150 herbarium specimens that I have seen of *B. clarkei*, I have only ever observed one that might have been collected at a higher elevation. It was collected at Laguna Yanacocha near Urubamba, Peru (*Tupayachi & Galiano 866* [MO]). The specimen's label states that it was found at an altitude between 12,467 and 13,779 ft. (3,800 to 4,200 m) but whether at the upper or lower limit of this range I do not know.

While it is likely that *B. clarkei* holds the record for the world's highest begonia there is one other possible contender. This is the poorly known *B. taftiensis* from northern Argentina, which has been collected at elevations up to 13,123 ft. (4,000 m) but may well grow at altitudes higher than this. Even if it is not the altitude record holder its location so much further south at such a high elevation suggests that it must be the most cold hardy of all South American begonias. Historical reports tell us that even plants of *B. clarkei* collected at 12,000 to 12,500 ft can survive freezing tempera-

tures down to 25°F in a garden. The closely related *B. taftiensis* is, therefore, likely to be tolerant of much colder temperatures. What a wonderful addition to our outdoor begonia gardens that showy-flowered species would make, if ever it were introduced into cultivation.

Acknowledgement:

This expedition was made possible by the generous financial support of the ABS, as well as several ABS members. I also wish to thank Mr. Aniceto Daza Yomona of the Weberbauer Herbarium (MOL), Peru for assisting me in the field.



Figure 2. *Begonia clarkei*, with an ancient terraced field of potatoes in the background. Figure 3. A break in the cloud shows hundreds of white-flowered *B. clarkei* growing on the rocky hillside, looking more like alpine plants than tropical begonias.

Figure 4. This particular population of *B. clarkei* had unusually large flowers. Figure 5. *Begonia clarkei*, with my GPS device next to it, showing an altitude of 4,071 m (13,356 ft, with an accuracy of ± 20.7 ft).

Begonias of Colombia

January 25th - February 17th

Article & photos by Jacky Duruisseau, Bois France;

Photos by Colette Bridon, Chantal and Jean-Louis Béreau and Jacky Duruisseau

When we talked about our next begonia expedition to Colombia, our friends and family were unanimous:

“Are you crazy? FARC? Drug dealers? Zika? Aren’t you afraid?”

“OK, then, please save money...for the ransom...”

When we submitted our route (determined from GPS points) to our guide, Xavier (Ecuadorian, originally a Frenchman, with whom we have had two two expeditions in Ecuador), he said “No problem, we’ll cut out only two risky areas and the rest is OK!”

In fact, we had a very safe and nice trip, in a pleasant and lovable country, where people are very kind, welcoming and warm. No problems, no trouble. Everywhere, we met many people ready to help us and even go with us.

Because of the unrest that troubled Colombia for half a century, few botanists have ventured into this area for many years ago; so we hoped to find again the species of the Flora of Colombia by Lyman-Smith and Schubert (in 1946!) and have nice and new discoveries.

However, there were some problems in searching for begonias!

First, we were there in January-February, the dry season, but too dry this year (because of El Niño?) and some begonias had fruits (and seeds) but no leaves. So, we must sow the seeds for identification.

Second, in Colombia as in many other areas, deforestation is very serious (and old); many fields are under cultivation (coffee, avocado and fruit trees, sugar cane, etc) and have replaced the forests, and for this reason they are

difficult to accept. We found some remnants at the top of mountains, in reserves - of course, or at the end of interminable trails.

For example: to go to the Orchideas Reserve in the central cordillera (where some species of the *Gobenia* section grow), would require 5 hours by mule and 7 walking hours! So, a day for going, a day for searching and a day for coming back! And how many weeks for recovery after $5 + 5 = 10$ hours for people who have never been horseback riding? We must have a three month trip, not a three week one! We’ll need to return to Colombia...

We had about 20 GPS points for begonias. Unfortunately, most of them were bad and led us to places where, maybe, begonias grew many years ago, but now are farms or fields, without begonias.

An example: we had a spot for *Begonia lutea* (a tuberous species that grows in forests on damp rocks) in the Villavicencio area: the GPS led us on the airport road to a spot in a field where horses grazed!

Moreover, when the GPS gives a spot at 1.5 miles, it is as the crow flies...and in fact, we must walk 3 miles to find the spot - and in forests or in mountains, that’s enormous!

Be positive! Right? We found about 20 begonia species and brought back seeds of about 10.

But, beware! Some grow at an altitude of about 9,000–11,500 feet! They don’t like it warm. A challenge!

Colombia is a country two times as big as France and we visited only a small part. Our itinerary included the eastern Andes cordillera where we arrived on January 25th near

Bogota, and the central area, close to Medellin, where we departed on February 17th.

Around Bogota

The eastern Andes cordillera

We begin the exploration south-east of Bogota, in the oriental cordillera, near Quetame: *Begonia novogranatae* is a tuberous species that grows on a high and sheer slope, near the Rio Negro. Is this plant in dormancy and so without leaves? Is it perched at the top of a mountain and out-of-reach from the road? We cannot get to it!

On the other hand, lower, at the confluence of the Rio Negro and its tributary, the Rio Contador, we find our first begonia, with fruits at the top of leafless dry stems; we can harvest seeds (Fig 1) which we’ll sow for identifying...later.

On the trail that leads to Guitierrez, in an uninhabited, mountainous area with remaining forests, we find *Begonia meridensis* with many fruits too and a few leaves (Fig 2).

We finish searching this day in a field on the Villacencio airport road: *Begonia lutea* doesn’t grow here anymore, not for a long time.

Macarena range

The next exploration is planned in the Macarena which presents a distinctive feature: this range rises in a very level area, the Llanos, perpendicular to the Colombian cordilleras. As we approach these mountains, we can see a waterfall. Certainly we’ll find many begonias in this place even though we have no GPS point for the area. But, how are we going to reach them from Maracaibo, the last village before the mountains? A young motorcyclist suggests we follow him through plowed fields and he opens and closes fence gates for our 4x4. The waterfall is very nice (Fig 3), but no begonias, not even by the river that runs from it. However, conditions are good: warm, humid, and rocks! So, where are they? Jean-Louis finds one at last, in a damp ditch when we come back: *Begonia fischeri*, a very common one! What a pity! We console ourselves with a fresh beer in the motorcyclist’s village with kind inhabitants.



Fruits and seeds, (Fig 1) but what is this? *Begonia meridensis* A. de Candolle (Fig 2). A nice waterfall in Macarena Fig 3).



First discoveries

The next day, a WP [GPS waypoint] is supposed to lead us to *Begonia macra* that grows on rocks in an open location. We find the spot amid many rocks and many houses ...but no begonias!

We change biotope completely in Sumapaz paramo [a high treeless plateau] with Espeltia, on the west side of the same cordillera. Here we have another WP, near a farm, at the edge of forest remnants, on the top of small mountains. We are at an altitude of 10,200 feet. And here, after climbing over barbed wires (very frequent in Colombia because of many fields with cattle), what a surprise! We find *Begonia ferruginea* (Figs 4, 5, 6, & 7) in blossom! Wonderful! This amazing sarmentous species grows in thickets and can be 10 to 15 feet high. The unisexual inflorescences have each about 10 flowers, a color we can see too on stems and underside of young leaves. And, there are mature fruits and we harvest many seeds.

With it, in dark and less accessible thickets, we find a species of the same section Casparaya, *Begonia urticae*. We found it in Ecuador and this one has pink flowers (usually red). We get some seeds.

What a nice day !

On January 30th we drive west of Bogota for botanizing *Begonia ferruginea* Linnaeus f. (Figs 4, 5, 6, & 7, what a marvel! The Tequedama Falls (Fig 8). *Begonia sodiroi* C. de Candolle (Figs 9 - see front cover & 10), of the Gobenia section



12



13



14



15

ing near the Tequedama Falls (Fig. 8), a very nice waterfall on a river, unfortunately totally polluted and covered with a white industrial foam, the banks too! The road snakes above the river and forest remnants are present on slopes on the left of the road. We find the first species of the Gobenia section, identified by Mark Tebbitt as *Begonia sodiroi* (Fig 9 - see front cover); this creeping one climbs on shrubs up to 2 meters high.

The next day, we go up on the Tablazo paramo and again find *Begonia sodiroi* in many places at an altitude of 8,000 feet: it climbs on trees and fences stakes. Unfortunately, we see only one young inflorescence (Figs 10 & 11) and no fruit.

We look for *Begonia cornuta* in vain with a bad WP, and another one that is supposed to lead us to *Begonia dugandiana*. It is too far and we give up. These two begonias will remain unknown for us...

We leave the eastern cordillera now, cross the dried up Rio Magdalena and explore the eastern side of the central cordillera towards the Nevado del Ruiz. We heard of this volcano in 1985 because of its eruption which caused many casualties by lahars, or mud torrents. Today, we can see a pillar of smoke, inoffensive from afar! We finish this day with the finding of *Begonia magdalanae*, which looks like *Begonia consobrina*, because of the same leaves (Fig 12). We arrive at the Termales del Ruiz hostel at an altitude of 13,000 feet and it is cold despite a very hot spring just behind the hostel...

We leave the hostel early the next day and try to approach the volcano. After one km on the trail, we find the second amazing species of this trip: *Begonia umbellata* (Fig 13) another species of the Casparaya section in full blossom with red flowers. We are at an altitude of 11,500 feet! It is an herbaceous begonia, about one meter high, with very hairy leaves and bisexual inflorescences. Unfortunately, it is early and fruits are not mature. In the same place, we also find *Begonia urticae*.

A trail leads us to the volcano foot in a paramo with *Espeltia* (Fig 14) and it seems we are back in the beyond...in a very amazing landscape (Fig 15).

We arrive in the evening at the Rio Blanco ornithological reserve where we will stay two days.

To be continued...

Begonia sodiroi C. de Candolle (Fig 11), of the Gobenia section. *Begonia magdalanae* L.B. Smith & B.G. Schubert (Fig 12). *Begonia umbellata* Kunth (Fig 13), a very nice species of Casparaya section. *Espeltia* in the Nevado del Ruiz paramo (Fig 14). The Nevado del Ruiz volcano (Fig 15).

Begonia picta Smith (Begoniaceae), New Addition To The Flora Of Gujarat, India

Article and photos by Akash Vanzara, Karan Rana, Talib Ali, and Padamnabhi Nagar
The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat, India.

Begonia L. is known worldwide as ornamentals (Neale et al., 2006). The genus is annual or perennial, caulescent or acaulescent herbs or shrubs, usually with subterranean tuber, often succulent; occurring in a variety of habitats, but mainly in moist and shady forests. The genus *Begonia* is represented by 56 species in India (Uddin, 2007), and one species in Gujarat (Shah, 1978).

During the field survey we collected a few plants of the genus *Begonia* when it was flowering during the month of September, 2015 from Narmada District of southern Gujarat. On critical observation and perusal of the relevant literature (Saldhana, 1984; Almeida, 1998) the specimens were identified as *Begonia picta* Smith (Fig 1). The



1

species is native to Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan. In India, it is distributed in Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha (Anand Kumar, 1978; Nair et al., 2014). After a scrutiny of the significant literature (Shah, 1978; Raghavan et al., 1981; Pradeepkumar, 1993), it was found to be a taxon hitherto not recorded from Gujarat



2

Begonia picta Smith (Fig 1). Two species, *B. crenata* Dryand and *B. picta* Smith, were collected from two locations: Ninai waterfall in Mohbi village and forest area of Kelda village, Dediapada taluka, Narmada District (Fig 2).

State, hence it is reported here as a new distribution record for the state.

With the current report, the genus *Begonia* is now represented by two species, viz., *B. crenata* Dryand and *B. picta* Smith in Gujarat. During field studies the species was collected from two locations: Ninai waterfall in Mohbi village and forest area of Kelda village, Dediapada taluka, Narmada District (Fig 2). Voucher specimen is deposited in the herbaria of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (BARO). A detailed taxonomic description and images are provided here along with its habitat and regional distribution to authenticate the new distribution record.

Begonia picta Smith, Exot. Bot. 2: 81, t. 101, 1805; Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. Ind. 2: 1879; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 3: 545, 1919.

Rootstock of one or few tubers, plant 6–15 in. Inflorescence scarcely exceeding the leaves; stem obscurely pubescent. Leaves 3–5 by 2–3 in., nearly equally cordate, doubly fine serrate, pilose above, villous on the nerves beneath; petiole of the cauline leaf usually 1 in. at least; stipules lanceolate, hairy, scarcely exceeding the leaves. Peduncle pubescent upwards; bracts oblong-lanceolate, persistent, pubescent. Male flower: outer segments 2, pubescent; petals 2, smaller; stamens shortly monadelphous, ca. 30; anthers obovoid; connective not produced. Female flower: perianth of 4–5 segments, outer larger, pubescent; styles 3, nearly separate, divided half way up into two tortulose branches. Capsule large, 1 in., pubescent; one wing ¼ in. broad, another ½ in., the third 1½ in.; styles persistent; wings slightly ascending, dehiscing by the 3 faces falling off. Seeds light brown, shortly ellipsoid.

Habitat: Found on moist rocks in shaded areas (Fig 1).

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to the Head, Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for the facilities provided and constant encouragement. We are thankful to the Mission Director, Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission, Gandhinagar for financial assistance during fieldwork.

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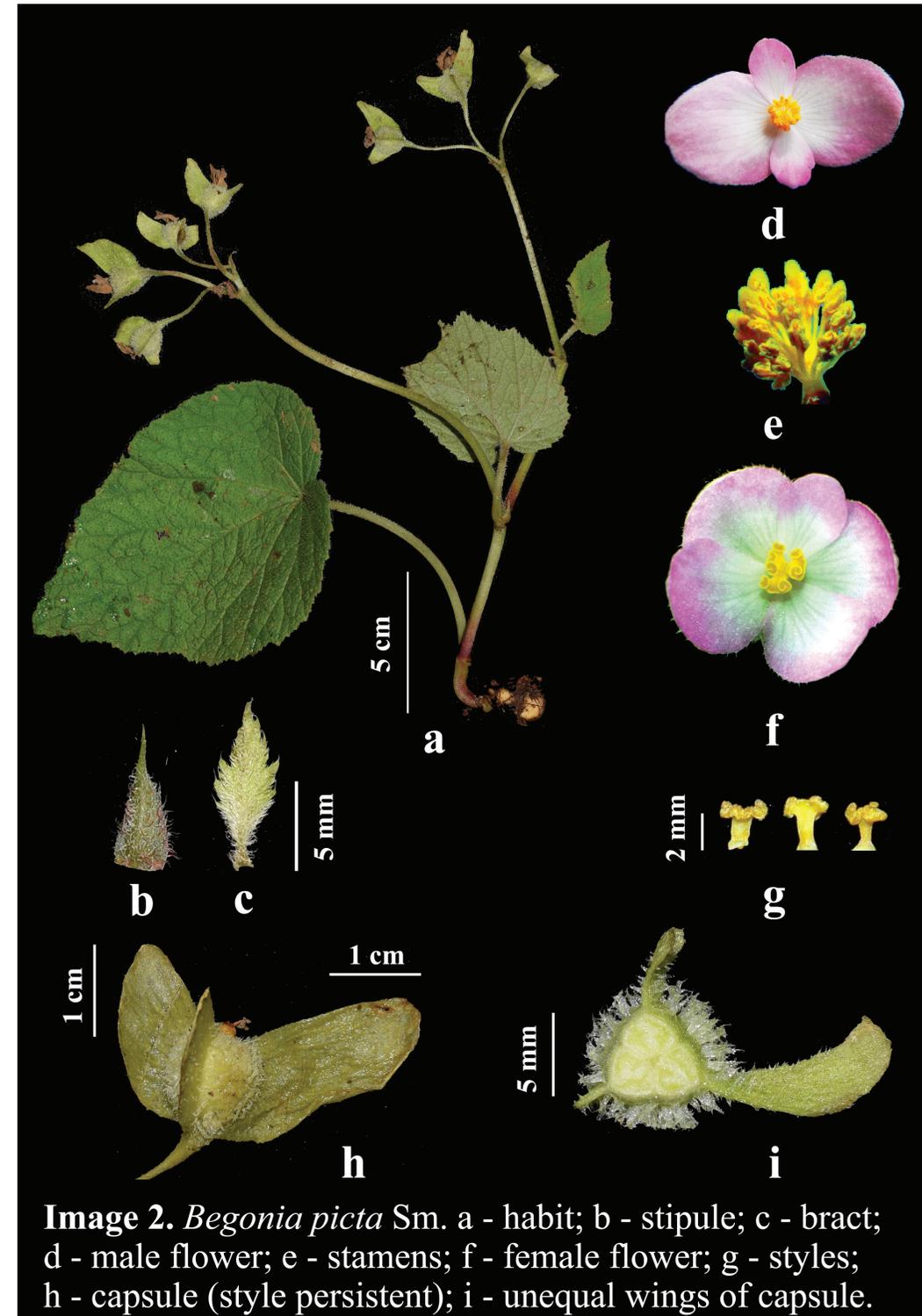


Image 2. *Begonia picta* Sm. a - habit; b - stipule; c - bract; d - male flower; e - stamens; f - female flower; g - styles; h - capsule (style persistent); i - unequal wings of capsule.



Walking Iris

By Freda Holley, Choudrant, LA

I enjoyed the article on the Walking Iris (*The Begonian*, May/June 2016, pg. 108). I, too, only recently discovered this plant. In fact, I bought a plant at a garage sale down the street from my son's house in Austin. I have been amazed at how fast they grew and multiplied. Last year, I discovered that here (northern Louisiana), they come back from the dead when left outside. I still take a couple in the greenhouse, but now I have any number outside in pots. They begin new growth like this (photo, above) and in a month or so, you would never know they had been frozen back. Love them and love the little flowers.



Nearly all species of Begonia have terete petioles. *B. silletensis* (above) clearly shows terete petioles (arrow). Photo by Dr. Ching-I Peng

A Word with You: *terete*

By Claudia Goodridge, New Haven, CT

I occasionally read begonia abstracts, mainly to see if I'm improving my Botanisppeak. Reading is much easier these days, but usually I find a term I don't know. Sure enough, I was reading <http://ejournal.sinica.edu.tw/bbas/content/2004/3/Bot453-10.html>, an abstract about *B. coptidifolia*, and found *terete*, another unknown term. Digging into its definition and derivation I find it could be useful even outside Botanisppeak.

In the abovementioned ejournal abstract *terete* is another way to differentiate begonias and other plants. In this case *B. coptidifolia*, with its grooved petioles, resembles *B. pedatifida* which has *terete* petioles.

We looked at the meaning of petiole, which is the stalk that attaches the leaf to the rest of the plant. I looked at and touched a lot of petioles both in my begonias, and also the rest of my plants to see if I could identify *terete* petioles, and I did. *Terete* in Botanisppeak describes something that is circular, columnar, a cross section of which is round. Portulaca leaves are *terete*. I compare that with garden mints and their square, ridged petioles.

/tə-rēte'/ There are three 'e's. The first is a schwa, the second one is a long ē, as in effete or replete. Mr. Webster says it comes from the Latin *teres*, *teretis* meaning round, smooth. He says it's "cylindrical, or slightly tapering in form and circular in cross section; columnar, as some stems of plants." Neither Golding nor Tebbitt lists *terete*, but Thompson says "circular in cross section." Cassell's agrees, but adds "of the parts of the body, well-turned, slender, graceful" and "figuratively, polished, refined, elegant." I'll bet there's a use for that in those conversations we may still have.

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July/August Seed Fund

This month we are pleased to offer seeds collected and donated by Jacky Duruisseau of Columbian species; D. Keith Darby, Randy Kerr, Michael Ludwig. We thank these generous donors for sharing these seeds so that our beloved plants can be grown far and wide. We encourage and rely on members for these donations to keep the seed fund alive. The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund is in desperate NEED of donors and seed in order to maintain stock and increase variety and selection. Please self-pollinate your species begonias, collect the seed and send them to the seed fund.

The seed fund is a service to members only. It is a privilege of your membership. The Seed fund 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 mail orders received must be accompanied by check or money order, payable in US funds

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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.



Begonia cathayana

By Charles Jaros, DuBary, FL

Begonia cathayana, a stunning rhizomatous begonia, was discovered by a Dr. Henry near Mengtze, Yunnan China at an elevation of approximately 5000 feet. It was described as a new species by English Botanist William Botting Hemsley in 1908 where it was published in the Curtis Botanical Magazine.

Considered a rhizomatous begonia with the rhizome jointed at/or below soil with upright stems, it produces beautiful orange flowers. *Begonia cathayana* is seldom seen in cultivation in the United States, but this beautiful specimen was seen and photographed at the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden Begonia Collection during the 2016 Southwest Region Get-Together. It does like higher humidity and would grow best in a humid greenhouse or terrarium. Propagation is done by leaf or stem cutting.

This was one of the largest specimens I had ever seen of this species and I was quite excited to see it.



2016 SWR Get-Together Show Results

Richardson, Texas May 5–7, 2016

120 Entries

18 Exhibitors

Best of Show

B. echinosepala var. *elongatifolia*

Exhibitor: Doug Byrom

Sweepstakes

Leora Fuentes – 8 Blue Ribbons

Thompson's Showing is Sharing

Leora Fuentes – 28 entries

Kay Tucker Award for Best Cane

B. 'Mrs. Miller'

Exhibitor: Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens

Best Southwest Region

Hybrid

B. 'Don Miller'

(pictured on back cover)

Exhibitor: Cindy Moran

Dr. Rekha Morris Award for Best Species

B. lymansmithii

Exhibitor: Leora Fuentes

Peoples Choice Award

B. 'Don Miller'

Exhibitor: Cindy Moran

DIVISION AWARDS

Division A - Cane-Like

B. aconitifolia

Exhibitor: Charles Jaros

Division AA - Cane-Like, All Others

B. 'Bobbie Price'

Exhibitor: Carol Orozco

Division B – Shrub-Like

B. 'Don Miller'

Exhibitor: Cindy Moran



B. lancangensis (Fig 1) Exhibitor: Charles Jaros

B. 'Peridot' (Fig 2) Exhibitor: Patricia Daniel

B. subvillosa (Fig 3) Exhibitor: Doug Byrom

Photos by Johanna Zinn

Division C – Thick-Stemmed

Unknown Thick-Stemmed Cultivar

Exhibitor: Cindy Moran

Division D – Semperflorens

B. subvillosa

Exhibitor: Doug Byrom

Division E – Rhizomatous

B. 'Chameleon Way'

Exhibitor: Don Miller

Division EE – Rhizomatous, Unusual growth and/or foliage

B. lancangensis

Exhibitor: Charles Jaros

Division I – Contained Atmosphere, Rhizomatous

B. lymansmithii

Exhibitor: Leora Fuentes

Division II – Contained Atmosphere, Rex

B. 'Peridot'

Exhibitor: Patricia Daniel

Division III – Contained Atmosphere, Cane-Like/Shrub-like

B. chlorosticta (brown form)

Exhibitor: Leora Fuentes

Division IIII – Contained Atmosphere, All Others

B. bogneri

Exhibitor: Leora Fuentes

Division J – Species

B. echinosepala var. *elongatifolia*

Exhibitor: Doug Byrom

Division M – Novice

B. herbacea

Exhibitor: Chery Perkins

Division N – Seedlings

B. Rex Cultivar (B)

Exhibitor: Freda Holley

Division O – Novel Grown

(photo on page 135)

B. scutifolia, *B. versicolor*, *B. bogneri*,

B. crispula

Exhibitor: Leora Fuentes

Division S - Contained Atmosphere (more than one variety)

All Begonias

Exhibitor: Leora Fuentes

Division T - Commercial

B. 'Mrs. Miller'

Exhibitor: Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens

Division W – Photographs, Judged Horticulturally

B. chlorosticta

Exhibitor: Johanna Zinn

Division WW – Photographs, Judged Artistically

Unknown Shrub

Exhibitor: Johanna Zinn

Division ZZ – Crafts

Hand Quilted Quilt

Exhibitor: Leora Fuentes

Division ZZZ – Companion Shade Plants

Episcia 'Pink Smoke'

Exhibitor: Leora Fuentes

Division ZZZ – Educational Exhibit

"U" Number Display

Exhibitor: Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens

CULTURAL CERTIFICATES

Patricia Daniel

B. luzonensis – 97 points

Freda Holley

B. Rex Cultivar (B) – 97 points

Don Miller

B. 'Chameleon Way' – 96.3 points

Cindy Moran

Unknown Thick-Stemmed Cultivar – 95.6 points

B. 'Don Miller' – 96 points

Charles Jaros

B. aconitifolia – 95 points

B. lancangensis – 95.3 points

B. 'Small Change' – 96 points

Steve's Leaves

B. 'Guy Savard' – 95 points

B. 'Fireworks' – 95 points

B. 'Kevin Whitecotton' – 95 points

B. acetosa – 96 points

Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens

B. domingensis – 95 points

B. moysesii – 96 points

B. crassicaulis – 97 points

B. 'Mrs. Miller' – 98 points

Doug Byrom

B. versicolor – 95 points

B. quadrialata – 96 points

B. rajah – 98 points

B. lancangensis – 98 points

B. echinosepala var. *elongatifolia* – 98 points

Leora Fuentes

B. luzonensis – 95 points

B. chlorosticta (brown form) – 95 points

B. vittariifolia – 95 points

B. bullatifolia – 95 points

B. kingiana – 95.5 points

B. 'Maurice Price' – 96 points

B. subacida – 96 points

B. coriacea – 97 points

All Begonia (mixed terrarium) – 97 points

B. bogneri – 97 points

B. squarrosa – 97.5 points

B. crispula – 98 points

B. velloziana – 98 points

B. lymansmithii – 98.5 points



B. lymansmithii, (Fig. 4) Exhibitor: Leora Fuentes; *B. subacida*, (Fig 5), Exhibitor: Leora Fuentes; *B.* 'Fireworks', (Fig. 6), Exhibitor: Steve's Leaves; Contained Atmosphere (more than one variety) All Begonias, (Fig. 7), Exhibitor: Leora Fuentes; *B. echinosepala* var. *elongatifolia*, (Fig. 8), Exhibitor: Doug Byrom *B.* 'Chameleon Way' (Fig. 9), Exhibitor: Don Miller
Photos by Johanna Zinn





Botanical prints from "Brazil - A Powerhouse of Plants" exhibition held in The Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art at Kew Gardens. Artist Fatima Zagonel, *Begonia coccinea* pink (above), Artist Margaret Mee, *Clusia grandiflora* (below, left). Artist Rosalia Demonte *Aristolomia gigantea* (below, right). Credit for use of all illustrations to Shirley Sherwood Collection.



Corm or Tuber?

When this is replanted into soil, it will grow into a very large *Begonia bolivenensis* 'Bonfire'. At the time the photo was taken, owner Mike Flaherty said he had been planting it every year for about four years. What he is holding is about 14" across!

Is this a corm or a tuber?

Photo by Gary Hunt

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

Last month's answer to Picture Quiz

May/June 2016 issue, page 90.

Peltate v. Pinnate?

ANSWER: - *Pinnate*, a type of venation, branching off a central rib that runs the length of the leaf; think "feather."

See *The Begonian*, Vol. 77, January/February 2010, p. 12.

ABS Bookstore

NEW: *Begonias Of The Month*

Written by ABS members. Compiled by Wendy Corby, 2015, 116 color pages sponsored by the Sacramento Branch and published through the ABS's Thelma O'Reilly Reprint Fund.

This booklet is a compilation of monthly write-ups by ABS members from 2000 through 2010. *Begonias Of The Month* includes a variety of begonias with information on the plant's origin and growing tips from that grower's experiences and locale.

Domestic: \$20.00 International: \$30.00

The first new ABS pin in many years

is now available just in time for your holiday giving. It was designed and produced by Cheryl Lenert. Surprise and delight begonia lovers on your list with this beautiful pin .

\$10.00

NEW: *Brad's Begonia World*

by Brad Thompson. Edited & Compiled by Wendy Corby, 2015.

A compendium of Brad Thompson's web page with 189 color pages of photographs, published through the ABS's Thelma O'Reilly Reprint Fund. The first section is on the different types of begonias. The second section is on the growing and care of begonias. The book is a wonderful set of articles to provide begonia enthusiasts with information and delight them with incredible full color photographs of your favorite begonias.

Domestic: \$35; International: \$45

NEW: *Understanding Begonia*

by Samuel Kennedy, Photographs & Art Work by Elizabeth Kennedy

Published in the United Kingdom, 2015, ISBN #978-0-9932897, 95 pages, full color photographs. First half of the book covers begonia history, types, sections, growing, fertilizing. Second half is devoted to growing tuberous begonias. A glorious book containing valuable information from the Jack Golding archives.

Domestic: \$20.00; International: \$30.00

NEW: *Begonia Note Cards*

featuring Begonias of Borneo found in the new Ruth Kiew book. **\$15.00**

Begonia Hybridizing: By The Hybridizers

edited by Freda Holley
Published through the Millie Thompson Publication Fund, March 2013. This great new book by Freda Holley is filled with articles written by some of our most famous, prolific and successful hybridizers. It is a philosophy of hybridizing divided into three parts and includes articles by Ross Bolwell, Walter Dworkin, Freda Holley, Gregory Sytch, Chuck Ades, Brad Thompson, Patrick Worley and Rudolf Ziesenhenn. The pictures are many and stunning.

Domestic: \$21.00;

International \$26.00 (Includes postage)

Tuberous Begonias and How to Grow Them

by the late Howard Siebold, 1998, published with the support of the ABS Millie Thompson Publication Fund. Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 98-74824 ISBN: 0-9628251-2-3
\$15.00

Unidentified Species Listing, Update, August 2012

by Mary Bucholtz & Charles Jaros, Co-Directors

Second Edition includes U Numbers 001 through 621. Looseleaf format for easy addition of new material. Notebook not included.

Domestic: \$33.00; International: \$42.00

B. U604-621 to add to the August, 2010 Unidentified Species Listing

\$7.00

Raising Cane: Experiences in Growing the Species Cane Begonias

by Freda M. Holley

A wonderful work on the cane species with color photographs.

\$15.00

continued next page

Begoniaceae, Edition 2, Part I: Annotated Species List, Part II: Illustrated Key, Abridgement & Supplement

Jack Golding & Dieter C. Wasshausen, 2002, Smithsonian Institution, Volume 43: 1-289
\$55.00

Seeing Begonia

by Jack Golding 2003, Revised 2005. Jack's last work. "...dedicated to the many who look at their Begonia but do not see the details."

\$15.00

Begonia Hybridizing: A Primer

by Freda M. Holley, 2007

An invaluable source book for the beginning or advanced begonia hybridizer.

\$15.00

Begonia Notes

by Rudolf Ziesenhenn

Reissued by the Thelma O'Reilly Reprint Fund. Originally printed in the Santa Barbara Branch, La Begonia Barbareña.

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Begonias – 1984 Update

by Mildred L. Thompson

Reissued 2009, "An addendum for particular portions of *Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide* (Times Books, 1981). Includes species and hybrids and many pictures.

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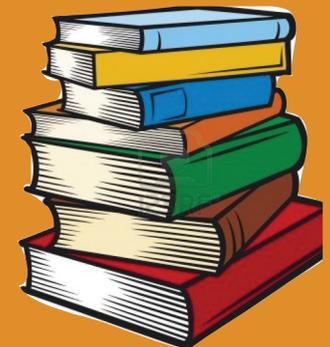
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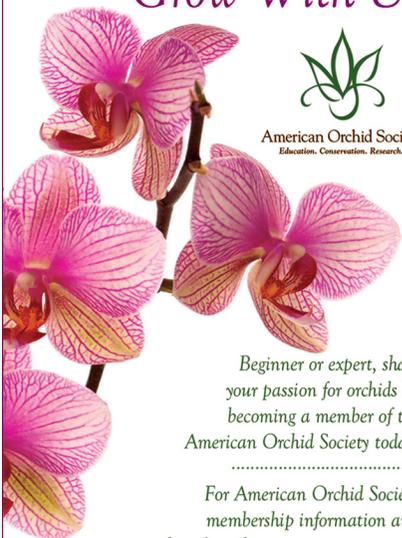
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The Begonian

Sept/Oct 2016

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Richardson, TX
Friday, May 05, 2016

Division: B SIBUB-LIKE
Class: 7 Medium leaved Generally 4" - 6" at maturity
Entry Name: B 'Diva Miller'
Entry Number: 16
4 awards

1st 2nd 3rd HM
Division Winner

Comments:
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