The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

SEPTEMBER, 1962

PRICE 25 CENTS

VOLUME XXIX NUMBER 9

1962

Convention

Issue

Monthly Publication of the American Begonia Society, Inc.

The Begonian

Founded by Herbert P. Dyckman January, 1932

Editor N. Trumond Peterson, 1641 W. 125th St., Los Angeles 47, Calif. Advertising Manager Ruby M. Budd, 6440 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

Copyright 1962 by the American Begonia Society, Inc.—Affiliated with The American Horticultural Society, The American Horticultural Council, and The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

General Offices, Dues, Address Changes or Magazines:

Dorotha Waddington, Membership Secretary, 1135 N. Kenter Ave., Los Angeles 49, Calif.

Annual Subscription, \$2.50. Branch members pay dues to branch. Foreign rate, including Canada \$3.00. Air mail rate within U.S. \$4.50.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Los Angeles, California, under the act of March 3, 1879.

AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

The purpose of this Society shall be: to promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants; to encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants; to standardize the nomenclature of begonias; to gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and companion plants; to issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the Society; and to bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

ELECTED OFFICERS

President George A. Schlanert 13611 Wheeler Pl., Santa Ana, Calif. President-Elect Carl E. Naumann 652 W. Bennett Ave., Glendora, Calif. Past President Mrs. Edna L. Korts 3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 39, Calif. Secretary . . . Mrs. Margaret B. Taylor 111 Evelyn Drive, Anaheim, Calif. Treasurer Earle E. Budd 6440 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif. Vice-Pres. 1 yr. A. Roy Joyce 1435 Coronado Ter., Los Angeles 26, Calif. Vice-Pres. 2 yrs. . . . Esther Long 5416 Dana Way, Sacramento 22, Calif. Vice-Pres. 3 yrs. . . Mrs. Ernest C. Drew 635 Moreno Rd., Narberth, Pa.

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Editor N. Trumond Peterson 1641 W. 125th St., Los Angeles 47, Calif. Membership Secretary . Dorotha Waddington 1135 N. Kenter Ave., Los Angeles 49, Calif. Advertising Manager . . Ruby M. Budd 6440 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif. Awards Committee Jean Kerlin 3262 Olive St., Altadena, Calif.

Historian Ruth Pease 8101 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

Identification Garden . . . John Thieben 6409 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

Librarian Mrs. Lucy A. Sault 58 Dapplegray Lane, Rolling Hills Estate, Calif.

Nomenclature Director . Mrs. Alva Graham 258 Pearl St., Pasadena, Calif.

Parliamentarian . . . Mrs. Minn Slatter 4600 Sixth Ave., Los Angeles 43, Calif.

Research Bea Olson 13715 Cordary St., Hawthorne, Calif.

Round Robin Chairman . Mrs. H. E. Hurley 11 Woodland Road, Lexington, Mass.

School of Judging . . Mrs. Edna L. Korts 3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

Seed Fund Mrs. Florence Gee 234 Birch Street, Roseville, Calif.

Slide Librarian and Speakers' Bureau Roy Joyce 1435 Coronado Ter., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Public Relations Director . Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle 5932 Seville Ave., Huntington Park, Calif. Northwestern Chairman . Mrs. David Talbot 6209 Riverside Drive, Vancouver, Wash. Eastern Chairman . . F. L. Mathewson

Eastern Chairman . . . F. L. Mathewson Montchanin, Delaware

Southern Chairman . . Mrs. C. E. Cooper 716 Chelsea Blvd., Houston, Texas

National Board meets 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m., South Gate City Auditorium, 4900 Southern Ave.

Himalayan Begonias

By B. N. Ghose Townend, Darjeeling, India

A charming little family of pretty flowers is formed by the Begonias. It is true that the flowers of the wild ones can hardly be compared with the modern varieties we find in cultivation in conservatories and in our gardens. They are the handsomest of all the many summerflowering plants, possessing varied colors and distinct forms. One doubts that the humble begonias we so often gather have become the gorgeous flowers of the florists. Yet they have, by cultivation and careful hybridization. Those wild begonias have intermarried with species found in various parts of the world.

The wild begonias of our glens and dales are either herbs or undershrubs with tuberous or rhizomatous roots. Their stems are cylindrical and jointed, generally swollen at the nodes, and they possess watery, acidulous juice. They grow in the ground but are also found on rocks or clefts of trees where a little earth has accumulated.

The Napalese call these plants Manger Kanchey, and sometimes eat the stems. In the cool valleys of Chittagong the natives use the leaves as pot herbs. The taste is pleasantly acid and not unlike sorrel.

In most cases these plants have one half of the leaf smaller than the other, the base forming two rounded lobes. All the parts of the plants are particularly tender and brittle.

The flowers grow in axillary peduncles branching into a cyme, and each of the ramifications of the cyme has a pair of stipules at the base. The flowers stand upon slender stalks. There are two kinds of flowers, one having stamens only, and the other bearing pistils only.

The stamen-bearing flower consists of two large obtuse sepals and two to five petals. Both the sepals and petals are similarly colored, and one cannot distinguish the one from the other. In their center, there is a round ball of anthers, the filaments of which are united into a common stalk. The anthers are usually club-shaped, fleshly yellow bodies, having a curved pollen cell on each side. They discharge pollen grains.

The pistil-bearing flower has a calyx and corolla like the other flower. Beneath the calyx of this flower is a fleshy thick part, usually having three unequal wings, divided into two to four cells containing minute ovules. The ovary is terminated by two to five stigmas, each of which has two very twisted hairy lobes.

When ripe, the fruit is a berry or a thin, brown case having three wings, of which one is very much larger than the other two. It contains a multitude of small seeds of an oblong form, usually covered with a network, the meshes of which are disposed with wonderful regularity. If a slice were cut off a little below the calyx, it would have quite the appearance of a gothic church window.

Begonias thrive in moist, shady places in the subtropical zones of the world — India, Africa, and South America. Our Sikkim begonias also grow in similar climatic conditions. We find that the subtropical region in Sikkim penetrates far into the interior along the banks of the great rivers. Here the summers are warmer and the winters are cooler, compared with other regions in similar latitudes. Owing to the humid climate and the absence of excessive cold at any season of the year, and because of the dripping nature of the climate of the misty region which extends above 4,000 feet from sea level, begonias are generally found on rocks, stems of trees, or growing on the ground.

They are all most graceful objects. In the most moist, uncultivated valleys, where they are undisturbed, they attain their full luxuriance in small groups. Below 4,500 feet elevation, several handsome ornamental species associated with

(Continued on Page 165)

THE MOBILE GARDENER

By Dorothy Behrends Encinitas, California

Mobile gardening is the modern term for the old name of "window gardening".

Mobile gardening is a phase enjoyed by many, many persons, when they learn

more of "what" to plant.

Most plants require a little light to grow, while a few are able to get by with less

The one to be discussed here is the Clivia. This is also called the Orange Amaryllis. The plant was named for Sir Clive, therefore it is pronounced "KLY-vee-ah".

It will be interesting to mobile gardeners to watch the seed germinate, as each day it will show quite a little progress. The seed is approximately half an inch in diameter and quite succulent. By placing a seed on the surface of moist soil in a container, it may be observed daily.

In a short time a "nubbin" emerges from the seed. Each day it is a little longer and no matter how (in what direction) the seed is placed in the soil, this "nubbin", that is actually the root, will turn and grow towards the soil.

After it has made good progress, tiny green leaves begin to emerge from the base of the root and these become broad, green blades in a very short time. When the leaves have become three inches long, it is advisable to plant the clivia in a container that is approximately five inches in depth, allowing for ample drainage. These plants resent wet feet.

Clivias like plenty of root-room, but the plant should be planted only to a depth where the soil merely covers the

attached seed.

Keep this plant in a location above forty degrees, in filtered light. Soil should be well drained, fertilized occasionally by using water from washing the meat wrapping papers, water being at room temperature.

It will be several years before the clivia will bloom, but in the meantime you will enjoy a handsome green plant that you witnessed being "born".

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY ANNUAL BANQUET ELKS CLUB DINING ROOM— INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 8, 1962

PROGRAM

6:25 P.M. — Invocation 6:30 P.M. — Banquet 7:30 P.M. —

"The Lighter Side of Flower Shows" by Muriel L. Merrell, F.R.H.S.

Mrs. Merrell is a well known speaker of flower shows. She is a nationally accredited amateur flower show judge under the National Council State Garden Clubs, Inc. She is also an accredited instructor of horticulture for the State of California and a specialist lecturer on international flower arrangements, European, Oriental, Mexican, Hawaiian, and American.

8:15 P.M.

Presentation of Awards — by Jean Kerlin, Awards Chairman.

8:30 P.M.

Presentation of Flower Show Trophies

— by Bert Slatter, Show Chairman.

9:00 P.M.

Installation of Officers — by J. Paul Walker, Chairman of Nominating Committee.

9:30 P.M.

Adjourn.

Flash

SUPPLEMENT TO FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE

Bessie Buxton Branch Perpetual award for entry of 6 Begonias different Varieties from the following: Semperflorens, Fibrous, Cane Type, Hairy Fibrous, Rhizomatous Small Leaf, Rhizomatous Large Leaf, Rex Plain Leaf, Rex Spiral Leaf, (no Tuberous). This award is an 8 inch Paul Revere Bowl of Sterling Silver.

Edward L. Korts Memorable Perpetual Trophy for 3 Rex Begonias under 1 year old donated by Mrs. Daisy Walker.

Arthur Strandberg Perpetual Trophy for Best Fern donated by Inglewood Branch.

HIMALAYAN BEGONIAS...

(Continued from Page 163)

ferns and other herbaceous vegetation are found.

Most begonias flower in the summer and have the ordinary habit of shedding their stock or leaves toward the end of autumn and remaining bare until spring.

For ready identification, begonias may be divided into five groups.

The first group comprises two species that have their fruits more or less fleshy and round and without the papery wings that are so characteristic of this genus. To this group belongs Begonia roxburghi. It has succulent, glabrous stems two feet or more in height, with large glabrous, ovate leaves, minutely pubescent on the nerves, bearing a few white flowers in short cymes near the axils. The fruit is a four-celled, four-angled, succulent body. The other plant is Begonia inflata. It bears narrow, oblong, lanceolate leaves on long, erect stems in each branch. Fruit is very leathery, three-celled, and trigonous.

The species falling under the next group all have tuberous root stock, and their capsules are three-celled with three papery wings, of which one is larger than the other two. Most abundant in this group is *B. picta*. It grows on rocks or in crevices of stone walls. The flowers are rather large and conspicuous and of a pale rose color. The leaves are nearly equally cordate pilose above and often variegated and very ornamental.

Begonia satrapis also is a very beautiful small plant, bearing bright rose-red flowers on peduncles rising much higher than the highest leaves.

Begonia josephi is a denizen of the mistry regions, growing above 5,000 feet elevation, and it can be recognized easily by its peltate leaves. This plant is very variable in size and habit, carrying small rose-red flowers.

The much-incised and lobed *B. gemmiphra* has its flowers in pendulous cymes. The flowers are white, striped with rose, and are of medium size. This cur-

ious species clothes the moss-grown trunks of trees and rocks at 8,000 feet elevation. In some of the axils of the peduncles we find quadrangular cups, neatly and closely packed with small bulbils.

Begonia ameana is a small plant with glabrous leaves bearing a few flowered scapes. The styles are persistent, i.e. they remain even when the seed is ripe in the fruit.

One other small begonia of this group is *B. ovatifolia*. It has roundish (ovate) leaves about two inches in diameter, and grows on steep slopes in the Tista Valley. The peduncles are four-flowered to eightflowered, bearing white or rose-colored flowers, capsule-small, with persistent style.

The next group has two-celled, compressed capsules, triquetrous, having one broad and two narrow papery wings. These have thick, woody root stock with fibrous roots.

The most conspicuous in this group is *Begonia gigantea*, which has thick, woody root stock bearing stems two to three feet tall, rarely branched. This is the largest of Indian begonias. The leaves are unequally, deeply auricled on one side. The peduncles are short, dichotomous, with many small white or pale pink flowers.

To this group belongs the very thick, rhizomed *Begonia xanthina*, which has ovate leaves which are unequally cordate. The flowers are of medium size and conspicuously yellow. The capsule has unequal wings, one very elongated.

The caulescent *Begonia rubro-venia*, with its elliptic, lanceolate, acuminate leaves, can be recognized easily by its rose-red veins, especially on the under surfaces of the leaves, and by the greyish-white, large, irregular patches on the upper surfaces of the green leaves. The flowers are borne in auxiliary peduncles,

(Continued on Page 169)

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

No. 1—B. masoniana syn B. 'Iron Cross'—

Introduced in England in 1952 by Mason and said to be one of the most beautiful begonias in cultivation. Leaves are large and puckered, Nile-green, marked with a contrasting bold pattern of brown-red, resembling the German iron cross. Stems are white-hairy and reddish. Flowers are waxy, greenish-white, with maroon bristles on the back. At first the plants will resemble the rex type begonia, but they bear no relation to this group of plants.

Seeds are fresh, hand-pollinated, and should germinate in about four weeks. However, some growers have reported that plants will continue to appear over a long period after sowing \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2—B. pustulata argentea—

(B. Silver pustulata) Greatly admired begonia. Irregular silver streaks on Nilegreen leaves. Low growing. Requires a long period after sowing. \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 3—B. Rex hybrids—

A grower in Australia produced seed for the Seed Fund. His collection consists of some of the most beautiful rex begonias, including spirals, non-spirals, all red-pointed leaves, and many others. Rex begonia seedlings should be protected until after their second transplanting and will require a longer time to become established than other types. \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 4—B. diadema—

Seed came from Brazil. The collector compared the plant with a picture in Exotica Number Two and arrived at this identification. B. diadema is a lustrous, silky, bright green plant with rings between the veins. Unusual underground rhizome. Flowers pink in the fall. Requires heat and moisture. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 5—B. boliviensis—

Distinguished tuberhybrida ancestor with clusters of five-petaled, orange-scarlet flowers with gold stamens. Makes an attractive background plant in borders,

but requires support. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 6—B. Mexican species—

Green leaf, red sinus, white flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 7—B. Brazil species—

Leaf resembles plant called *B. bradei*, *Irmscher*. Seed was distributed by the Seed Fund several years ago. Not to be construed as *B. bradei*, however. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 8—B. 'Annabelle'—

Well branched and well covered with Irish-green, silver-spotted leaves. Generous flowers in soft pink. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 9—B. 'Rossi'—

Tall but well branched. Bright green leaves, tinged gold on the edges, dotted with silver. Dainty, fragrant, pink flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 10-B. echinosepala-

Brazil. Tall, much-branched plant, distinguished by the comparatively small finely toothed leaves, 2 inches to 23/4 inches long, and 5/16 inches to one inch wide. The flowers are medium large and the white petals of the males have rather large hairs in the middle of the outer side for which this species derives its name. B. echinosepala was used much in earlier hybridizing. One of the best known hybrids is B. 'Ducchartrei' (B. echinosepala x B. scharffiana) 25 cents per pkt. pkt.

No. 11—B. 'Fuscomaculata'—

(B. heracleifolia x B. strigillosa) Sometimes called B. 'Rubellina'. Striking graygreen, star-shaped leaves, lightly chocolate-spotted, drooping in long, lax stems. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 12—B. 'Orange Rubra'—

(B. dichroa x B. 'Coral Rubra') Clear, green leaves, sometimes faintly silver-spotted. Ornate clusters of large salmonorange flowers. Choice begonia. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 13—B. 'Catalina'—

(B. 'Digswelliana' seedling) Sometimes called 'Lady Waterlow'. Low, spreading plant with small green leaves and large

flowers, white inside and rosy outside. Leaves and flowers color more intensely in the sun. Good bloomer and quite hardy. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 14—B. Rhizomatous—

Courtesy of a grower in Florida. Several varieties. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 15—B. palmifolia—

Similar to *B. dichotoma* but not as coarse. Branches shorter and leaves more deeply lobed. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 16-B. 'Lucifer'

F₁ hybrid semperflorens. Brilliant scarlet flowers with deep bronzy foliage. Excellent outdoor bedding plant, lasting for many months. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 17—B. venosa—

See description in *The Begonian* for July. 50 cents per pkt.

Correction-

Begonia No. 4 in *The Begonian* for July was misspelled. Correct spelling is *B. quadrelocularis*.

We expect to have an adequate supply of *B. lubbersi* seed in about two months. As soon as we receive the seed, will mail out immediately.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS Streptocarpus Wiesmoor hybrids—

Cape primrose. Fringed, orchid-like flowers four to five inches across, in a bright array of colors, including shades of pink, red, blue, lilac, and white. Sow now for flowers next spring. 35 cents per pkt.

Streptocarpus 'Moulin Rouge'—

New variety. 35 cents per pkt.

Streptocarpus seeds require daylight for germination.

Smithiantha hybrida---

Art shades, dwarf pot plants, with gloxinia-like leaves and clusters of slender, tubular flowers in shades of pink, red, yellow, and orange, all with spotted throats. Showy. 25 cents per pkt.

Peperoma maculosa—

San Domingo. Leaves very fleshy, ovate, lanceolate, seven to ten inches long, bright shining bluish or bottle-green, with ivory or white veins. Petioles beautifully spotted with purple or maroon. Fragrant. 25 cents per pkt.

Asarina erubescens—

Scrophulariaceae. Also called creeping gloxinia. Strongly vining, hairy plant with alternate, triangular, toothed, downy leaves and twining flower stalks, bearing large, three-inch, trumpet-shaped blossoms having broad, green sepals and carmine rose corollas with pale throats spotted rose. Blooms in the fall. 25 cents per pkt.

Ficus diversifolia-

Mistletoe fig. Small shrub with ovate, hard leaves, two inches long, dark green with brown specks above, pale beneath; liberally bearing small yellowish fruit lined with gray. 25 cents per pkt.

Asclepias curassavica—

Blood flower. Leaves oblong, narrow; flowers brilliant orange-red. Greenhouse in cold climates. 25 cents per pkt.

Stapelia—

Hairy starfish. One of the prettiest Stapelias, having green finger-like stems with handsome maroon flowers in late summer. 25 cents per pkt.

Cattleya Hanniwell x Barbara Billingsley—

For our orchid growing friends, from an eastern greenhouse. 25 cents per pkt.

Epidendrum-

25 cents per pkt.

Our latest fern collecting trip took us back in rough, mountainous country, but our efforts were not in vain. We found some of the most interesting small ferns not often seen and certainly not too well known.

One of the prettiest is Cheilanthes californica or California lace fern, which is always found growing in cracks of rocks where moisture is available to the roots. Plants are six to twelve inches high, all of the short rhizomes covered with dark scales with pale borders. Pinnae are bright green and glaborous.

In this same location we came upon Cheilanthes siliquosa Maxon — also called Indian's dream. It has dense clusters of fronds four to seven inches high, which arise from branched rhizomes. The slender, shiny stalks are reddish-brown in color, fronds triangular in outline, tripinnate, at least at the base, bi-pinnate on the remainder of the frond.

SEPTEMBER, 1962 167

Another was Cryptogramma crispa var. acrostichoides or Parsley fern. Plants are two to nine inches high, the fertile fronds taller than the sterile fronds. On the sterile branches, a narrow wing follows from the flat pinnae down the stalk, the wing usually absent in the fertile stalk.

The most unique fern on this trip was Asplenium trichomones, or Maidenhair spleenwort, with compact rootstocks firmly fastened in cracks of huge granite rocks. Foliage was a lovely gray-green, with black stems. A small, lovely little fern.

We plan soon to take a trip to the northern California coast where, we are told, Adiantum pedatum (Five finger fern) can be found growing in abundance; also a rare Adiantum that produces only one leaf each year.

MRS. FLORENCE GEE Seed Fund Administrator 234 Birch Street Roseville, California

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Amy Bresheau, Past President of the Missouri Branch of the American Begonia Society, passed away July 14, 1962.

For a good many years she was the Nomenclature Director of the Missouri Branch.

As a great Begonia lover and hybridizer she will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Looking back on this past year as President of the American Begonia Society I feel very grateful to all of you who have given of your time to make the American Begonia Society a success.

I am sure that the coming year will be the best in the history of the Society if we all pitch in and help the fine board of new officers.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Show, September 8 and 9 at the California National Guard Armory, 111 Grosvenor Street, Inglewood. Remember the show hours are 2 - 10 P.M., Saturday and 10 A.M. to 6 P.M., Sunday. If you have not yet obtained your banquet tickets, you can still get them by contacting Pearl Parker, 15021 Gerkin, Hawthorne; telephone OS 5-8929.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your president this past year.

George A. Schlanert



Buxton Check List of Begonias

The Buxton Check List of Begonias is a "must" for hybridizers to check on previously registered names, and is a valuable reference book for identification and origin.

Send check or money order for \$6.00 (in California add 24 cents sales tax) to:

MRS. LUCY A. SAULT, Librarian
58 Dapplegray Lane
Rolling Hills Estate, Calif.

HIMALAYAN BEGONIAS...

(Continued from Page 165)

usually branched near the top, bearing a few white flowers. The capsule is often recurved about a half inch, including the wings.

The next group has long, creeping root stock, which is neither woody nor tuberous. Begonia laceneata (laciniata) bears roundly ovate leaves on long petioles. The leaves are unequally cordate and acutely lanceolate. The peduncles are axillary as long as the leaves, bearing two or six flowers, of which, generally, more than half are stamen bearers. There are several varieties, the most outstanding being B. laceneata var. lutea, which bears fine vellow flowers.

The creeping root stock of Begonia megaptera is thick and woody and the stems are erect. The leaves are unequal at the base. A large number of elongated peduncles rise from the upper axils, bearing on each a few pink flowers. The flowers completely cover the plant and produce a charming effect.

Begonia sikkimensis has thick, woody root stock. When mature, it carries a stem fifteen inches high. The leaves are round-lobed almost to the base and the lobes, themselves, are incised and lobed. It grows on rocks and sheds its stems and leaves at the advent of winter. It is easily recognized on account of its lobed leaves.

Begonia cathcarti has cordate leaves that are acute and glabrous. It is easily distinguished by the numerous scattered hairs on its stems above 5,000 feet elevations.

The next group is represented by Begonia rex, which has a fleshy, creeping rh'zome which is subteraneous. The leaf stalk is round, red in color, and setose. Leaves are about ten to twelve inches broad. The surface is rugose or bullate, with a metallic luster, having a broad silvery band running all around the leaves about one inch away from the margins. Flowers, borne in erect, branching cymes, are large and of pale rose color. This magnificent species is the progenitor of numerous ornamental foliaged begonias.

—From The Begonian, June, 1949.

IN MEMORIAM

Philip Arthur Chandler, 49, well known UCLA horticulturalist and plant pathologist, died Saturday, August 11, 1962. He was a native of England and was trained at the Kew Botanical Gardens and the John Innis Institute there. He was on the staff of the New York and Montreal Botanical Gardens before joining UCLA 14 years ago.

Mr. Chandler is survived by his wife, Madeline and his mother, three brothers and a sister all in England.

PATRONIZE BEGONIAN **ADVERTISERS**

BEGONIAS, GERANIUMS, EXOTICS

NEW catalogue with color, 25c

LOGEE'S GREENHOUSES

(Est. 1872)

Danielson, Connecticut

Belva Kusler's New Hybrid Begonias -

Gigi Fleetham, Jeanne Fleetham, Laura Engelbert, Lenore Olivier, Sophie Cecile, Anna Christine CATALOG 25¢

TROPICAL PARADISE GREENHOUSE 8825 West 79th Street Overland Park, Kansas

BE SURE TO SEE THE BEGONIA SHOW SEPTEMBER 8-9

VALDENSIUM—THE ELEPHANT EAR BEGONIA

By CARRIE E. KAREGEANNES Springfield, Virginia

Could Begonia valdensium be the "elephant ear begonia popular in grand-mother's day" and asked for in the April, 1961, Begonian?

I have also seen B. 'Erythrophylla', B. incarnata, and B. rex referred to as elephant ear begonias, but I believe that the appearance of valdensium comes closest to fitting the description given and the image called to mind by the term "elephant ear".

In her book All About Begonias (Doubleday, 1960, p. 159), Bernice Brilmayer describes B. valdensium as having "grass-green 'elephant ear' leaves clean and clearly marked with lightest green veins which meet in a sparkling eye."

I do not know how long this begonia has been in cultivation, or if it was popular two generations ago. Mrs. Helen Krauss does not include it in *Begonias for American Homes and Gardens* (Mac-Millan, 1947). But the picture of *valdensium* in Logee's 1962-63 catalog shows large, asymetrical elephant-ear leaves, which the catalog describes as green-green, broad, flat with slightly undulating and prominent light green veins.

The second edition of Better Homes and Gardens Garden Book (1951, 1954, p. 412) calls B. 'Erythrophylla' the elephant ear begonia, as well as the beefsteak begonia — although the latest edition (1961) omits B. 'Erythrophylla'.' B.H. & G. House Plants calls it only beefsteak begonia.

Although it is more often called beef-steak, water lily, or pond lily, B. 'Erythrophylla' is a popular begonia and an old one — possibly one of the oldest hybrids in cultivation, according to Mrs. Krauss. She says that it was introduced into America about 1880, but makes no reference to an elephant ear begonia. The leaves are more rounded and not as

(Continued on Page 172)

BEGONIAS — FUCHSIAS — FERNS

and other varieties of shade plants

PATIO PLANTS

4036 Moore Street (South of Washington Blvd.) Venice, Los Angeles 66, Calif.

SPOONIT

FLOWER FOOD

Send Post Card for Information and Sample

PLANTSMITH

Box 818

Palo Alto 2, Calif.

HIMALAYAN FLOWER SEEDS

Collections of \$1.00 to \$4.00 Also Begonias, Liliums, Gloriosa, Gerberas, Gesnerias, Orchids, etc. Catalogue free

G. GHOSE & COMPANY

Townend, Darjeeling, India

COPY DEADLINE

All material for publication in THE BEGONIAN must be received by the Editor not later than the fifth of the month preceding month of publication.

TROPICS

A new magazine devoted to

TROPICAL PLANTS & GARDENS

Living in the tropics — travel in the tropics — tropical cookery Profusely illustrated

Annual subscription: \$4.00 in U.S.A. \$4.50 elsewhere — Bimonthly

TROPICS

P.O. Box 435, Coconut Grove 33, Florida

At the time of publication of this issue Mr. Tru Peterson, the Editor, was in the hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Slanted Toward The Beginner

Hybrid Begonia Seedlings

By Dorothy S. Behrends Encinitas, California

Only species begonias "come true to

their parents" from seeds.

When begonia seeds that have been produced on a hybrid or cultivar are planted, any type begonia may come up— and usually does. But it will rarely be the same as the probably named parent producing the seeds.

We all know this, but we still enjoy raising these seedlings because we get

so many "different" begonias.

We read that, according to the law of averages, a cross will produce one-third of its seedlings resembling the male parent, one-third the female parent, and one-third a cultivar with traits of both parents.

In talking to Rudolf Ziesenhenne, the foremost begonia scholar in the United States, he reminded us that this would be on a basis of eight to ten thousand seedlings. So when we plant three dozen seeds, we need not expect the same ratio.

The aforementioned rule applies to a cross between species, not hybrids.

When I created Begonia Encinitas' in 1954, I crossed Begonia hydrocotylifolia with Begonia 'Fred Brown' (Zies.). B. hydrocotylifolia is also a parent of B. 'Erythrophylla', commonly called the Beef Steak Begonia. The best traits of 'Fred Brown' were retained in the seedling I discarded the rest of that cross as inferior to the named plant and have distributed it freely to many growers, amateur and commercial alike. It makes a wonderful house plant, as does B. 'Erythrophylla'.

The only way a true likeness of a hybrid may be propagated is by vegetative propagation. That is by cuttings or

"slips".

The other-than-usual begonias we produce when planting seeds of hybrids is always interesting, but we are never to sell or pass these plants on as named

plants. If we intend to name plants, we must produce them by hybridizing our own introductions, not some one else's hybrids as our own.

Most growers do not sell begonias, anyway, so I suggest you plant seeds and

have fun.

One year ago, I attended an intimate class on caned-stemmed begonias. Our able teacher, Ora Wilson, brought flowering branches of many A. D. Robinson named coccineas. After the class, all the cuttings were given to me to root and then pass on to the persons attending.

I did this by removing all the flowers and inserting the cuttings, etc. I kept the flowers separated with reference to names and, as they ripened, found some pods

with viable seeds.

I sowed these hybrid seeds and obtained hundreds of various caned-stemmed begonias, but in one pot I found five semperflorens had come up with the coccineas. I kept one, shared two with Lenore Alexander of Redondo Beach, and one each with Ora Wilson and Mary Zemcik of San Diego.

These semps had four vivid rosecolored petals and a large tight tuft of stamens in the centers. There were no tiny petals among the stamens and the begonias were obviously "different".

These semperflorens begonias came from the A. D. Robinson coccinea hybrid Begonia 'Rose'.

As semperflorens are known to be a strong strain, it is quite possible a bee pollinated the flower with semperfloren pollen.

The Seed Fund has offered seeds from named hybrid begonias in the past (and I hope again, in the future), but none of us expects to raise named "hybrids" from seeds so obtained. If any one has

(Continued on Next Page)

September, 1962 171

expected to do this, I hope this article will dispel any such expectations in the future. Some of the seeds of 'Joe Hayden', 'Fleece Alba', 'Credneri', 'Cinderella', etc. are producing anything but the named plant that produced the seeds. But this is to be expected. As we all know now — bybrid seeds will not come true.

Look for the unusual and you will probably get it when planting these seeds, and for the nominal price we pay for the seeds, I am sure we are all getting more than our money's worth.

-Reprinted from an earlier issue.

VALDENSIUM...

(Continued from Page 170)

ear-shaped as those of *valdensium*, but possibly could be seen as flapping elephant ears. Perhaps that name was once used for it?

H. L. Gerth Van Wijk's A Dictionary of Plant Names, published in Holland in 1911, gives "begonia" under "Elephant's ear", and as cross-reference, gives "elephant's ear" under "Begonia". Also, he gives elephant's ears as a vernacular name for B. incarnata, citing Fanny D. Bergen in Popular American Plant Names (1893 seq.).

The small, flesh-colored leaves of *B. incarnata* do not fit the description given for grandmother's elephant ear begonia. Mrs. Krauss does list varieties of *B. incarnata* 'Sandersi' (developed about 1908) and *B. incarnata* 'Grandiflora' (originated in California about 1890) as being larger and having larger, greener leaves; but I doubt if either is the soughtfor elephant ear. I do not find either variety listed by Mrs. Brilmayer. Logee's and Merry Gardens list 'Sandersi' under small-leaved begonias.

The New Illustrated Encyclopedia of Gurdening, Vol. 2 (1960), edited by T. H. Everett, says that Begonia rex and its hybrids are sometimes known by this name. Merry Gardens says that rex hybrids are sometimes called elephant's ear begonias. Although Mrs. Krauss says that many well known varieties of B. rex-cultorum were offered as novelties in

American catalogs sixty-five years ago and before, probably color and texture of the rexes disqualify them.

My curiosity was stimulated when I found that my Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (1943) gives "the begonia" as the first definition for "elephant's ear". I then read in Webster's International Dictionary (2nd ed. unabridged): "Bot. a. The begonia; — in allusion to the large one-sided leaves of many species. B. The taro; — so called by florists."

Funk and Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary of the English Language (1958) says that elephant's ear is "any one of certain plants of the genus Begonia, with large one-sided heavy earlike leaves."

The Encyclopedia Americana (1958 ed.) names bot begonia and taro: "Elephant's ear, the name often applied to begonias with large showy, asymetrical leaves, and to ornamental plants of the genus Colocasia, which includes taro and dasheen, C. esculenta". This seems to indicate that the name might have been applied to several begonia.

The World Book Encyclopedia, The Colombia Encyclopedia, and numerous garden books identify elephant's ear as Colocasia antiquorum esculentum, a member of the Arum Family, Araceae, also known as taro or dasheen, a tropical tuberous plant. In Floriculture (1950), Laurie and Ries say that the colocasia is an old-fashioned plant; and in The Complete Book of Bulbs (1955), Rock-

(Continued on Page 173)



Begonia

4111 - 242nd St., Walteria, Calif.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

COMPLETE SELECTION OF BEGONIAS AND SHADE PLANTS

FUCHSIAS — CAMELLIAS — FERNS

OPEN DAILY — CLOSED MONDAY.

Complete Nursery & Garden Supply Shop

1½ Miles E. of Redondo Beach

Hi-Way 101

172 THE BEGONIAN

CALENDAR

September 6 — Westchester Branch: This will be our third annual birthday potluck dinner. We will have Rudy Ziesenhenne as our guest speaker. His topic will be "Rhizomatous Begonias." Be sure to contact either ORchard 2-5112 or ORchard 1-3532 so that we may know you will be our guest for the evening.

September 6 — Whittier Branch: Potluck dinner. Mrs. Wynona Jensen will install officers and will give an informative talk on "Getting Your Plants

Ready for Winter".

September 8 — Annual Convention Banquet.

September 8-9 — Begonia and Shade Plant Show.

September 13 — Inglewood Branch: Loren Paulsohn, a past president of the California National Fuchsia Society, will speak on "Fuchsias in Your Garden."

September 13 — Orange County Branch: Mrs. June Wright will speak on "Begonias." A portion of the program will be given to the question and answer section of the propagating class held in June.

September 14 — San Gabriel Valley Branch: Mrs. Mabel Corwin will give an interesting talk, illustrated with slides, on "Begonia Culture."

September 15-16 — Rhode Island
Branch: Annual Begonia Party, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R. I.
September 26 — Glendale Branch: Frank
Sobas will speak on "The Culture of Ferns — Natural Habitat of Growth."

October 4 — Westchester Branch: Mabel Corwin will be our guest speaker.

QUALITY BEGONIA SEEDS & FERN SPORE

Send self-addressed stamped envelope for current seed list

Begonias Slanted Toward The Beginner Second edition. Well illustrated book dealing with begonia sources, propagation, cultivation, name pronunciation. Plastic bound. \$3.00 (add 12¢ sales tax in Calif.)

> Dorothy S. Behrends 442 Orpheus Ave., Encinitas, Calif.

VALDENSIUM...

(Continued from Page 172)

well and Grayson say that it was more popular in the home and garden in Victorian times than it is today.

The genus Xanthosome also is mentioned: a tropical plant with large arrowshaped leaves from a subterranean tuberous rhizome; in Your Florida Garden (1954) by Watkins and Wolfe, and in The New Garden Encyclopedia (1946) by Seymour.

Bergenia is called elephant's ear by Wister in the National Garden Book (1947). Wister does not give either colocasia or begonia.

At this point, I would like to raise questions of my own. Is Begonia americana, mentioned in Richardson Wright's The Story of Gardening (1934), as first collected by Mark Catesby (1674-1748) in Virginia, really a begonia? Is it still cultivated? Did our grandmothers raise this plant? And what is it like?

Mr. MacDougall's New Begonia
Begonia Boweri nigramarga
Begonia Boweri with black bordering each nerve
\$1.50 each — f.o.b. Santa Barbara

RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE

1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

Begonias, Ferns, Fuchsias, Cacti, Succulents, Ivies, Geraniums, Herbs

UNUSUAL HOUSE AND CONSERVATORY PLANTS

1962-63 Illustrated catalog 25¢. List free. MERRY GARDENS CAMDEN, MAINE

Gloxinias—African Violets—Begonias
Varieties which thrive under
fluorescent light
1962 Plant List free on request

MICHAEL J. KARTUZ

92 Chestnut Street Wilmington, Massachusetts

September, 1962 173

Branch Directory

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

BRITISH BRANCH

F. J. Bedson, Secy., Kent, England

BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members Miss Cynthia Webber, Secy. 5 Hillside, Ave., Bedford, Mass.

DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Members' Residences Mrs. Ruth Cook, Secy. 923 S. Edgefield, Dallas 8, Texas

EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School Telegraph at Ward, Berkeley, California Miss Dorothy F. Osburn, Secy. 5015 Cochrane Ave., Oakland 18, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes Miss Lenore Schroeder, Secy. 1821 So. 7th St., Alhambra, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m. La Verne Community Bldg. 2039 Third St., La Verne Mrs. Arma J. Shull, Secy. 313 W. 2nd St., San Dimas, Calif.

FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, 1:30 p.m. Miss Lola Price, Secy. 628 Beech Ave., Laurel Springs, N.J.

GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central Ruth Worcester, Secy. 3836 West Ave., 43, Los Angeles 4, Calif.

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m. Community House, La Jolla Mrs. Charles Calloway 1311 Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, Calif.

GRAY'S HARBOR BRANCH

2nd Monday, 8:00 p.m. Hoquiam Public Library or Messingale and Rosenear Music Store Aberdeen, Washington Mrs. Jessie B. Hoyt, Secy. 1013 Harding Road, Aberdeen, Wash.

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members Mrs. Adolph Belser, Corr. Secy. Welsh and Veree Rd., Philadelphia, Pa.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Mrs. Georgina Barton, Secy. 2821 Herkimer St., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m. Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive Mrs. V. O. Harman, Secy. 306 Cody, Houston 22, Texas

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 8:00 p.m. Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif. Miss Margaret Smith, Secy. P.O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Inglewood Women's Club 325 North Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif. Mrs. Elsye M. Willick, Secy. 13214 Merkel Ave., Paramount, Calif.

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. Library, Horticultural Society of N.Y. 157 West 58th St., New York Murray D. Morrison, Secy. 2109 Matthews Ave., New York 62, N.Y.

LONE STAR BRANCH

3rd Monday, Members' Homes, 10 a.m. Mrs. M. F. Scribner, Corr. Secy. 1422 Marfa, Dallas 16, Texas

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Linden Hall 208 Linden Ave., Long Beach, Calif. Mrs. Vera Ohlson, Secy. 1925 Maine Ave., Long Beach 6, Calif.

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

1st Friday, Homes of Members Mrs. Thomas D. Day, Secy. 4056 Hollywood St., Baton Rouge, La.

MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. Simpson Memorial Garden Center Mrs. Ray Rosengren, Secy. 5530 N.W. 21 Ave., Miami, Fla.

MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 1 p.m. World War Memorial Bldg., Linwood and Paseo Kansas City, Mo. Mrs. R. H. Hyatt, Secy. 6812 Hunter St., Raytown 33, Mo.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH 3rd Friday, 7:30 p.m. 3901 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach Mrs. Alberta Logue, Secy. 6050 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taft Sts. Garden Grove, Calif. Daisy G. Austin, Secy. 1510 Kimberly Ave., Anaheim, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Meetings on Call, Homes of Members Col. C. M. Gale, Secy. 40 N. San Rafael, Pasadena 2, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Members' Homes Mrs. J. Perry Long, Secy. 6532 E. Cedar Ave., Merchantville, N.J.

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday each Month Lincoln School Recreation Center Ernest & Vail Sts., Redondo Beach, Calif. Opal Murray Aherne, Secy. 1304 N. Poinsettia Ave., Manhattan Beach, Calif.

RHODE ISLAND BRANCH

1st Saturday, Homes of Members Miss Ruth Harrington, Secy. 372 Lloyd Ave., Providence, R.I.

DIVERSIDE RRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Shamel Park 3650 Arlington, Riverside, Calif. Mrs. Lillian Maddox, Secy. 7172 Mt. Vernon St., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members Constance D. Bower, Corr. Secy. 2413—K St., San Diego 2, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center 3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif. Elmer A. Thomas, Secy. 913 Sonoma Way, Sacramento 22, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Barbour Hall 2717 University Ave., San Diego Leah Jones, Secy. 3734 - 40th St., San Diego 5, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Garden Center, Golden Gate Park 9th Ave. & Lincoln Way James C. Miller, Secy. 1962 - 18th Ave., San Francisco 16, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Friday, 8:00 p.m. Los Angeles State & County Arboretum 501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif. Mrs. Melva Small, Secy. 3310 E. California Blvd., Pasadena 10, Calif.

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH
1st Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.
Mrs. Lloyd Clark, Secy.
2252 Vulner Ct., San Diego, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH 2nd Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History 2559 Puesta Del Sol Elnora Schmidt, Secy. 3346 Calle Cita, Santa Barbara, Calif.

SEATTLE BRANCH

NTLE BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Meeting locations will vary; call the secretary at
SUnset 2-2234
Miss Bernice Moore, Secy.
2842 West 59th St., Seattle 7, Wash.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Alice Barlett, C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif. Mrs. Cora Lemmon, Secy. 316 Moorpark Ave., Moorpark, Calif.

SMOKY VALLEY BRANCH

3rd Thursday of each Month Mrs. Robert Nease, Secy. 410 South Phillips, Salina, Kansas

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Strowbridge School Multi-Purpose Rm. 21400 Bedford Dr., Hayward, Calif. Mrs. Evangeline Muller, Corr. Secy. 36937 Cherry St., Newark, Calif.

TALL CORN STATE BRANCH

Mrs. Edna Monson, Secy. South Taylor, Mason City, Iowa

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m. Homes of Members, Ft. Worth, Texas Mrs. Olin S. Hughes, Secy. 2306 Market St., Ft. Worth, Texas

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

1st Tuesday Night in Members' Homes E. Weaver. 1325 Thomas Blvd. Port Arthur, Texas

WESTCHESTER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Westchester Women's Club 8020 Alverstone St., Los Angeles, Calif. Mrs. Ann Hyland, Secy. 6446 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

WEST VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Orcutt Playground Clubhouse 21816 Lanark St., Canoga Park, Calif. Alice Abrams, Secy. 5310 Tendilla Ave., Woodland Hills, Calif.

WESTERN PENNSYLYANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m., Homes of Members Mrs. A. S. Lash, Secy. 1228 Oklahoma Drive, Pittsburgh 16, Pa.

WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Palm Park Community Center, 1643 Floral Drive Anne L. Rose, Secy. 1225 Ramona Dr., Whittier, Calif.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m., Homes of Members Mrs. Griscom Bettle, Jr., Secy. 331 Station Road, Wynnewood, Pa.



AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY INSIGNIA PIN for Begonia Society Members

PRICE \$3.00

SEND YOUR ORDER TO: GEORGE A. SCHLANERT 13611 Wheeler Place Santa Ana, Calif.

BEGONIANS

Nicely Bound Volumes of 1940 to 1959

\$3.50 for each year's volume

Make Check Payable To **American Begonia Society**

Mail order to

MRS. EDNA L. KORTS

3626 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

1135 N. Kenter Ave. Los Angeles 49, Calif. Return Requested

GRO-LUX LAMPS — all sizes BLACK-LIGHT DISCARDED TUBES FOR PATIOS AND TUBE-HOUSES

Fixtures and Lamps — All sizes For Residence or Business

Fluorescent Tube Service

10824 S. Broadway Los Angeles 61, Calif.
Phone PLymouth 6-1100

New Originations in Rose Form and Ruffled



TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Exacting quality in color and form, from the prize-winning Pacific Strain originated by Frank Reinelt. The very finest obtainable!

Vetterle & Reinelt

Dept. B Capitola, California

1982 COLOR CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE

176 THE BEGONIAN