

The BEGONIAN



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Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editors, the Society or its officers.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of the amendments which the ABS membership recently adopted changed Article II, Section 1, Paragraph 2, of the ABS Constitution to read as follows: "The Editor shall be selected by an editorial board consisting of the President who shall act as chairman; the President-Elect or First Vice President; the Past President; and two others chosen by the President."

The prime responsibility of the Editorial Board obviously is to select the Editor of the *Begonian*. In the past the Editor has been selected just by the President. Since the present Editor was selected before the amendment was adopted Marge will continue under my appointment, and the first editor to be selected by the Editorial Board will be upon a change of Editor.

Another function of the Editorial Board, not stated in the Constitution, is, according to those who proposed the amendment, to act as a screening committee for complaints against the actions and policies of the *Begonian* staff. The Editorial Board is your assurance that any complaint you have will be acted upon by a group of men and women who will look at all sides of the alleged problem and will make a fair judgment.

The amended portion of the Constitution provides that I am to ap-

point two members to the Editorial Board. The appointees I selected offer a balance to the Board so that everyone's interests, from the beginner to the professional grower, is represented.

Mr. Doug Frost, Garden Grove, California, is an excellent grower who is very interested in education for the beginning grower.

Mrs. Mabel Corwin, Vista, California, a past President of the ABS, offers a balance of the qualities necessary to uphold the aims and purposes of the American Begonia Society.

I believe the Editorial Board will serve you well. Let them know when you are pleased with the *Begonian* as well as letting them know your constructive criticisms. Send your commendations and your recommendations, in writing, to me and I will forward them to the Editorial Board.

COVER PICTURE

The *B. herbacea* in our cover picture was grown by Dorothy Porter of Orange, California. It was grown in a bowl and was removed to be photographed. In an article on the next page, Mrs. Porter explains how she grew this particular plant. The photo was taken by Marjorie Kirchoff.

AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

The purpose of this Society shall be:

TO stimulate and promote interest in *Begonias* and other shade-loving plants;

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

TO standardize the nomenclature of *Begonias*;

TO gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of *Begonias* and companion plants;

TO issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the Society; and

TO bring into friendly contact all who love and grow *Begonias*.

HOW I GROW BEGONIA HERBACEA

By Dorothy Porter

The begonia pictured on the cover is about four years old. It was planted in a 14 inch glass bowl three years ago. I first put a shallow layer of bone charcoal in the bottom of the bowl, then a three inch layer of cut up brown moss that had been moistened with distilled water. I placed the plant in the center of the moss after having dug a shallow hole, and pushed the moss up around the roots so that they were covered. Then I put a sheet of glass over the entire opening of the bowl. It is watered about once a month or when

the moss gets dry. I always water with distilled water, using just enough to dampen the moss, never so much that there is an excess in the bottom after the moss has absorbed all it will. Occasionally it needs to have a brown leaf or two removed.

The bowl is on a shelf under two gro-lux fluorescent tube lights which are on 14 hours a day. The tubes are 12 inches from the top of the bowl.

This is a very rewarding begonia that takes very little care.

CALENDAR

January 9, 1974—San Miguel Branch—8:00 p.m. at Porter Hall, 8425 University Ave., La Mesa, Calif. The speaker will be George Kempland, Head of Balboa Park Gardens. His subject will be "Tropical Plants for the San Diego Area."

January 17—Foothill Branch—8 P.M. Installation of Officers by Wilma Blough. Program by Jean Kerlin on the "Do's and Do not's about Terrariums." Visitors always welcome.

Jan. 22, 1974—8:00 P.M.—The Miami Begonia Society will hold the first meeting of 1974 at Simpson Memorial Garden Center, 55 South West 17th Road (just off South Miami Avenue), Miami. The evening will be devoted to a WHITE ELEPHANT SALE. Proceeds will be to defray costs of Annual Show which is to be held April 27th and April 28th, 1974 at Fairchild Gardens. Visitors are welcome. Parking

is free. Refreshments are served.

February 13—Long Island Branch—7:30 P.M.—at Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay, Long Island, New York. Plants and Supplies Sales, The Question Box, Plant Raffles, Slide and Book Libraries precede the meeting which begins at 8:00 P.M. Jack Golding will speak on Begonias under Lights. The Begonia of the Month will be a discussion about the Reiger Begonias by Cleo Kohm. Refreshments will be served.

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BEGONIA HERBACEA VELL.

By Rudolf Ziesenhenné

Begonia herbacea Vell., pictured on this month's cover, was first illustrated in "Florae Fluminensis," Volume 10, Table 53, by the Portuguese-Brazilian botanist, José Mariana de Conceição. The date of publication has been questioned, it being 1825, but Volume 10 lists 1827 and recent studies have placed it as late as 1835. The uncertainty about the date was due to political unrest which brought about the 1831 abdication of Emperor Dom Pedro I who had ascended the throne in 1822 and to whom the book "Florae Fluminensis" had been dedicated.

The text of the so-called 1825 edition ended with Volume 8 incomplete; it was not until 1881 that the text was completed for Volumes 8 through 11.

In the "Archivos de Museu Nacional do Rio de Janeiro," Vol. V (1881), on page 407 we find *Begonia herbacea* listed as the twenty-first species of twenty-two in the book. The text is brief: "21. *Begonia herbacea*. Stemless, leaves inverted-eggshaped - lance - shaped, toothed - slightly uneven margin (Yab. 53, Vol. 10)." This was followed by the observation: "Leaves arising from the roots the width of a palm (3 inches). Flower stem shorter than the leaves, springing from the leaf axils, erect, two. Inflorescence equally divided. Habitat, plains in the open inland."

R. W. Spencer, an American *Begonia* Society member, to whom the ABS is deeply indebted for the numerous packets of begonia seeds he sent to the Clayton M. Kelly

Seed Fund while in Brazil, sent seeds of *B. herbacea* Vell. which was offered in the October 1965 *Begonian*, page 206. Mr. Spencer collected the seed in April 1965 from a plant he had found growing on the vertical face of a large boulder in dense shade at 200 foot elevation near Ubatuba, 20 km. northeast of Caraguatatubens. Spencer observed a large tree with low-hanging branches which were covered with small orchid plants but noticed a different appearance of the growth as his eyes followed the branch into deeper shade where the limb was covered with *B. herbacea* plants.

Begonia herbacea is known to be an epiphytic plant growing on trees and can be grown nicely on pieces of tree fern trunks. However it will grow in regular begonia soil mixes, peat mixes, or moss. When the plant is well grown, it sends out side rhizomes and makes thick clumps. *B. herbacea* makes an unusual and excellent terrarium plant.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Begonian came today and was, as usual, delightful, informative and helpful. I am getting ever more enthusiastic about begonias and I have two questions, in which I suspect I am not alone.

1. Your cover pictures, black and white and especially color, are treasured. I have many books on houseplants and two on begonias — Brilmeyer and Kramer — but have trouble identifying begonias (often even imagining what a given plant should look like).

2. I have never studied botany, and even with some Latin but with no huge Latin dictionary, have trouble with some of the exact descriptions.

For both 1. and 2. above, can you recommend a book or two with many pictures of different begonias, and a simple book on botany suitable for the non-scientific beginner?

Constance H. Holcombe
1653 Anderson Road
McLean, Virginia 22101

Ms. Holcombe:

I sympathize with your difficulties in trying to identify begonias from their descriptions. Some of the named cultivars are so much alike that it is difficult to differentiate even when two well grown plants are side by side. I am only familiar with one pictorial cyclopedia of plants which shows many begonias, that is "Exotica III" by Alfred B. Graf published by Roehrs Company Inc. of E. Rutherford, N.J. This is a fairly expensive book but might be available in your public library. Of course no book can replace the experience of seeing the plants at a begonia show.

There is a book called "Botany for Gardeners" by Harold William Rickett published by MacMillan that I find easy to read. There is also a reasonably complete summary of botany in paperback published by Golden Press in their 'Golden Science Guide' series.

Of course for more serious research on an infrequent basis you can borrow books from the ABS Library, 15329 Eastwood Avenue, Lawndale, 90260. I do not have a list of the books that are available but I am sure that the librarian will supply a list on request.

An additional book in my library that I find useful in reference to horticulture in general is "A Gardener's Book of Plant Names" by A. W. Smith published by Harper & Row. I have also found "How Plants Get Their Names" by L. H. Bailey published by Dover to be instructional and entertaining.

Edgar Bates
Co-editor

Editor's note: The books referred to and others in Ms. Holcombe's library are:

ALL ABOUT BEGONIAS,
Bernice Brilmeyer,
Doubleday (1960)
BEGONIAS — INDOORS
AND OUT, Jack Kramer,
Dutton (1967)
INDOOR PLANTS, A. Guse,
Grammercy (1971)
THE COMPLETE BOOK OF
HOUSEPLANTS,
Charles Marden Fitch,
Hawthorne (1972)
THE WOMAN'S DAY
BOOK OF HOUSE PLANTS,
Jean Hersey,
Simon & Schuster (1965)

WHEN WAS YOUR BRANCH ORGANIZED?

Have you ever wondered when your branch was chartered? Mrs. Peggy McGrath, our Public Relations Director, has compiled the list below showing the year that each of the 43 branches was organized.

Year Organized	Name of Branch
1931	Long Beach Parent Chapter
1937	Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch
1938	Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch
1939	East Bay Branch
1940	Glendale Branch
1940	North Long Beach Branch
1940	San Gabriel Valley Branch
1940	Santa Barbara Branch
1941	Orange County Branch
1941	Riverside Branch
1941	San Diego Branch
1943	Alfred D. Robinson Branch
1944	Whittier Branch
1946	Foothill Branch
1946	Miami Branch

1946	San Francisco Branch
1947	Missouri Branch
1948	El Monte Community Branch
1948	Sacramento Branch
1948	Seattle Branch
1949	Redondo Area Branch
1950	Elsa Fort Branch
1950	Texas State Branch
1950	Western Pennsylvania Branch
1951	Dallas County, Texas Branch
1952	Houston, Texas Branch
1952	William Penn Branch
1953	Louisiana Capitol Branch
1955	San Miguel Branch
1956	Tarrant County Branch
1958	Rhode Island Branch
1959	Knickerbocker Branch
1959	Westchester Branch
1962	Texastar Branch
1964	Eastside Branch (Seattle)
1965	Greater Baton Rouge Branch
1966	Connecticut Branch
1967	South Seattle Branch
1968	Mesquite Branch
1968	Portland Branch
1968	South Carolina Branch
1972	Rubidoux Branch
1973	Garden Grove Branch

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Elijah Weaver passed away November 6th, 1973. He and just a hand full of people organized the first Begonia Branch in the great state of Texas. The name of the branch was named the Texas State Branch of the A.B.S.

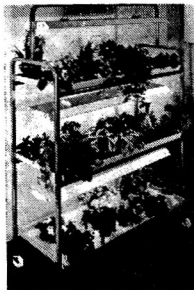
Mr. Weaver was president of the branch for the first five years, which began in 1950.

He also helped organize the Texastar Branch in Houston, Texas and also the Louisiana Capital Branch, the first and only branch in Louisiana.

We will all miss his gentle face and patient smile.

IN MEMORIAM

Mabel Herman passed away on October 13, 1973. She was a member of the ABS for 15 years, belonging to the San Miguel and the Alfred D. Robinson Branches.



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GROWING AND EXHIBITING BEGONIA HERBACEA

By Ruth Pease

Quoting from "So Say the Experts," "*B. herbacea* looks the least like a begonia than any other we can think of. Its foliage stands on its hardly noticeable rhizome and looks like a narrow tree leaf stuck into an arrangement 'frog'. The white flowers appear down low in the foliage."

The above was written in 1966. Since then we have lost our plant but recall seeing salt-like crystals on the backs of the leaves similar to those seen on the backs of the leaves of *B. faureana*. Occasionally a begonia with an unusual growth habit is entered into competition in shade plants shows and comments are heard when the entry receives a first-place ribbon or a division award. This is such a begonia.

B. herbacea has been classified for show purposes as a rhizomatous plant with distinctive foliage and as an exotic type. Perhaps it would have been better to stop with distinctive foliage since exotic types include begonias such as *B. versicolor* and *B. rajah*! *B. herbacea* is distinctive with its many leaf blades resembling that of the hart's tongue fern. Some grow this begonia in an enclosed container on moss. It should fill the container to be a show specimen.

This begonia is epiphytic and can be grown on fern tree slabs, in a container hewn from the trunk of a tree fern, in clay or plastic containers (under ideal conditions in a greenhouse), or in an enclosed container. The plant does not seem to be a bog-type plant, yet it is happy in a glass bowl or plexiglass-domed container.

Other begonias with similar leaf structure include *B. rhizocarpa* which is pictured in "Exotica" and *B. fulvo setulosa* seen exhibited this year at the San Gabriel Valley Begonia Branch Show.

For some, *B. herbacea* goes dormant during the winter months while others who grow their plant in a glasshouse have plants in full foliage most of the year. This begonia is usually in bloom around April. In those areas where shows are held in April, judges would judge not only the foliage but the blooms; whereas in areas where shade plant shows are held later in the season, judges would judge *B. herbacea* for its foliage alone.

Since this begonia may be grown in different types of containers, it may be found in one of several divisions in the show. Judges must then judge the entry according to the point scoring schedule appropriate to that division. Grown as a potted plant without benefit of a contained atmosphere, the scoring would be: Cultural Perfection 35 points, Foliage 30, Quantity of Flowers 10, Quality of Flowers 10, Difficulty of Cultivation 10 and Correct and Suitable Labeling 5.

If entered in the division for begonias grown in a contained atmosphere the judges would have to consider the scoring system as Cultural Perfection 30 points, Foliage 20, Quantity of Flowers 10, Quality of Flowers 10, Correct and Suitable Labeling 5, and Suitable Container 25.

(Continued on Page 13)

WHAT PRICE ELECTIONS?

By Walter J. Barnett
Treasurer, A.B.S.

I have been asked to inform the members of the American Begonia Society of the cost of the recent voting on the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Begonia Society. Because of the large number of proposed changes, the ballot could not be printed on a single card that could be inserted in the Begonian. It became necessary to print everything required to be sent to the members, including envelopes for mailing and envelopes for the votes to be returned. The cost of all this was:

3,000 postage paid envelopes	\$265.20
Printing of all the material mailed to members, plus 3,000 return envelopes	330.08
Additional postage (Air Mail) to foreign members	14.00
Return postage on votes received	51.80
Total cost	<u>\$661.08</u>

Approximately 19% of the members voted, and the cost came to about \$1.15 for each vote that was received. Writing as your Treasurer, it is my personal belief that this money could have been spent for purposes that would have been of far greater benefit to all members. To name just a few areas in need of funds, there are research, and printing of various begonia books and booklets.

I urge members of the American Begonia Society to give serious thought to the possibility of another *final* membership vote this next year: To allow a two thirds vote of the Board of Directors to effect Constitution and Bylaw amendments.

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♣ **Ja-4 — Large white upright x orange upright tuber**

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♣ **Ja-5 — Red Bertini hybrid — selfed**

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♣ **Ja-6 — Tuberhybrida crosses**

This assortment includes about 85% crested picotee, varying colors but much of it will have bright colored spots of pink, red, or an occasional orange. Heads will stand up quite good on most of the plants, flowers are quite large. At least 15 different crosses included.

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♣ **Ja-7 — Mixed tuberous**

These came from England. This also, should add something different and pleasing to your collection.

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Ja-8 — B. micranthus venturii

A favorite tuberous type. Grows to a branching plant twenty-four

inches high; laden with bright orange blossoms for about 5 months. Blooms can get to two inches across.

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For those still afraid to grow tuberous, I offer the following species;

Ja-9 — B. incarnata, Mexico

Frilly, fluffy plant with light green leaves fluted and scalloped on the edge; flesh pink flowers in winter.

per pkt. \$.50

Ja-10 — B. roezlii, Peru

Waxy green leaves, ruffled on edges. Pink flowers, likes sun.

per pkt. \$.50

Ja-11 — B. scabrida A.DC, Venezuela

Leaves roundish ovate, asymmetrical, bright green and rough-hairy, irregularly toothed, pale green beneath; large cymes of small, white pearl-like flowers. Easily grown decorative foliage begonia.

per pkt. \$1.00

Ja-12 — B. valida; resembles B. dichotoma

Rather large plant with brown stems and large leaves which are angular and green. Small, pearly white flowers.

per pkt. \$.50

OTHER SEEDS:

Streptocarpus saxorum

A very pretty, small plant with branches spreading flat on the ground. Makes a beautiful basket plant. Exquisite pale lilac flowers resembling an African Violet is a sight to behold when it is in full bloom. Does well under lath or in patio with good light.

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(Continued on next page)

THREE NEW BEGONIA SECTIONS

By Rudolf Ziesenhenné

In the continuing review of the systematical study of Dr. Arthur D. Houghton's monograph "Begoniaceae of North America" I wish to establish the remaining sub-genera (or sections) of the genus *Begonia* which he had proposed but never published. In establishing the new sections I am using the system of the three continental groups each being treated separately as outlined by Dr. E. Irmscher in "Die Natürliche Pflanzenfamilie" in the 1925 edition.

In studying the anatomy of *Begonia* flowers it is very difficult to learn the true structure of dried material because it is crushed, flattened,

as well as distorted in drying. The seed pod and contents are brittle and fragile, and are often immature so one cannot always reconstruct them correctly in making a drawing. This was true in the first proposed new section I am presenting as *Begonia* section *Urniiformia* which is based on the species, *Begonia Pittieri* C.DC., which was named and described from dried material.

Dr. Houghton also included in this section *Begonia triloba* C.DC. and *B. Heydei* C.DC. These two plants I have not seen nor have I had any material with which to work.

Dr. Lyman B. Smith and Dr. Bernice G. Shubert contend, in their article "Begoniaceae," that *B. Heydei* C.DC. in the species name and that *B. Pittieri* C.DC. and *B. triloba* C.DC. are the same plant. This article is published in *Flora of Guatemala* by Paul C. Standley and Louis O. Williams which is incorporated in the collection *Fieldiana: Botany*, Vol. 24, Part VII, Number 1; published by the Chicago Natural History Museum, November 13, 1961.

The species *B. Pittieri* C.DC. I originally obtained around 1949 from a botanical collector operating in Costa Rica, and I made a drawing at the time. I also am much indebted to Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman who gave me seed in 1968 which she obtained from Costa Rica under the designation "W. F. #12" which proved to be *B. Pittieri* C.DC. I have grown this plant and find it similar in stem

• *Blechnum brasiliense*

This species is one of the most attractive of the low-growing tree ferns. Its slender trunk rarely exceeds 3 feet in height but produces a great abundance of graceful fronds, 2 to 5 feet in length. Can be grown in the ground where weather permits, and great as a container plant.

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• *Platynerium grande*

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growth to *B. incarnata* L. & O., although Casimir De Candolle said it was rhizomatous. A photograph of the type specimen shows that the base of the stem actually was horizontal with roots its entire length, but the subsequent growth was erect, for this plant is epiphytic.

The female flowers are quite strange because of the horn-like appendages appearing on the seed pod in the place where wings are usually found. I have been unable to develop mature seed pods but in the mature flowers the horns are hollow. In dissecting the mature flowers in cross section I have only been able to find the capsule walls attached at one point for the entire pod, opposite one of the horns, which leaves me with an unanswered question: Is the fruit really only one-celled? My plants are again flowering and I shall continue to study them. *B. Pittieri* C.D.C. is unusual in another respect. In the fall the leaf area near the margin exhibits a reddish color which is rather eye-catching. I have another unidentified species from Costa Rica which is quite similar to *B. manicata* Brongn. ex Cels. which also develops an autumn effect by the leaves becoming covered with a reddish color over the entire leaf.

By studying living plant material I have found it necessary to rewrite the qualifications for this section.

Begonia section *Urniformia* Zies-
enhenne, new section. Perennial
half-shrubs with palmately-nerved
leaves. Male flower tepals 4, fila-
ments in a cylindrical column, above
free; anthers elliptical, connective
not protracted. Female flowers tepals

3, unequal, styles 3 united at base,
two-divided falling off, stigma pa-
pillae makes one turn around the
arm. Capsule elongated above urn-
shaped, three-long-horned. Ovary
3-celled, the placenta entire. Few
flowered.

Begonia section *Urniformia* Zies-
enh. stands closest to the *Begonia*
section *Trachelocarpus* Kl. which
differs in having two tepals in the
male flowers, an ovary with very
long, thin beak or neck, and three,
small, toothed wings.

Latin Diagnosis

Begonia section *Urniformia* Zies-
enh. sect. nov., tepals masculinis 4,
filamentis in columna cylindric
connatis, superne liberis, antheris ellip-
ticus, connectivo non protracto.
Tepalis femineis 3, subaequalibus,
stylis 3, basi connatis, bifidis, caducis,
stigmatibus continuis in speris 1 ut-
rumque ramo. Capsula urniformi
prolongato superne, 3 cornu longo.
Ovario 3-loculari, placentis integris.
Floribus paucis. Species una. *Begonia*
Pittieri C.D.C., Costa Rica.

Casimir De Candolle published
his "*Begoniaceae Novae*" in Bulletin
De L'Herbier Boissier 2nd series,
volume VIII, number 5, 1908. On
page 320 he described *Begonia*
Bakeri C.D.C. and stated that this
species did not fit any known *Begonia*
section in the Americas. No
doubt in time he planned to publish
a new section but death overtook
him. To rectify this I propose the
new *Begonia* section *Auriformia*.

Begonia section *Auriformia* Zies-
enhenne, new section. Male flower
tepals 2, filaments free, anthers ob-
long. Female flower tepals 2, styles
3, base connected, tip two ear-lobed

with the stigmatic papillae along the edge. Capsule 3-winged. Ovary elliptical, 3-celled, placenta entire. One species. *Begonia Bakeri* C.DC. Nicaragua. Plants in this section are half shrubs with palmately-nerved leaves and few-flowered inflorescences.

The entire placenta, the two sepals in each flower and the ear-shaped stigmas differentiate the section *Auriformia* from other *Begonia* sections in America. In the Asiatic sections the section *Haagea* Kl. only differs in having deciduous styles.

Latin Diagnosis

Begonia section *Auriformia* Ziesenh. sect. nov., tepalis masculinis 2, filamentis liberis, antheris oblongis. Tepalis femineis 2, stylis 3, basi connatis, apice bilobis auricultatis margine papilliferis. Ovario elliptico 3-alato placentis integris. Species una. *Begonia Bakeri* C.DC. Nicaragua.

* * *

The late Dr. Arthur D. Houghton's proposed new *Begonia* section *Hexaptera* is so called because the seed pod bears six wings.

Begonia section *Hexaptera* Ziesenne new section. Male flower tepals 4, anthers inverted eggshaped as long as the filaments. Female tepals 3, unequal, styles 3, the base shortly grown out above two-divided; capsule 6-winged; ovary 3-celled; placenta 2-divided carrying seed on all sides. One species. *Begonia serrulatoala* C.DC.

Plants in this section are erect-growing herbs with nodose stems, palmately-nerved leaves, and persistent stipules.

Hexaptera differs from other American sections in having six

wings on the seed pod. *Begonia* section *Saxalaria* A.DC. is a close African section having 5 tepals in the female flower.

Latin Diagnosis

Begonia section *Hexaptera* Ziesenh. sect. nov., tepalis masculinis 4, antheris obovatis quam filamenta sat brevioribus. Tepalis femineis 3, subaequalibus, stylis 3 basi breviter connatis superne bifidi eorum lacinae speraliter papilliterae. Capsula 6-alatum. Ovarium 3-loculare, placentae in loculo 2 utrinque ovuliferae. Species una. *Begonia serrulatoala* C.DC.

EXHIBITING B. HERBACEA

(Continued from Page 8)

The scoring schedule for begonias grown in a unique container such as featherrock would be: Cultural Perfection 30 points, Foliage 15, Quantity of Flowers 10, Quality of Flowers 10, Difficulty of Cultivation 10, Correct and Suitable Labeling 5 and Unique Container 20.

The points for quantity of flowers and quality of flowers would be distributed to the other categories in cases where the plants are exhibited at shows at a time when these plants are not normally in bloom or, the judges may give the entry the points for these two categories rather than penalize the plant for not being in bloom. The point scoring book can be used as a guide just as we use the classification guide.

So it can be seen that *B. herbacea* is a challenge to the judges in more ways than one. It is an unusual begonia.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Happy New Year, Y'all!! Why not resolve to join a robin or two just to find out how much pleasure it is to receive a big packet of letters full of good ideas for growing and enjoying your begonias? Drop me a note, telling how you grow your plants (greenhouse, windowsill, under lights), what kinds you prefer (Rex, rhizomatous, canes, other shade plants, etc.) and how many robins you would like to start with. Experienced or not, there is a place for you. It makes your membership in the American Begonia Society mean so much more to you when you get acquainted with all the wonderful, friendly members around the world. Each time the Robin returns to you, write a letter, remove your old one and send the flight on to the next one on the list — it is as simple as that — and well worth it for most.

Arline Peck, Rhode Island, plants her seeds in jars sitting upright and has no trouble removing the small plants when transplanting. She uses a jar with a good opening such as baby food, vaseline, peanut butter jars.

Dan Haseltine of Illinois plants seeds on top of Redi-Earth, using a clear plastic shoe box about 8" from light tubes. To get an even distribution of seed, he taped a piece of paper over the box, poking holes through paper with a needle. He then put seeds on top of paper, using a small artists paint brush to push seeds through each hole. He removed paper, mist-sprayed the top to set the seeds, using distilled water to keep mix sterile.

Gil Long of New York said he cheats in one way when he grows from seeds. He keeps the strongest seedling and the runt. He has two *B. venosa* from seed. One is over two feet tall and wide. The other is about 14" tall with two beautiful stalks and a much better plant, grown under the same conditions.

Yvonne Wells, Texas, has a blooming plant of *B. cathayana* x *B. deliciosa* from Seed Fund seed and it has a lovely sweet smell similar to honeysuckle. Such a lovely hybrid, its fragrance is a bonus.

Arline said at the Eastern Convention they pulled a new one on propagation from leaves, called "confetti." They took a leaf and rolled it around in their hands, picking it all apart. Then, on rooting medium just damp, they scattered the broken leaf that was in tiny pieces over the medium, put the cover on and set in fairly good light. They said one would be surprised how many plants one would get.

Debi Miller of California said some people at a Bonsai Show told her that they gather wild mosses, let them dry out, grind them up and then scatter this on the soil of their plantings. After some time and some watering, the moss grows and forms a soft green carpet on their plantings. Great idea for terrarium landscapes!!

Betty Stuart, California, shared some notes from the lecture at the National Convention by Mark Golding on bottle gardening. Planted bottles are very fragile and the slightest blow can shatter them; the soil keeps the lower part of the bottle at

a lower temperature than the upper half. He plants in dry soil because it is easier to manage, then waters around the edge and just a little on each plant. To clean the inside of bottles, he takes a little square of steel wool and rubs down the sides carefully, then wipes dry with paper towels.

Casey Marchlewicz, Illinois, has worked out something with her ferns in her tanks to keep them a little smaller. She made a cardboard cover that she puts over the side of the ferns (which are usually planted in the background). She keeps ferns under lights only about six hours each day then covers them for the remaining eight hours of light the rest of the tank receives.

Iris Cohen of New York has a five gallon tank with an 8W. aquarium fixture. This works fine with two thicknesses of glass under the light to reduce the heat on her plants. She feels we need a "Plant Buyers Anonymous" for all the growers who come home from a plant sale loaded to the tailgates — with plants!!

Vernia Routh, Missouri, says people complain of angel wings dropping leaves. She seldom has one do so. She thinks if they are changed around they are more apt to do it. Her plants grow so rank but she feels it is because begonias are homebodies.

Lena Bussard of Kansas has been using nicotine with her plant food on some of her plants — one inch of cigarette, 1 cup water and a drop of plant food. They have really perked up.

Rosetta White of Kansas has

found a way to give her Rex begonias the humidity they love. Her husband built a bench with frame over it on which she put a plastic covering, fastened down on all sides but the front. She puts masking tape on the sides and bottom edge of the front plastic, which is loose so it may be raised to care for plants, punching holes all around every ten inches apart, then putting an eyelet such as is used for belts. On the bench she puts little brad nails where these eyelets will fit over them in order to fasten the front flap down close to the bench to keep in the humidity. She covers bench with plastic, then puts an inch or two of peat moss, wetting this down real good, placing her rexes on this. This idea can be used in house or greenhouse. Some people use Flex-o-Glass instead of the plastic for covering as it does not discolor like the plastic will in time.

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BEGONIA HERBACEA ET AL.

Reprinted from the January 1969 *Begonian* with Modifications

By Carrie Karegeannes, Annandale, Virginia

Member of the ABS Research Committee

Begonia leaves copy all the other plants, we often hear. There are "palm trees" and "ivy leaves," and *B. philodendroides* reminds us of a split-leaf philodendron. Both the tiny-leaved *B. foliosa* and the deeply and finely cut *B. incisa* have been compared to ferns.

One of the most unusual is *B. herbacea* Vellozo, a rhizomatous Brazil species whose almost equal-sided, narrow, lance-shaped leaves, tapering into "winged" petioles (leaf stems), have been compared to leaves of the hart's tongue fern and even to an orchid's. More orchid-like is *B. herbacea's* epiphytic habit; in its native Brazil it grows on tree trunks, without any vine or root extending to the ground. Since it is not a parasite, it grows well even on dead trees and in cultivation is said to grow best mounted on a slab of giant tree fern fiber. Four or five other very closely related and very similar species from Brazil also have been identified.

The white flowers of *B. herbacea* (and the flowers of the other species in the Section *Trachelocarpus* of the genus *Begonia*) are not showy like those of orchids, but they are unusual. The two-petaled male (pollen-bearing) flowers look much like those of many rhizomatous begonias and are borne on clusters of four or five to six or seven all-male blossoms on a peduncle (flower stalk) shorter than the leaves. However, the female (seed-bearing) flower — three-petaled or, rarely, four-petaled — is soli-

tary, with an unusual ovary or seed capsule. The ovary is connected to the rhizome by only a rudimentary pedicel, so that it almost rests on the rhizome itself, and it is separated from the rest of the flower by a long neck. Females are thus down in the foliage below the males, where pollen can drop on them, although the late *Begonia* authority Dr. E. Irmscher of Germany commented that male and female flowers rarely occurred on the same plant at the same time.

EASY TO GROW

Moyses Kuhlman of the staff of the Sao Paulo (Brazil) Botanical Gardens described *B. herbacea* in *Flores do Brazil* and a translation was printed in the September 1959 *Begonian*, with photographs. He reported that it was easy to grow and that on a support of hard tree fern fiber or in a pot containing pieces of fiber, kept moist, minimum care would produce many rhizome divisions, from which would emerge "almost year around, healthy, light green leaves with silver spots." The curator of the Glasgow Botanical Gardens, in the August 1966 *Begonian*, agreed that it grew best on tree fern, others have found it easy to grow — some in sphagnum moss.

Male flowers bloom in succession for several months, Kuhlman said, with pink or white heart-shaped buds opening to show golden anthers. Silvery spots become more evident and flowers almost snow white on plants

grown in the shade. In sunlight, spots are not so clear and the leaf, flower margins, and back of leaf are tinted red or pink.

Since the rhizome branches profusely, sections can be taken readily for new plants. Some A.B.S. members have grown plantlets from leaf cuttings, but it took months: leaves rooted readily but took three to six months to show plantlets. Season or age of leaf may have been factors.

OTHER SPECIES

Kuhlman had found "two of this species" in the state of Sao Paulo—*B. herbacea* Vellozo, which he showed in photographs (spotted, elliptical leaves with winged petioles), and *B. attenuata* A. de Candolle, which grew on tree trunks in a higher region.

J. D. Hooker, writing in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* in 1873, felt it probable that species described by Alphonse de Candolle in *Prodromus*—*B. rhizocarpa* Fischer, and *B. attenuata* A. de Candolle—were varieties of *B. herbacea*, with *B. rhizocarpa* differing in its white-spotted leaves with fewer nerves (veins) and shorter male peduncles, and *B. attenuata* differing in the fewer nerves, two-flowered short male clusters and long petioles. In 1953 Dr. Irmscher, after examining early herbarium specimens and descriptions, said A. de Candolle's three species were indeed similar but yet different enough to be kept as separate species. He noted examples of *B. attenuata* with many-flowered cymes as well as two-flowered and that the length of petioles in both *B. attenuata* and *B. herbacea* varied greatly. He separated them instead by leaf shape and *B. herbacea's* winged petiole. In

fact, Dr. Irmscher listed five similar, epiphytic species in Section *Trachelocarpus*, as well as two varieties of *B. herbacea*. Some of these may be in cultivation today under the name of *B. herbacea*. Detailed descriptions of the differences in these species accompany this article.

A key to these species prepared by Dr. Lyman B. Smith of the Smithsonian Institution is in essential agreement on them, except that it also includes *B. velloziana* Walpers (not *B. vellozoana* Brade). Two newer species—*B. angraensis* Brade and *B. fulvo-setulosa* Brade— that were not known to Hooker and de Candolle were included by Dr. Irmscher and Dr. Smith. They are distinguished from *B. herbacea* by toothed and ciliate female flower tepals, and *B. fulvo-setulosa* is hairy.

Hooker said *B. attenuata* had long been cultivated at Kew in England which had received it from the Berlin Botanical Gardens. One also had been sent to him from Manchester Botanic Gardens for determination. *B. attenuata* bloomed freely in March. *B. herbacea* leaves he described as oblanceolate, shiny pale green, with seven to eight oblique nerves on each side. The cluster of male flowers was composed of four to six two-petaled white flowers one-half to three-fourths inch across. Three-petaled female flowers were down in the leaf axils, with the three-winged ovary contracting into a one-third-inch-long beak. The drawing accompanying a brief description by Bessie Buxton in the January 1944 *Begonian* was based on Hooker's plate in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*. It shows no spots.

H. B. Edmunds of Essex, England, in the August 1956 *Begonian* also described *B. herbacea* as having six-inch, light green leaves when he saw it in the Municipal Greenhouses in Paris. In the June 1960 *Begonian* he mentioned that he first saw it in Zurich, five or six years before, when he obtained a plant, and also had seen it in Hamburg. He found it one of the easiest to grow in his greenhouse which had a minimum air temperature of 45°, although bench heating was slightly higher. He kept it on the dry side in winter, like his other begonias, and had given away many pieces of rhizome. It bloomed in April.

Charles Chevalier in *Les Begonias* (1938) also said *B. attenuata*, grown at Zurich Botanical Garden, was closely related to, if not identical to, *B. herbacea* as described in the *Botanical Magazine*. He did not mention spots on its green leaves and he did not list *B. rhizocarpa* in his book. A. B. Graf's *Exotica 3* (1963) describes *B. herbacea* as "fresh green." Graf does not include *B. attenuata*, but gives *B. rhizocarpa* as a rare, low-growing species from Brazil with short, thick, creeping rhizome and almost symmetrical, narrow-ovate, pointed, sawtoothed, often white-spotted leaves. He says *B. herbacea* has no petioles, the leaves arising directly from the rhizome (which would refer to the "winged" petiole of other descriptions), but that *B. rhizocarpa* has two to two-and-a-half-inch petioles. Female flowers of both have ovaries sitting on the rhizome, with long tubes to the flowers, and male flowers are in bunches, with two large, fringed, green bracts.

Photographs shown of the two are very similar.

A.B.S. GROWERS' EXPERIENCES

A.B.S. members are growing both plain green and spotted-leaf *Begonias*, with and without the winged petiole, under the name *B. herbacea*. They report that the spotted leaves keep the spots whether grown in shade or sunlight and all-green leaves remain unspotted. I believe that examination of the leaf forms in comparison to the descriptions will show that we are growing both *B. attenuata* and *B. herbacea*, and possibly *B. rhizocarpa*, all under the name of *B. herbacea* in many instances.

Dora Lee Dorsey of Tampa, Florida, reported her spotted plant bloomed all winter, but the plain green one did not bloom until April. Elaine Wilkerson of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who is no longer among us, in 1968 had two terrariums of "both green and silver-spotted *B. herbacea*," growing full and loaded with blooms in April. Rosetta White of Newton, Kansas, was growing a plain green plant, which bloomed from April through June. My plants, like some others I have seen as well, have leaves plain green, unspotted, elliptic and narrow, with short, narrow, distinct, and (most important) unwinged petioles—a perfect match for the type specimen of *B. attenuata*. A November 1959 *Begonian* photograph of a branch trophy winner for a new species—imported from Brazil by Sylvia Leatherman and grown by John Thieben—shows an unspotted leaf; the petioles are not visible, but leaves appear to be long-

elliptic with tapered base. Photographs with Kuhlman's article show spots, as noted.

Some A.B.S. growers have found *B. herbacea* goes dormant while others report they have no dormancy. Dora Lee in Florida said hers did not go dormant, but Arline Peck in Rhode Island reported complete dormancy. She almost discarded her plant once, thinking it dead. In Louisiana, Elaine's rested a short time in fall or winter; they were in active growth in December at the time of reporting. She recommended good air circulation for seedlings, which would accord with the preference for a porous medium and with the epiphytic habit. Ruth Pease in California said *B. herbacea* did not like to be too wet and that it came out of dormancy better in a warm, protected place.

Francis Michelson of Miami, Florida grew plants from a ripe *B. herbacea* seed pod and, on first trans-

planting, set them individually on three-inch squares of hard tree fern in a large-mouth, one-gallon glass jar. They grew well. When seedlings were established slabs were put into three inch pots outdoors. My seedlings have done well for some months in phagnum moss under Gro-Lux tubes.

Leaf cuttings took months to produce plantlets for Rosetta, Bob Dalgard of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a member in Texas. These cuttings were all taken the same season by Rosetta, who sent them to the others. Leaves were cut in the fall, without any rhizome attached; they rooted readily for all, but did not show plantlets till spring. Bob's were rooted in vermiculite in September and then moved to potting soil, kept under fluorescent lights. Plantlets were appearing in March. In the spring, Rosetta put more leaves to root, in vermiculite had one plantlet by July 1.

BEGONIA SECTION TRACHELOCARPUS

By Carrie Karegeannes, *Annandale, Virginia*
Member of the ABS Research Committee

All epiphytic, perennial species with creeping or oblique rhizomes on which sit slanting, almost knife-shaped or petioled leaves. Inflorescence is unisexual, with two-tepaled (petaled) male flowers in stemmed cymes and three-tepaled (rarely four-tepaled) female flowers almost sitting in the bracts, singly, on the rhizomes. Three-winged ovary and capsule run into a beaklike elongation, or neck, bearing the tepals and pistil. Habitat, Brazil.

B. herbacea Vell. Leaf bare (glabrous) with acute-angled, narrow-

ing (wedged-shaped) base, wider toward the top but tapering at both ends (obovate-lanceolate), with the blade running down along the petiole; thus the petiole winged, toothed, pinnate, the blade running down along the petiole; thus the petiole winged, toothed, pinnate, the blade passing gradually into it rather than distinct. Margin finely toothed. Seven to eleven side veins. Flower tepals bare; male cymes several-flowered and half as long as the leaves.

B. herbacea variety *typica* Irmsch. Obovate-lanceolate blade (the typical form).

B. herbacea variety *ellipticifolia* Irmsch. Oblong-elliptic blade. (Dr. Irmscher proposed this combination of *B. attenuata*'s oblong-elliptic leaf shape with *B. herbacea*'s winged petiole as a new form and named it a new variety. Noting that male and female flowers usually occurred at different times on one plant, encouraging cross-fertilization, he thought this variety might possibly be a natural hybrid between *B. attenuata* and *B. herbacea*.)

B. attenuata (Kl.) A.DC. Smaller leaf, bare, with base of blade acute-angled and narrowing (wedgeshaped), the blade widest in the middle, with both ends tapering in nearly the same way (oblong-elliptic). The blade distinct from the narrow petiole, which is not winged, ciliate, or toothed. The petiole varying in length. Blade finely toothed, with five side veins. Flower tepals bare; male clusters two-flowered or several-flowered and cymes about half as long as the leaves.

B. rhizocarpa Fisch. ex A.DC. Best known of this section in 1843, when it was already in cultivation in Europe. Leaf bare with base of blade mostly blunt, or rounded, distinct from narrow petiole, with margin finely toothed. White spots on the upper surface. Male inflorescence shorter than the leaves. (Synonym, *B. depauperata* Schott.)

B. velloziana Walp. (syn. *B. repens* Vell. not Lam.; not *B. vellozoana* Brade, which is now *B. olsoniae*

S&S). Base of leaf tapered, but the blade distinct from the narrow petiole. Leaves entire, spotted.

B. angraensis Brade. Described in 1943. Leaf similar to *B. herbacea*'s but very stretched and narrow; bare, with an almost entire margin. Female flower tepals toothed and ciliate — the chief distinguishing trait.

B. fulvo-setulosa Brade. Described in 1943. Leaf of the *B. herbacea* type, but wide and short with hair on both sides (densely pubescent) and margin thickly ciliate and toothed. Female tepals toothed and ciliate.

Descriptions were developed from: Irmscher, E. "Systematische Studien über Begoniaceen des Tropischen Sudamerikas, Besonders Brasilien," *Botanische Jahrbucher*, 76 (1953), pp. 30-38, trans. from the German by Rudolf Ziesenhene.

* * *

Smith, Lyman B., Senior Botanist, Smithsonian Institution. Excerpt from manuscript key to Brazilian species of *Begonia*.

* * *

Type specimen photos of *B. attenuata* and *B. rhizocarpa* from Chicago Field Museum of Natural History Negs. No. 20846 and 20844. Vellozo's Plate 53 of *B. herbacea*, *Florae Fluminensis*, 1831.

* * *

Brade, A. C. *Arquivos do Serviço Florestal*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (1943), pp. 22-23 and Plates II, III.

* * *

De Candolle, Alphonse. *Prodrômus*, XV, Pt. 1 (1864), 388-389.

REGISTRATION OF BEGONIA CULTIVARS

Note: The American Begonia Society is the International Registration Authority for the genus *Begonia*. Information may be obtained from Rudolf Ziesenhenné, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103.

No. 355 — Begonia (B. 'Kentwood' X B. 'Laura Engelbert') 'Ken Lau Ren'

This intermediate cane was developed in 1968 by Irene Nuss, 8329 Regis Way, Los Angeles, Ca. 90045. It first bloomed in 1970 with deep coral-red flowers in a pendulous cluster on a 3" stem, female blooms sometimes ruffled. The leaves are angel-wing type 10 x 4 in., deep green with silver spots, red back, margin slightly serrated, texture smooth, petioles 2", stipules reddish-green turning brown and falling. Blooms April thru December. Registered August 1, 1973.


No. 356 — Begonia (B. 'Hannah Serr' X B. lubbersi) 'Symphony'

A low cane, which holds its foliage during the winter, was developed by Irene Nuss, address above, in 1969 and first bloomed in the summer of 1972 with blush-white flowers, delicate pink edges, large seed vessel, from leaf axil in pendulous cluster on three-inch stem. Leaves are angel-wing type, 7 x 3 in., margin serrated, texture satiny-smooth, veins green, petioles 2", stipules green, color satiny-green with silver spots and circles, red back. Registered Aug. 1, 1973.

No. 357 — Begonia (B. 'Orange Supreme' selfed) 'Chet Nave'

Developed in 1961 by Irene Nuss, address above, this slow-growing, small cane first bloomed and was first distributed in 1963 through Wally Lane, Pacific Rare Plant Nursery, 2050 Divisadero St., San Francisco, CA 94115. A good greenhouse plant, its brilliant orange blossoms on a 3" stem are very fragrant in the morning from early spring thru summer. The angel-wing 'Shasta' type leaves are 2 x 6 inches, margin smooth, with a slight curl, texture smooth, veins sometimes reddish, petioles 3", color light-green, splashed with silver which fades at maturity. Registered August 6, 1973.

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No. 358 — Begonia (B. 'Lenore Olivier' X unidentified ABS Seed Fund) 'Alta Colleen'

This tall cane was developed in 1971 by Jutaro Orihata, 45 Juniso, Kamakura, 248 Japan. It first bloomed in 1972 and was first distributed in June 1973. The profuse flowers are coral-salmon with lighter center, $\frac{3}{4}$ " , dichotomous, pendulous on $3\frac{1}{2}$ " stems, blooming off and on all year. Leaves are ovate-lanceolate, broad at base and tapering to a slender point, 8 x $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, margin slightly crinkled, finely dentate along edges, texture smooth, glossy, and crisp, 9-veined, raised on underside with reticulate venation and short hairs, petioles light-green with wooly hairs toward leaf blade, stipules brown, remain on plant, color spinach-green on top, rusty-red beneath, fleetingly silver-splotched. Registered Aug. 21, 1973.

No. 359 — Begonia (B. 'Douglas Nisbet' X B. 'Lenore Olivier') 'Van Wyatt'

This tall cane was developed by Jutaro Orihata, address above, in 1971. It first bloomed in 1972 and was distributed in 1973. Leaves are oval-pointed with brawny appearance, $7\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ in., margin crinkled and crisply pointed along edges, texture glossy, herringbone pattern, 8-veined, depressed along veins, petioles light-red with green freckles, stipules brown, drop off; color vivid bright-green, silver splotches, pale red back. Blooms continuously, flesh pink, $1\frac{1}{4}$ " , dichotomous branching on $3\frac{1}{8}$ " stem. Reg. Aug. 21, 1973.



B. 'Alta Colleen': Reg. No. 358

No. 360 — Begonia (B. 'Lucerna' X *coccinea* X B. r.c. 'Curly Silversweet') 'Lou Gilda'

This B. 'Lucerna' X *coccinea* hybrid crossed with a rex cultorum is characterized by limp, soft leaves and large, spicy flowers. An intermediate cane, it was developed in 1971 by Jutaro Orihata, address above, first bloomed in 1972, and was first distributed in 1973, by originator. The leaves are angel-wing shaped, acuminate-tipped, $8\frac{3}{4}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ " , overlapping basal lobes, margin ruffled on the edge, texture smooth, velvety, limp; veins 8-9, slightly depressed; petioles rusty-red with green freckles, stipules brown, long ovate, remain on plant; color spinach-green on top with silver polka dots, rusty red underneath. Flowers most of time, translucent, brilliant flushed-pink, $1\frac{3}{4}$ " , in forked, large airy cluster, illusion of butterflies in flight. Registered Aug. 21, 1973.

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No. 361 — Begonia (B. 'Black Beauty' X B. hidalgensis (syn. dayi)) 'Malde'

This star-leaved rhizomatous plant was developed by Mickey Meyer, Yuppara St., Tathra 2550, N.S. Wales, in 1968, and it first bloomed and was distributed by Mrs. Meyer in 1973. The leaf has nine shallow lobes is up to 9 x 6 inches, margin almost serrated, texture thick and waxy, veins deeply-sunk, black along main ones, color dark-green, red-backed. Flowers spring and summer, deep-pink, in green coverings; large, open and thickly arranged high above plant on 15-20 inch stems. 'Malde' means "strange."* Registered Sept. 10, 1973.

No. 362 — Begonia (B. wallichiana X B. 'Lucille Rolfe') 'Bimpe' ("neck")*

Covered with a soft tan down, this shrubby cane was developed in 1972, first bloomed and was distributed in 1973 by originator Mickey Meyer, address above. Leaves are oblique, up to 7 x 3 inches, margin undulated, texture slight-glossy waxy, veins deeply sunken, color olive-green red-backed. Flowers are white, spring and summer, open, loose, on 5" stems. Registered Sept. 10, 1973.

Please contribute slides of Begonias to the A.B.S. Slide Library.

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No. 363 — Begonia (parents unknown) 'Bibbi' ("tree runner")*

This star-crested rhizomatous begonia with six fingers was originated by Mickey Meyer, address above, in 1972 and first bloomed and distributed in 1973. The leaves are 3 x 2 inches, faintly white-eyelashed and serrated, texture stiff and upright, with deep veins; long white hairs come from red spots on petioles; color is emerald green, faintly mottled with brown, chartreuse over veins, red under. Flowers small, white, blooms spring and summer on 7 to 8 inch stem. Registered Sept. 10, 1973.

No. 364 — Begonia (parents unknown) 'Tinkelin' ("swell")*

Developed in 1972, first bloomed and distributed in 1973 by its originator, Mickey Meyer, address above, this slightly star-shaped rhizomatous plant has bright, almost Irish green leaves, 3½ x 2 inches. The margin is white-eyelashed on a very black edge, red on reverse; texture is stiff; veins are sunken; petioles have rust colored hairs. Flowers spring and summer, pink, red spotted, small on six-inch stem. Registered Sept. 10, 1973.

* Translation of Australian aboriginal name.

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No. 365 — Begonia (B. sceptrum x B. 'Lenore Olivier') 'Nora Hanson'

This tall cane developed in 1959 by Belva N. Kusler, R.R. 2, Siren, Wisconsin 54872, first bloomed in 1960 and was distributed in 1967; the name was first published in *The Begonian* 37:14, Jan. 1970. Leaves are olive-green splashed with silver, below ruby-red; triangular, oblique, base truncate, apex sharp acute, 8x7"; margin cleft, serrulate; texture chartaceous; veins pinnate, evident, main vein oblique to petiole which is terete, glabrous, 2½" long; stipules ovate & narrowly ovate, keeled, caducous. Flowers deep-pink edges and alae, center of tepals white; blooms all year, 1½ x 1 in., on 2" stem, axillary pendulous, compound dichasium. Registered Sept. 12, 1973.

No. 366 — Begonia (B. sceptrum x B. 'Lenore Olivier') 'Esther Albertine'

Developed by Belva N. Kusler, address above, in 1959, this intermediate cane first bloomed in 1960 and was first distributed in 1968; first published in *The Begonian* 36:138 in June 1969. The leaves, glittering, silver-splotched, olive-green, are ovate oblique, base cordate, apex acute; 12 x 6 in.; margin pinnately cleft, undulate, serrulate; texture chartaceous; veins palmate, with main rib pinnate; petioles terete, glabrous, 2½" long; stipules triangular, keeled, marcescent. Blooms all year, white-edged rose-pink, ovary white, alae rose; 2 x 1¾ in.; in compound dichasium, axillary pendulous on 1½" stem. Registered Sept. 12, 1973.



B. 'Esther Albertine': Reg. No. 366
Photo by Jack Golding

No. 367 — Begonia (B. African species x B. olsoniae) 'Jill Adair'

Compact shrub-like with fleshy stems, B. 'Jill Adair' was developed and first bloomed in 1961, and was first distributed in 1965; name published in *The Begonian* 34:108, June 1967; originator Belva N. Kusler, address above. Leaves forest-green above, moss-green below; elliptic oblique, base cordate, apex sharp-acute; $5 \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ in.; margin double dentate; texture coriaceous; veins pinnate, evident, main rib in direction of petiole; petioles terete, $2\frac{1}{2}$ "; stipules triangular, keeled, persistent. Flowers white, with pink ovaries; $1\frac{1}{4} \times 1$ in., axillary, erect, in compound dichasium on 4" stem, all 12 months. Registered Sept. 12, 1973.

No. 368 — Begonia (B. deliciosa x B. kenworthyae) 'Jean Herr'

This upright, star, rhizomatous plant was originated by Belva N. Kusler, address above, in 1961 and first distributed in 1963; name published in *The Begonian* 32:251, Dec. 1965. Leaves are broadly obtrullate oblique, basal lobes overlapping, ivy green with reddish silver splotches above, cardinal red below; 10×8 in.; margin cleft, serrate, ciliate; texture coriaceous, glabrous, glittering; veins palmate, evident; petioles terete, 6-9", aciculate; stipules triangular, caducous. Flowers pink, winter and spring, a rare bloomer. Registered Sept. 12, 1973.

DON'T MAKE PLANS

for

September 12, 13, 14, 1974

See next month's *Begonian*

No. 369 — Begonia (B. 'Lenore Olivier' x B. lubbersii) 'Martha Floro'

A low, compact plant classified as small cane was developed by Belva N. Kusler, address above, in 1967 when it first bloomed, and was distributed in 1969; named in *The Begonian* 37:110 in May 1970. Leaves are lustrous olive-green some with silver spots above, crimson below; narrowly obovate, apex acute-sharp; $7\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ in.; margin weakly undulate, dentate at vein ends; texture thick, glabrous, lustrous; veins pinnate, evident, light green, main rib transverse to petiole which is terete, $1-1\frac{1}{2}$ ", glabrous; stipules narrowly ovate, marcescent. Flowers all year, tepals pink, alae crimson, ovary white; $2 \times 1\frac{3}{4}$ in.; arranged in compound dichasium on stem to $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Registered Sept. 12, 1973.

(Continued on Page 27)



B. 'Martha Floro': Reg. No. 369
Photo by Jack Golding

The Minutes of the A.B.S. Board of Directors Meeting for November, 1973, will appear in next month's issue. (Ed.)

BRANCH DIRECTORY

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

BUXTON BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Raymond C. Cronin, Secy
88 Ledgeways, Wellesley, Mass. 02181

CONNECTICUT BRANCH

4th Sunday of each month
Mrs. Priscella Beck, Secy.
R D No. 1, Box 121,
Mystic, Conn. 06355

DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS, BRANCH

3rd Monday, 10 a.m., Members' Homes
Mrs. George W. Hopkins, Secy.
1619 S. Beckley Ave., Dallas, Texas 75224

EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School
Telegraph at Stuart, Berkeley, Calif.
Miss Carol E. Orpin, Secy.
428 Norvell Street
El Cerrito, Calif. 94530

EASTSIDE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
590 116th Avenue N.E., Bellevue, Washington
Diane McElroy

9010 209th Ave., N.E., Redmond, Wash. 98052

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes
Mrs. Gladys Mättuket, Secy.
1801 Azalea Drive, Alhambra, Calif. 91801

FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
First Methodist Church, Marshall Hall
3205 D Street, La Verne, Calif.
Mrs. Marie Schmidt, Secy.
1296 Prospect
Pomona, Calif. 91766

FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
Miss Lola Price, Secy.
628 Beach Ave., Laurel Springs, N.J. 08044

GARDEN GROVE BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Sunnyside School
9972 Russell Ave. at Brookhurst, Garden Grove, Ca.
Mrs. Millie Hinds, Sec'y.
8752 Dewey Dr., Garden Grove, Ca. 92641

GLENDALE BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Glendale Federal Savings, 401 N. Brand
Mrs. Katharine Alberti, Secy.
3322 Troy Drive, Hollywood, Calif. 90068

GREATER BATON ROUGE BRANCH

Mrs. John H. McKay, Secy.
5116 Baton Rouge Ave., Baton Rouge, La. 70805

HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive
Mrs. B. A. Russell, Secy.
5926 Jackwood, Houston, Texas 77036

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Horticultural Society of N.Y.
128 West 58th St., New York
Miss Margaret Huger, Secy.
505 East 82nd St.
New York, N.Y. 10028

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Sunday, 1:30 p.m.
Great Western Savings and Loan Bldg.
6300 East Spring St., Long Beach, Calif.
Eva Johnson, Sec'y
704 E. San Antonio Dr., #3, Long Beach, Ca. 90807

LONG ISLAND BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Planting Fields Arboretum
Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y.
Annette W. Boree, Sec'y
8 Brown Road, Great Neck, N.Y. 11024

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

1st Friday, Sear's Garden Center
6201 Florida St., Baton Rouge
Mrs. J. S. Gremillion, Sec'y.
1854 Cedardale, Baton Rouge, La. 70708

MESQUITE BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Members homes
Mrs. Mae Blanton, Secy.
118 Wildoak Drive, Lake Dallas, Texas 75065

MIAMI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
55 South West 17th Road, Miami, Florida
Rosamond Meriwether, Secretary
1552 Placentia Ave., Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Friday, 11 a.m., Member's Homes
Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. Glenn Lucas, Secy.
Kansas City, Mo. 64109

MONTEREY BAY AREA BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Lighthouse and Dickman Sts., New Monterey, Calif.
Mrs. Esther Eberle, Secretary
240 Grove Acres, Pacific Grove, Ca. 93950

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Friday, 7:30 P.M., 5535 Stearns, Long Beach,
Glendale Federal Savings and Loan Bldg.
Barbara Welty, Secy.
4741 Hazelbrook
Long Beach, Calif. 90808

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
First Christian Church,
1130 E. Walnut Street, Orange, California
Dorothy Porter, Secy.
19151 Lomita, Orange, Ca. 92667

PORTLAND BRANCH

Mrs. R. D. Morrison, President
5305 S.W. Hamilton St., Portland, Oregon 97221

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday, 7:30 p.m.
R. H. Dana School Cafeterium
135th St. and Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, Calif.
Mrs. Juanita Spunaugle, Secy.
4248 Mentone Ave.
Culver City, Ca. 90230

RHODE ISLAND BRANCH

1st Saturday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Arline G. Peck, Secy.
Eagle Peak Road, Pascoag, RI 02859

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 10:30 A.M. Homes of Members
Mrs. Frances King, Secretary
3327 - 28th St., San Diego 92104

RUBIDOUX BRANCH

4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m., West Riverside Memor'al Hall
4393 Riverview Drive Rubidoux, Ca.
Dorothy Ansevics, Sec./Treas.
4063 Opal St. Riverside, Ca. 92509

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center
3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.
Mrs. Dora Hale, Secy.
9770 Carmencita Ave.
Sacramento, Ca. 95823

SALINE COUNTY BRANCH OF KANSAS

4th Monday, 2:00 p.m., Homes of Members
Mrs. George Smith, Secy.
916 Park St., Salina, Kansas 67401

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center
Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way
Mrs. H. C. Banks, Secy.
1279 35th Ave., San Francisco, Ca. 94122

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Friday, 8:00 p.m.
Los Angeles State and County Arboretum
501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. Alice Broadhag, Secy.
9619 Broadway, Temple City, Ca. 91780

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 8:00 P.M., Porter Hall
University & La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa
Mrs. George Bayso, Sr., Secy.
2347 Langmuir St., San Diego, Calif. 92111

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
2559 Puerta Del Sol
Miss Gladys M. Grant, Secy.
460 Mountain Dr., Santa Barbara, Calif. 93103

SANTA CLARA VALLEY BRANCH

4th Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
Northern Calif. S & L Assn.
10250 South Sunnyvale-Baratoga Rd.
Cupertino, Ca.
Mrs. Elizabeth K. Seyers, Secy.
369 Ridge Vista Ave., San Jose, Ca. 95127

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:00 P.M.
Bethany Lutheran Church, 7400 Woodlawn Ave. N.E.
Mrs. Ray Hodgkinson, Secy.
11257 Evanston Ave., No. Seattle, Wash. 98133

SHEPHERD, THEODOBIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Senior Citizens Bldg., 420 Santa Clara St.,
Ventura, Ca.
Mrs. Hattie Lee Keller, Secy.
510 E. Yucon St.
Oxnard, Calif. 93030

SOUTH SEATTLE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Wm. Moshier Field House
430 South 158th Burlen
Helen Harbord, Sec'y
17859 S.E. 166th Dr., Renton, Wash. 98055

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m., Members' Homes
Mrs. R. M. Bannison, Secy.
Rt. 2, Box 155 Dickinson, Texas 77539

TEXASTAR BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 10 a.m., Garden Center
1500 Herman Dr., Houston, Texas
Mrs. V. O. Harman, Secy.
306 Cody, Houston, Texas 77009

WESTCHESTER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Westchester Women's Club
8020 Alverstone Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.
Ramona Grab, Secy.
441 Hillside Lane, Santa Monica, Ca. 90402

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. every other month
Pittsburg Garden Ct., 1059 Shady Ave., Pittsburg, Pa.
Mrs. Genevieve Allison, Secretary
221 Schaffner Rd., Butler, Pennsylvania

WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Palm Park Community Center
5703 South Palm Avenue, Whittier
Miss Anne Rose, Secy.
14036 Remona Drive, Whittier, Calif. 90605

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Noon Homes of Members
Mrs. Stuart J. Bracken, Secy.
727 Mt. Moro Rd., Villanova, Pa. 19085

REGISTRATIONS

(Continued from Page 25)

No. 370 — Begonia (B. 'Lenore Olivier' x B. hydrocotylifolia) 'Lil O'Neill'

This small cane begonia was originated and first bloomed in 1967, and first distributed by Belva N. Kusler, address above, in 1969; first named in *The Begonian* 37:111 May 1970. The leaves are dark ivy-green above and cardinal-red below; elliptic oblique, base cordate, lobes overlapping, apex round obtuse; $4\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{8}$ in.; margin entire, weakly undulate; texture coriaceous, glabrous, shining; veins palmate, main vein pinnate, transverse to petiole which is terete, to 2', pilose; stipules very broadly ovate, caducous. Flowers white with pink edge, alae pink, ovary white, 1 x 1 in., everblooming; held on 4'' stem, erect, high above leaves in compound dichasium cyme. Registered Sept. 12, 1973.

No. 371 — Begonia (B. lubbersii x B. 'Lenore Olivier') 'Barbara Ann'

Belva N. Kusler, address above, developed this intermediate cane and it first bloomed in 1967; first distributed in 1969 and name published in *The Begonian* 38:41 Feb. 1971. Leaves are satin-sheened olive-green above, oxblood-red below; narrowly obtrullate, peltate and some cordate, $10 \times 3\frac{3}{4}$ in.; margin entire, weakly undulate; texture coriaceous, glabrous; veins pinnate, evident, midrib transverse to petiole which is terete, glabrous, 2''; stipules triangular 1 x $\frac{5}{8}$ in., acute, marcescent. Flowers all year rose-pink, 2 x $1\frac{1}{4}$ in.; axillary pendulous, compound dichasium, 2'' stem. Registered Sept. 12, 1973.

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