

*The*

# Begonian

July/August 2001



# *The* **Begonian**

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Publication of the American Begonia Society

## **American Begonia Society**

**Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman**

### Aims and Purposes

To stimulate and promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants.

To encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants.

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

To gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation, and culture of begonias and companion plants.

To issue a bulletin that will be mailed to all members of the society.

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

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## Cover

**Front:** This lovely flower is on , *Begonia robusta*, in a photo taken by Scott Hoover, *SH #841 and #906*, at 4300' in West Java Province, on the forest floor along the trail to a waterfall at Cibodas Botanical Garden in Mt. Gedes National Park. *B. robusta* is a herb growing to 1.5 meters.

**Back:** An unidentified, as yet, *Begonia* species, *SH #900*, seen on 2/16/00 at 6000' feet in West Java Province in a patch of forest on the north slope of Mt. Puncak in the middle of a tea plantation in the Mt. Patuha Mt. complex. It is a herb growing to .5 m.

## In This Issue

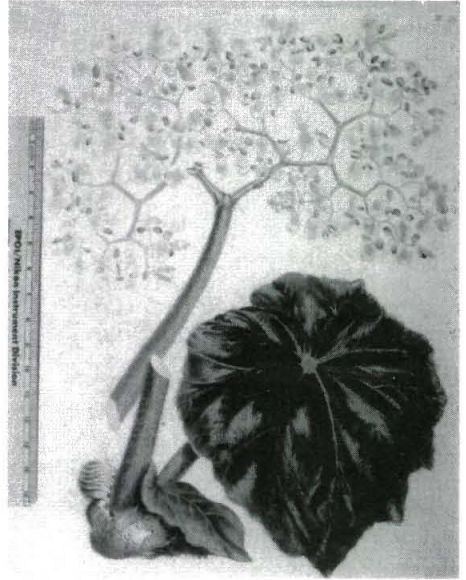
### Articles

2001 Southwest Region Get-Together	128
A Fictional Short Story	130
Java, Indonesia 2000	131
Toward a Philadelphia Branch	135
Another Begonia Project	136
Garden of Love	145
In Memory	138, 151
Winter Board Meeting	146
More SWR Begonias	153
Terrariums in the Office	154

<b>Directory of Begonia Societies</b>	139
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### Regular Features

President's Message	124
Letters to the Editor	124
Lost & Found	127
Pronunciation Guide	142
Board Minutes	143
Identify this Species	144
Seed Fund	148
Coming Events	158
Officers Page	159



*Begonia barkeri* Knowles & Wescott,  
*Floral Cabinet*,3: 179-180, pl. 135, 1840.

See Jack Golding's *Nomenclature  
Note* on page 157.

## Quick

Check your mailing label.  
If it reads  
**200109 or 200110** , your  
membership is about to  
expire. **Please renew!** We  
don't want to lose you.

## *President's Message...*

This will be my final President's Message. It has been a pleasure to serve the members of the American Begonia Society as your President. The cooperation I received from ABS members and the Board made my two terms in office memorable. The creation of the ABS Grant Review Committee; changes to the ABS Constitution and By-Laws; the American Begonia Society's involvement with seed collection in Indonesia; new Begonia Species; fun, informative Board meetings, great ABS Conventions, Annual Meetings, and Southwest Region Get-Togethers; and meeting ABS members from all over the U.S. and the world are just some of the highlights I will remember. I hope that I served you well. I know ABS members will give the same support to the newly elected officers.

The 2001 Annual Meeting and Installation of ABS Officers will be held September 7-9, 2001 in Orange County, California. The Orange County Branch will be the hosts and the meeting is in conjunction with the annual Fiesta held at the home of ABS member Mary Sakamoto. This is an event not to be missed; great food, great fellowship, great plants (remember to bring that extra suitcase or packing container) and the ABS Annual Meeting and Installation. What more could an ABS member ask for in a fun packed weekend. Another highlight will be a trip to Huntington Garden. Look for details in this issue of the *Begonian*.

All Branches are requested to keep Editor Freda Holley and ABS Membership Secretary Arlene Ingles updated on Branch National Directors and meeting places. This is extremely important when ABS correspondence needs to be directed to the branches and having correct meeting place information is important to pro-

spective branch members. Remember many people join ABS as a result of a show or plant sale and subsequently visit a branch. Also the ABS Membership Secretary requests that branches send their branch directory to her annually.

I hope everyone is having a good growing season. The show at the 2001 Southwest Region Get-Together in Plano, Texas was beautiful. I came home with 50 new babies as a result of the plant sales, the generosity of the Ft. Worth Botanical Gardens and a visit to North Haven Gardens. Branch Plant sales, ABS Conventions and Region Get-Togethers are a great way to acquire that new exciting hybrid, species or old time favorite. Although from a wholesale nursery friend of mine that specializes in rex, rhizomatous, and cane-like begonias, begonias are being requested at a fast and furious pace. So interest in begonias is out there, let's get the word out about the American Begonia Society.

Again, thank you for allowing me to be your President.

**Good Begonia Growing,**  
*Charles Jaros, President*

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## *Letters to the Editor*

### **A Correction**

Nice to see my 'Write to Ross' article in the *Begonian* last month. A small error which will cause problems for anyone trying to Email me is that my address in incorrect. I have been on Email from the early days when you were restricted to the number of letters you could use for your name, so I was only allowed seven. This means my family name was truncated. The correct address is: rbolwel@attglobal.net

Also in the first column on page 115, bottom line should read ... "can bleach out." Instead of "can beach out." Perhaps this is where the extra 'l' came from. Seems like an 'l' of a problem!

The magazine is tops and helps maintain my interest!

**Ross Bolwell**  
Australia  
rbolwel@attglobal.net

*Thanks for the corrections Ross. The Australian begonia journals and newsletters are great resources that I really enjoy and we're lucky to be able to bring articles from them to our readers.*

### **A Long Time Begoniac**

I confess I am a begoniac. Lord knows I've tried to quit...for 30 years now. I've given up, I'm licked. I don't know what happens to me when I see a begonia; I've got to have it. Rarely have I ever seen a begonia that was unattractive to me. I always find something of beauty in all of them. I started growing begonias when I lived in Northern Idaho. All of my plants were purchased through mail-order nurseries.

I joined the ABS and started to receive the *Begonian* in the early 70's. The mailman told me I was the only person in town who received the magazine. I looked forward to every issue and longed to be a part of a club. Of course there were no clubs within 1000 miles, but I kept growing.

Eventually I got married and had my daughter and the begonias took a back seat to child rearing and married life. I gave most of my plants away or they died from neglect.

Years passed and my daughter and I moved to Portland, Oregon and I renewed my interest in begonias. There

were actually nurseries in Portland that sold plants in the flesh! They were being grown by a local lady, **Ruth Grenier**, another begoniac!!! What a find...she had a greenhouse full of beautiful plants. My addiction was alive and conveniently located. A few years later Ruth and several other begoniacs formed the Cascade Begonia Society. I became a member, life was good.

I now live in a small town outside Portland (Scappoose) and have an 8 x 12 greenhouse that is filled with lush green begonias that flower nonstop. It has enabled me to grow begonias really well for the first time. I've enclosed some photos of some "mature" plants. These plants have grown too big for the greenhouse and now reside in my house. I bring them to plant sales to give buyers an idea of how large some plants can get and what a mature plant looks like.

I don't know why I have this addiction, but I wouldn't change it for the world. My plants bring me great joy and even greater pleasure to be able to share them with my club members. I am an addict and I will continue to be one happy addict with any luck.

**Renita Marchant**  
52091 SW Bonnie Lane  
Scappoose, Oregon 97056  
503-543-7174

*Bonnie, if only my own addiction resulted in plants as beautiful as yours! I only regret I don't have space for all those gorgeous plant photos. I want to hear more about some of them too. Turn the page to see her B. 'Ricinifolia' at eight years of age.*

### **And A Nomenclature Note**

The letter to the editor, *Begonian* 68 May/June: 84-5, 2001, by **Leslie Hatfield** is correct. The front cover photo in the November/December 200 *Begonian*



*Ruby Marchant shows us a small greenhouse can hold a lot! See the huge leaf above on her B. 'Freddie' and the outside B. 'Ricinifolia' which Ruby says is at least 8 years old.*



is not *Begonia barkeri* Knowles and Wescott. The original description and illustration was published in *Flor. Cab.*, 3: 179-180, pl. 135, 1840 [see page 123].

It is difficult from only the beautiful photograph of the *Begonia* grown by Iris Bird and Bob Golden to make a positive identification. But I suspect this may be a case of mislabeling and the name might be *Begonia bakeri* C. de Candolle, first described in *Bull. Herb. Boissier*, II, 8:320, 1908. *Kathy Burt-Utley*, *Tulane Studies Zool. Bot.* 25 (1); 87-89, 1985 determined it to be a synonym of *Begonia cardiocarpa* Liebmann, *Vid. Medd. Naturh. For Kjobenhavn* 1852, :13, 1853.

I have sent copies of these original citations and illustrations of herbarium specimens to Iris Bird and Bob Golden asking that they compare the details to those of their plant.

**Jack Golding**

33 Ingram Drive  
Monroe township, NJ 08831-4641

**And From Palm Beach**

What a nice article about the Tropical Show in West Palm Beach. The two pictures of Warren Resnick are nice ones. The one that you attributed to me, however, was taken by **Donna Bailey** of our ABS branch. If possible, could you make the correction in the next *Begonian*? Thanks.

**Johanna Kitson**

Oetkbytc@aol.com

*This correction is for the May/June Begonian, page 90.*

## Begonia Lost & Found

### Unknowns Wanted

I would like to find starts of U014, U015, U017, U019, U020, U023, U024, and U025 to use for hybridizing. Most of these are Philippine species that sound like they would be great to work with. Anyone have any of these?

**Kathy Goetz**

935 W. Isabela St.  
541-258-7517  
Goetzk@begonias.com

### And Semps

My name is **Jessica Chevalier** and I'm the begonia grower for Logee's Greenhouses (also an ABS member). There are many *Semperflorens* begonias missing from our collection. We would like to restore our collection so that we can offer them in our catalogs in the future. We need everyone's help that might have cuttings they can share to bring back our beloved semps.

The following is a list of Semps missing from our collection: Ernest Kimball Logee hybrids B. 'Ballet', 'Bo Peep', 'Luscious', 'Mother Goose', 'Old Lace', 'Perry Ann', 'Pied Piper', 'Pistachio', and 'Winkie'; Green leaved double, green leaved Thimbleberry, New Hampshire hybrids red, and B. 'Dainty Maid'; Calla hybrids B. 'Calla Lily' and 'Calla Lilly Double' pink.

**Jessica Chevalier**

Logee's Greenhouses, Ltd.  
141 North Street  
Danielson, CT 06239-1939  
Ph: 888-330-8038  
Web site: logees.com



***Begonias of the Rainforest***  
**2001 SWR Get-Together**  
**Plano, TX**

From Don Miller's seminar with slides on the rainforests he has visited to the lush begonias of the show and sale, the Get-Together was an unforgettable event. It was sponsored by the Dallas Branch and our thanks to all of their members.

Best of Show winner "*B. 'Small Change'*" grown by Don Miller above is a dwarf dwarfed by its ribbons and the special award - artwork by Charles McGough. So we have to zoom in for a closeup look to really appreciate its perfection.

On the top facing page we see Leora Fuentes' terrarium grown *B. nigritarum* which took a division award, a cultural award and Best Species award. Other special awards were John Howell's Showing is Sharing (Most Entries), Gene Salisbury's Sweepstakes Award (Most Blue Ribbons) and Best Southwest Region Hybrid for *B. 'Holley Moon'*, Don Miller's Best Artistic Award with his large terrarium containing a mixed planting, John Howell's Kay Tucker Award for Best Cane for his *B. 'Dianna X'*. The People's Choice Award went to Leora Fuentes for *B. bipinnatifida*.

There is no award for "Most Photogenic", but maybe there should be and if so this entry, opposite below, of *B. U002* by Northaven Gardens might have won it.

*For more see page 153.*





## A Fictional Short Story by Ray Filewood

Robert, known as BB (short for Begonia Bob) to his friends, was a keen plant man. He tried to keep up-to-date with all the latest developments and was always willing to experiment to further his knowledge and understanding of things scientific. In short, BB considered himself a student of science, a lateral thinker and an innovator.

His most recent area of interest had been in the study of "Foliar Feeding" and he had been impressed with the favourable publicity this idea was receiving. He thought a great deal about the concept, and wondered "If such a process is beneficial for plants, why not apply the same techniques to the feeding of animals, even humans? If such a method of feeding was possible, then people could get on with other activities, like talking on the telephone, whilst obtaining their nourishment."

BB decided to put the idea to the test. He called it "Epidermal Eating" (EE for short). He knew that no one would believe him if he did not have witnesses, so he decided to carry out his experiment in public.

When ready, he went to the local "take-aways" that had dine-in facilities. He ordered a hamburger and a soft drink. He went to a vacant table and set out his experimental equipment - a ground-sheet, pillow and a packet of plasticine, as well as his food.

He removed his clothing till bare to the waist, placed the ground-sheet on the table and arranged the pillow. After lying down on the sheet, he made a small, circular dam of plasticine on his chest immediately above his stomach. After half-filling the dam with soft drink, he then floated the hamburger in liquid. Resting his head on the pillow, he settled down to enjoy his meal.

Naturally his activities attracted much attention. One character sidled up and asked: "Watcha doin' mate?"

"Having a meal," replied BB

"Why don't ya stick it straight down yer mouth?" said the character.

"Because I intend to show that this is a more efficient and effective way of taking in food," said BB. "By having it on the skin,

close to my stomach, the food will be rapidly transferred to the stomach by osmosis."

The character could hardly believe his ears. He looked sadly at BB and summarised the whole situation with one word. He muttered quietly, "Rubbish."

After some hours BB felt hungry; his experiment had failed, he had been the subject of much comment, not all of it polite, and even the manager wanted him out. As he packed up he thought to himself, "I wonder how plants really do cope?"

Sitting at home, reflecting on his first attempt at Epidermal Eating, he wondered, "I have read about colloids - perhaps if I put the hamburger through the blender before experimenting, I will obtain a better result." He then began to devise another experiment.

\*\*\*\*\*

Author's Footnote: I have left the ending of this short story "up-in-the-air" so to speak mainly because that's the situation I see with "Foliar Feeding." There have been many attempts to encourage people to adopt the concept, but never have I seen any proof or experimental evidence as to its validity. Media presenters often suggest that it is an acceptable horticultural practice, but is it? ..If I get any further ideas about "Begonia Bob",...they could appear in a future issue. Have you any ideas, information, or articles about this subject? Why not contribute?

*This article was excerpted from the Summer 2000 issue of The Queensland Begonia Society, Inc. Journal. It is by their frequent contributor Ray Filewood and comments are sought and can be sent to their editor Mr. Peter Henderson, 79 Chuter Street, Stafford, Brisbane, QLD 4053 Australia. The Begonian editor too would be interested to know if you have encountered any reliable studies on the effectiveness of foliar feeding. There are many testimonials as Ray Filewood says, but I too have not seen any research on this subject either for begonias or other plants.*

# Report on Java, Indonesia 2000

## Botanical Expedition

by Dr. Harry Wiriadinata, Herbarium Bogoriense  
W. Scott Hoover and James Hunter,  
New England Tropical Conservatory

After two reconnaissance expeditions in 1995 and 1998, a formal research permit was granted to our 2000 expedition team by LIPI, The Indonesian Institute of Sciences. The permit was given to The Bogar Herbarium and The New England Tropical Conservatory, allowing for the collection of herbarium specimens of *Begonia*. A letter of quarantine was issued for export to the U.S. for some *Begonia* cuttings grown in the Wiriadinata Garden.

Over a period of two months from February to March 2000, the research/collecting expedition concentrated on three primary geographical areas. The expedi-

tion objective was to collect new species of *Begonia* in West Javan montane forests and undertake general botanical collecting of the flora associated with *Begonia*. Montane forests represent about the only primary forest type remaining in Indonesia and for most of Southeast Asia in general. Known species of *Begonia* were collected as well. DNA samples were collected from each species and given to Dr. Mark Tebbitt of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. Mark and his associates at Ithaca College, NY, are evaluating *Begonia* DNA for sectional work on species assignment. The New England Tropical Conservatory

**Table 1: Number of *Begonia* Collections, Species Names, and Geographical Locations for 2000 Java Expedition**

<u>Geographical Area</u>	<u>Number of <i>Begonia</i> Collections</u>	<u>Species</u>
Mt. Patuha	36	<i>B. multangula</i> , <i>B. robusta</i> , <i>Begonia</i> sp (3), possible hybrids (2, natural), <i>B. isoptera</i> .
Mt. Salak	23	<i>B. multangula</i> , <i>B. robusta</i> , <i>Begonia</i> sp (1), <i>B. bracteata</i> , <i>B. muricata</i> , possible hybrids (1, natural).
Halimun National Park, West Java	74	<i>B. multangula</i> , <i>B. robusta</i> , <i>Begonia</i> sp (2), possible hybrids (1, natural), <i>B. bracteata</i> , <i>B. muricata</i> , <i>B. isoptera</i> , <i>B. semperflorens</i> (naturalized), <i>B. hirtella</i> , <i>B. longifolia</i> .
Mt. Gede, West Java	4	<i>B. multangula</i> , <i>B. robusta</i> , <i>B. muricata</i> , <i>B. semperflorens</i> (naturalized).
Mt. Merapi, Central Java	2	<i>Begonia</i> sp (2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>18</b>

**Table 2: "New Species" of *Begonia* Collected on 2000 Java Expedition**

<b>"New" Species Designation &amp; Notes</b>	<b>Possible Sectional Assignment</b>	<b>Geographical Area Collected</b>	<b>Elevation</b>
<i>Begonia</i> sp. (#'s 894, 897) <sup>1</sup>	<i>Sphenantera</i>	Mt. Patuha	5500'
<i>Begonia</i> sp. (#900) <sup>2</sup>	<i>Sphenantera</i>	Mt. Puncak (Mt. Patuha complex)	7400'
<i>Begonia</i> sp. (#'s 905 & 909) <sup>3</sup>	<i>Petermannia</i>	Mt. Salak and Mt. Kendang (Halimun Nat. Park)	5500' and 5100' resp.
<i>Begonia</i> sp. (#31111?) <sup>4</sup>	<i>Petermannia</i>	Mt. Ranca upas (Mt. Patuha complex)	5200'
Begonia Hybrids (#'s 31036, 31136, 33267) <sup>5</sup>	<i>Sphenantera</i>	(Mt. Patuha Complex, Mt. Salak, Halimum National Park)	5000-6000'
<i>Begonia</i> sp. <sup>6</sup>	<i>Sphenantera</i>	Mt. Merapi, Central Java	3500'
<i>Begonia</i> Sp. (# 927) <sup>7</sup>	<i>Diploclinium</i>	Mt. Merapi, Central Java	3500'

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Scandent, bullate leaf surface (like *B. pustulata*), 2 leaves/node, nodding "horned" fruit with thick wing, white flowers over 2" across; several modest populations observed but threatened with deforestation.

<sup>2</sup> Upright herb to 75 cms., bullate leaf surface, 2 leaves/node. Pale green surface with exaggerated drip tips at blade tip and secondary vein terminals; nodding large "horned" fruit with wing to 1", white flowers over 2" across, large population on north face of Mountain, threatened by tea plantation expansion.

<sup>3</sup> Upright herb to 1.5 m, small leaves, (like *B. acutifolia*), "typical" winged fruit, white flowers to 1" across, scattered individuals, not threatened. Similar to upper elevation species observed on Mt. Dempo, S. Sumatra prov.

<sup>4</sup> Upright herb to 1.75 m, leaves to 10 cms with defined lobes (like *B. lubbersii*), "typical" winged fruit. Possibly same species as observed on 2 occasions in N. Sumatra prov. where large population grew on steep, shaded stream embankment in cultivated area.

<sup>5</sup> Natural Hybrids were likely observed on a number of occasions and separate numbers have been given. All seem to have *B. multangula* as one parent in all hybrids observed with *B. robusta* and #'s 894/897 being other parents. Each hybrid observed was distinct from each parent, but one could observe which characters came from each parent.

<sup>6</sup> Shrub to 2 m., multi-branched with about 20 canes, glabrous, shiny, large, star shaped leaves; horned fruit like a berry. Species is likely part of *B. multangula* complex, but a different species; location of collections may be at lower elevational range of species on mountain.

<sup>7</sup> Tuberous species, leaves to 10 cms., burgundy reddish green above, pale white below, winged fruit with unusual bulge on lower edge. One small colony about 10 small tubers and stems aggregated into a 100 cm. patch on steep embankments along trail.

is beginning to work with Mark and looks forward to a productive scientific collaboration regarding Indonesian *Begonia*.

The three geographical areas chosen for collecting in chronology, included the following, with latitude/longitude coordinates and highest elevation: 1) Mt. Patuha complex (7° 20' S lat./107°30' E long., 2434 m); 2) Mt. Salak (6°35' S lat./106°45' E long, 2211 m); 3) Halimun National Park, Mt. Botol and research station areas (6°40' S lat./106°30' E long.,

1785 m).

Table 1 indicates the number of *Begonia* collections made in Java, and Table 2 provides information on what are "New" species to us as explorer/collectors. It has not been possible to get determinations on species that are considered "New" to us because *Begonia* specimens from the Bogor Herbarium are on loan to an European herbarium. We thus are not able to observe and compare our collections with type specimens known to be available

**Table 3: Summary of 2000, West Java General Botanical Collections of Flora Associated with *Begonia***

<u>Data Category</u>	<u>Quantitative Value</u>			
# of Collections	1547			
# of Families	118			
# of Genera	232			
# of Genera common to all 3 Sites	35 (17.7%)			
<hr/>				
Commonest Families #’s of Genera	1. Rubiaceae	21	4. Urticaceae	9
	2. Euphorbiaceae	13	5. Asteaceae/Zingiberaceae	7
	3. Melastomaceae	12	6. Araceae/Myrsinaceae/Solanaceae/Verbanaceae	6
<hr/>				
	Mt. Patula	Mt. Salak	Halimun	
# Of Collecting Days	6	2	10	
# Of Families	74 (62.7%)*	44 (37.3%)	96 (81.4%)	
# Of Genera	150 (65.1%)	90 (38.8%)	229 (94.4%)	
# Of Genera limited to single collections at single site	43 (28.7%)	17 (18.9%)	97 (42.4%)	
# Of Genera limited to single site with multiple collections	16 (37.2%)	2 (11.7%)	33 (29.4%)	

\*Percentage numbers are a portion of the total West Javan montane flora collections for their respective category, being either families or genera.

which will allow us to make determinations. In the meantime, we call a species "New" because we are not able to identify it.

Observations from this 2000 expedition, and from the 1995 and 1998 reconnaissance expeditions, allow us to formulate an hypothesis regarding geographical distribution of *Begonia* in Sumatra and Java. It appears that species occurring at lower elevations (below 1000 m), exemplified mostly by *B. isoptera* complex, are highly variable to the point where taxonomy is complex and rather confusing. Species occurring at middle elevations (1000 - 1500 m), exemplified by *B. multangula* complex, *B. robusta*, *B. muricata*, or *B. longifolia* are variable, but not to the same degree as the *B. isoptera* complex of species. Species being collected from upper elevations (above 1500 m) appear to have taxonomically stable characteristics, and they have restricted geographic distributions. These upper elevation species often are endemic at a regional geographic level, and sometimes at a local level. These observations will be tested with further fieldwork on upcoming expeditions.

Table 3 summarizes data based on the general flora associated with *Begonia* at the three West Javan areas where our collecting efforts were concentrated. It should be recognized that these data are not systematic since the number of collecting days/area varied. None the less the data are of interest because they indicate what plants are commonly associated with *Begonia* in Javan montane forests. Species determinations on these general collections have not been done yet, but we expect to have determinations in the near future. Determinations will add a much further level of refinement to this analysis. Of particular interest will be whether or not any new species have been collected

from the general flora of plants associated with *Begonia*. Because of the considerable size of the *Begonia* genus, ranking 4th largest among the flowering plants with 1400 species and equaling *Solanum* (*Solanaceae*) and *Psychotria* (*Rubiaceae*) in size, it is of great interest to evaluate if *Begonia* is an indicator of overall floristic diversity in Southeast Asian montane forests. Data from this expedition will allow us to gain further knowledge about *Begonia's* value as an indicator genus.

Future expeditions will allow for *Begonia* germplasm to be exported to the United States under Indonesian permits granting NETC and ABS rights to grow *Begonia* for exhibition, education and research purposes only. Commercial uses for *Begonia* germplasm will have to await further permits complying with Indonesian intellectual property rights and conforming to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity established at the UNCED meeting 1992.

It is important that the ABS, and other horticultural societies adopt institutional level policies regarding the collection of germplasm in foreign countries that respect the rights of these countries. It is not acceptable for a collector to export germplasm from a foreign country, and commercially benefit from the use of that germplasm, without compensating the country, or having a prearranged contract allowing for future compensation. Such are the professional and ethical standards being adopted by Western institutions and organizations working in tropical countries like Indonesia and Latin American countries.

Indonesia has the second largest biological diversity in the world exceeded only by that of Brazil. Many *Begonia* species remain to be discovered in Indonesia and it is to this end that we will continue to work.

## *A Note on the Preceding Article*

Scott Hoover is back! But the article on the previous pages is a report on the 2000 expedition, not the latest journey. It takes time to get notes and photos in order after a trip. We are fortunate that Scott takes excellent photos and has documented with exceptional care the begonias he encounters. We have such a richness of slides, however, that it is a shame

that we cannot afford an entire publication devoted to them. But that would be a costly publication. Instead, we have decided to devote several pages of future *Begonians* to these slides beginning with the front and back covers of this edition. His field notes will be included along with his identification numbers. If you have a question about the preceding article or these slides, you may write Scott at: **P.O. Box 93, Williamstown, MA 01267.**

## **Toward A Philadelphia Begonia Branch**

**by Bernie Wiener**

Since moving into the new Philadelphia Convention Center with its larger amount of floor space, The Philadelphia Flower show had added a new feature concentrating on educating visitors. As part of this learning program, the Gardener's Studio has two locations - the front entrance to the Exhibit Hall and at the rear of the display floor.

Each studio has a raised platform allowing good visibility for those in the audience. The presenter stands behind a counter and uses the countertop as the demonstration space. The presentation could include props that best captured the audience's interest, but no slides or video projection could be used. Speakers are given 15 minutes to a half-hour for their presentation, which is followed by an opportunity for the audience members to ask questions. A total time limit of one hour is permitted per presentation including set-up though clean-up immediately following the question and answer period.

Bernie Wiener, founder of the Delaware Valley chapter of the Hobby Greenhouse Association, is presently involved in starting a local Begonia Society branch. He gave two separate lectures on "How to Grow Begonias." The first was held at

9:00 a.m. on the opening day of the Philadelphia Flower show, Sunday, March 4; and the second presentation was given at the show on Wednesday, March 7 at 12 noon.

Packets were made containing past issues of the *Begonian* (Thanks to Ann Salisbury.), "Seven Reasons Why You'll Enjoy the American Begonia Society," printed material on the care of begonias, and a started begonia plant, B. 'Richmondensis', donated by Meadowbrook Farm. Since no other presenter had this large giveaway package, the audience went wild over being able to take home this educational material along with a free plant.

At the present time, the meeting facilities for starting a begonia branch are located at Meadowbrook Farm which has a greenhouse containing all types of begonias. Meetings are held Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Members at large of the American Begonia Society who live in the Delaware Valley - the southeastern part of Pennsylvania, New Jersey residents close to Philadelphia, and in Wilmington, Del. should contact Bernie Wiener at 610-446-2160 to get an update on our meetings.

# Another Begonia Project to Try!

by Johanna Kitson

A couple of years ago at a West Palm Beach Garden Club Show, I saw a strawberry pot filled with *U002*. Last September I finally 'got around to it' to try my hand at creating one. However, I put all kinds of begonias in the various openings. First, I poured Fafard 2S into the pot up to the first hole. This was planted and watered in and then it was time to move up to the next level and repeat the process. I tried to choose smaller begonias like B. 'Tiger Kitten' and 'Brown Eyes', but, alas, I had to use other types as I did not have miniature begonias in a great supply. I tried B. *solimutata*, 'Mirage', 'Mem. Bernice Ryan', 'Silver Jewel', 'Streaky Jeans', 'November frost', 'Shiloh', 'Wild Pony', 'Lowe's Pet', 'Jeopardy', 'Python', and 'Black Coffee'. Of course, some of these are bigger growing begonias, but I really didn't care because I just wanted to see what would happen. This small strawberry pot just got prettier and prettier and so I had to have another one - a bigger one! In December the bigger pot was planted and I thought ahead to the Tropical Flower show that is held in February in downtown West Palm Beach along the waterfront of Lake Worth. My planning

paid off as this next begonia conglomeration won a blue ribbon in the patio plant division. (The same weekend as the Atlanta Board Meeting).

One evening I was pondering all the plants in these two pots and began thinking of all the work people have put into begonia growing or begonia finding. That's one thing that I enjoy about the conventions. You get to meet some of these people that have hybridized, or sold to you, or given to you, or named these various plants. So when I see my strawberry pots I see Kit Jeans Monger, Tim Anderson, Greg Sytch, Tom Keepin, Paul Lowe, Nancy Cohen, Brad Thompson, and others I don't know about as the plants were bought at convention.







One of the interesting things that has happened in planting these in a strawberry pot is that the roots and rhizomes do not stay in just one spot. They like to visit one another. As the planting gets older, the roots travel to the next opening, and then you have two begonias coming out of the same hole once in awhile. I am amazed at how big the plants are getting in the little tiny holes. The rhizomes just keep traveling onto the outside of the pot too. My next project, in my

spare time, is to plant a bird bath that I got at Christmas time. The tall base of the bird bath is designed just like the strawberry pot...hollow, and full of 3 inch in diameter holes up and down the base. When that spare time up and grabs me sometimes this summer, I will plan and plant another begonia project. Anybody out there have other begonia projects we can try? It is such an adaptable plant...

To the left is Johanna's small pot planted with, clockwise from the top, B. "Python", "Tiger Kitten", "Shiloh", "Sierra Mist", "Abudabi", and "Mem. Bernice Ryan.". Then, above right, see how full it has become. To the right, see her new large pot planted with, again clockwise from the top, B. "Streaky Jeans", "Brown Eyes", "Mirage", "Wild Pony", "Daisy", "Tiger Kitten", "Jeopardy" and at the center, B. *solimutata*.

And you, Johanna, are creative and adventurous! We can't wait to see the bird bath! You may write Johanna at: 14206 Greentree Dr., Wellington, FL 33414.



## In Memory Reflections on Begonias, Gardens, Friendship, and Maxine Bennett

On April 6, 2001, the Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches and I were saddened by the death of Maxine Bennett (a longtime member, and mother of Maurine Lunsford -- our past-President, past-Secretary, current Treasurer, and registrar of two Florida conventions). It was Maxine, whom I met at an orchid society meeting shortly after buying my house, that insisted I attend a begonia society meeting after I mentioned that I had planted some pink and white wax begonias in front of my house. That small opening was enough for Maxine; she insisted (in her soft-spoken way) that I come with her the following Monday to begonia society and meet her daughter, the President. The invitation, coupled with the sight of the begonia society's terraced display (long since dismantled) by the entrance to the Mounts Botanical Garden, got me hooked. Maxine gave me bags of cuttings from her yard -- B. 'Pink Rubra', 'Eunice Gray', 'Winning Way', unnamed rhizomatous. I will never forget Maxine as she wandered her back yard, which had become narrow pathways winding around flower beds and trees, lifting the boughs of orange trees which draped to the ground to show me her vanilla vines blooming among the branches of trays upon trays of all types of cuttings clustered around the trunks, with ever present dishpans of water and guppies (with screens on top to keep the raccoons and opossums out) as a quick water/fertilizer supply. She was full of gardening advice - "Now don't ever plant that!" she would say, pointing to an invasive bamboo or philodendron that had taken over part of the yard. "You can

have that but I need that pot back" and I wondered how I could get that 8' tree home and out of the concrete pot it was growing through (but I did!). "I want this pink tabebuia out of here - it will be too shady on the porch. Let's dig it up." And we did - and it has lived and prospered in my yard. There were always surprises - "Now how did that get there?" she would wonder. I always knew the answer to the question although I never reminded her of it. As Maxine walked through the garden, she absentmindedly pruned everything, then wandered on with the cutting in her hand until she found a "good" spot and planted it - only to be surprised a few weeks later. She would remind us as we walked behind her "Now you girls keep your eyes open. I just bought a Ponderosa lemon tree and I can't find it anywhere!" (We didn't find it that day, but she did a few weeks later, in the front planter near the carport.) Her begonias became beautiful landscape specimens. Everything grew, and grew well, for Maxine. Her family has a legacy of crystal from various garden shows as proof. But her most lasting legacy is one we can all pass on - the introduction of just one person to the joy of begonia growing, which can then be passed on again. Sharing your garden not only increases membership, but makes lasting friendships. This is why I have heard from all parts of the country that "begonia friends are the best friends." Maxine's earthly presence will be missed, but she is alive in the minds and gardens of many friends.

Virginia Jens  
922 Upland Rd.  
West Palm Beach, FL  
33401-7550

# Directory of Begonia Societies

*All information is the latest available to us  
at the time of publication.*

## International Societies

### Australia

**Association of Australian Begonia Societies** Jean Whitten, 15 Carlo Close, Kincumber, N.S.W. 2251, Australia, Ph: (02) 4369 2967

**The Victorian Begonia Society, Inc.**  
C/-Mr. Geoff Apps, 29 Bowen Street, Warragul 3820, Australia, Ph: (03) 5623 4989, Email: [gapps@dcsi.net.au](mailto:gapps@dcsi.net.au)

**The Melbourne Begonia Society**  
Contact: Diane Lawrey, 8 Simmons Street, Box Hill North, Vic 3129  
Ph: (03) 9898 8863

**The N.S.W. Begonia Society, Inc.**  
Mrs. Jean Whitten  
15 Carlo Close, Kincumber NSW. 2251  
Ph: (02) 4369 2967

**The Queensland Begonia Society, Inc.**  
Mr. Peter Henderson, 79 Chuter Street, Stafford QLD 4053  
Ph: (07) 3359 4319

**South Australian Begonia Society Inc.**  
Mrs. Myrmie Jennings, 4 Kinnaird Crescent, Highbury, SA 5089  
Ph: (08) 8264 6490

**The Begonia Society of Western Australia**  
Mrs. Shirley Lancaster, PO Box 427, Cloverdale WA 6985  
Ph: (08) 9361 4564

### Belgium

**Societe Belge du Begonia**  
Piron Gilles, Pres., Chemin de Lancre,  
4 B-4970 Coo, Belgium

### Canada

**British Columbia Fuchsia & Begonia Society**  
Loma Herchenson, Pres. 2402 Swinburn Ave. North, Vancouver B.C. V7H 1 L2

**Canadian Begonia Society**  
Eleanor Elston, 190 Julia Crescent, Orillia, Ontario L3V 7W9 Canada ,  
Ph: 705-323-9437 E-mail:  
[eelston@computer-products.com](mailto:eelston@computer-products.com)

### England and Wales

**The National Begonia Society**  
Colin Nicklin, 33 Findern Lane, Willington, Derbyshire, DE 65 6DW,  
Ph: 01283 702681  
Email : [NATBEGONIA@aol.com](mailto:NATBEGONIA@aol.com)

### France

**Assoc. Francoise de Amateurs de Begonias**  
Mme. Agnes Cazaux, Presidente  
Association Francaise des Amateurs de Begonias, Domaine de Bontemps, 31470 Fonsorbes, France

### New Zealand

**Canterbury Begonia Circle.**  
Mike Stevens, 47 Burnside Cres., Christchurch, NZ. Ph: 03-358-4126, Email:  
[m.i.stevens@xtra.co.nz](mailto:m.i.stevens@xtra.co.nz)  
Web site: [geocities.com/begoniacircle](http://geocities.com/begoniacircle)

## Japan

### Japan Begonia Society

President: Mr. Naoyuki Uemura, 5-27-10  
Figashiohizumi, Nerimaku, Tokyo 178-  
063, Japan Ph/Fax: 81-3-3921-5132

## Scotland

### Scottish Begonia Society

1/0-260 Bellfield R. Coalburn  
Dumfriesshire, Scotland M1100NQ, ULK

## Sweden

### Swedish Begonia Society

Ann-Sophie Asplind, Via Tunheim Fristorp,  
S-718 461 93, Trollhattan, Sweden.

## United States

*Guests are welcome at all meetings.  
Contact the National Director listed below  
for time and place of meetings or other  
information.*

## Regional Group

**Southwest Region:** Arlene Ingles, 157  
Monument Rd., Rio Dell, CA 95562-1617  
Email: [ingles@humboldt1.com](mailto:ingles@humboldt1.com)

## Branches

### California

**Alfred D. Robinson Branch:** Margaret  
Lee, National Director, 1852 31st Street,  
San Diego, CA 92102, Ph: 619-239-3196

**Doug Frost Branch:** Joyce Hesse, 636 S.  
Billbuck Dr., Anaheim, CA 92802-1322.,  
Ph: 714-778-3546

**Long Beach Parent Chapter:** Margaret  
Fisher, 7552 Danube Dr., Huntington  
Beach, CA 92647-4637, Ph: 714-847-1889

**Mabel Corwin Branch:** Eleanor Calkins,  
910 Fern St., Escondido, CA 92027-1708,  
Ph: 760-746-4743

**Margaret Lee Branch:** Ingeborg Foo,  
1050 Melrose Way, Vista, CA 92083;  
Ph: 760-724-4871

**Monterey Bay Area Branch:** Leslie  
Hatfield, 3025 Kennedy Ct., Marina, CA  
93933-3614, Ph: 831-384-6519

**Orange County Branch:** Mary Sakamoto,  
6847 E. Sycamore Glen Dr., Orange, CA  
92869, Ph: 714-633-6997

**Palos Verdes:** Jeanne Jones, 1415 Via  
Margarita, Palos Verdes, CA 90274-2143,  
Ph: 310-378-7527

**Sacramento Branch:** Paul Tsamtis, 2630 F  
Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

**San Francisco Branch:** Carol Notaras,  
2567 Green St., San Francisco, CA 94123,  
Ph: 415-931-4912 Email:  
[cnotaras@juno.com](mailto:cnotaras@juno.com)

**San Gabriel Branch:** Beverly Hitz, 663  
Anaby Ct., Upland, CA 91786-2754

**Santa Barbara Branch:** Rudolf  
Ziesenhenne, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa  
Barbara, CA, 93103-2336,  
Ph: 805-966-6956

**Santa Clara Valley Branch:** Jackie Davis,  
170 Wingfoot Way, Aptos, CA 95003-5444,  
Ph: 408-688-0357

**South Bay Branch:** Ramona Parker, 14965  
Van Ness Ave., Gardena, CA 90249-3719,  
Ph: 310-324-8803

**Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch:**  
Beverly Paulson, 397 Baker Ave., Ventura,  
CA 93004-1558, Ph: 805-642-3198

**Westchester Branch:** Ramona Parker,  
14965 Van Ness Ave., Gardena, CA 90249-  
3719, Ph: 310-324-8803

**Whittier Branch:** Joy Blair, 1006  
Pomering Rd., Downey, CA, 90240-3711  
Ph: 562-928-3975

## Colorado

**Rocky Mountain Branch:** Andrew Conely,  
45000 County Rd., 78.9, Model, CO 81059,  
Ph: 719-568-0656

## Florida

**Florida West Coast Branch:** H. Alton  
Lee, 5813 19th Ave., S, Gulfport, FL 33707-  
4029

**Fort Lauderdale Branch:** Sylvia Ben, 255  
S.W. 87th Terrace, Plantation, FL 33324-  
2602, Ph: 305-964-3828

**Miami Branch:** Karen Lawrence, 7025  
SW 72nd Ct., Miami, FL 33143-2914, Ph.  
305-666-6374.

**Palm Beaches Branch:** Donna Bailey,  
5285 Hood R., Palm Beach Gardens, FL  
33418

## Georgia

**Greater Atlanta Branch:** Mary Elizabeth  
Moultrie, 3710 Cochise Drive, Atlanta, GA  
30339, Ph: 770-436-5932

## Illinois

**Greater Chicago Branch:** Daniel  
Haseltine, 6950 West Nelson Street,  
Chicago, IL 60634-4613, Ph: 312-637-1535

## Massachusetts

**Bessie Buxton Branch:** Wanda Macnair,  
177 Hancock Street, Cambridge, MA 02139,  
PH: 617-876-1356

## New York

**Knickerbocker Branch:** Nikki Taussig, 235  
Harison Ave., Highland Park, NJ 08904-1815

**Brooklyn-Queens-Nassau Branch:**  
Annette Boree, 8 Brown Rd., Great Neck,  
NY 11023, Ph: 516-466-9593

## Ohio

**Western Reserve Branch:** Sara Jane  
Pearman, 2120 Hampstead R., Cleveland  
Heights, OH 44118, PH: 216-321-5528,  
Email: pearman@cma-oh.org

## Oklahoma

**Fred A. Barkley Branch:** RL Holley, 2015  
Elvin Dr., Stillwater, OK 74074  
Ph: 405-385-0484

**Wheatheart Branch:** Gene Salisbury,  
P. O. Box 452, Tonkawa, OK 74653-0452,  
Ph: 580-628-5230

## Oregon

**Cascade Branch:** Kathy Goetz, 935 W.  
Isabella, Lebanon, OR 97355, Ph: 541-258-  
7517, Email: goetzk@begonias.com

## Texas

**Alamo Branch:** Melba Schultz, 603  
Chauncey Dr., San Antonio, TX 78216-  
3308, Ph: 210-341-3679

**Astro Branch:** Tom Keepin, 4513  
Randwick Dr., Houston, TX 77092-8343,  
Ph: 713-686-8539

**Dallas Area Branch:** Don Miller, 1010  
Mt. Auburn, Dallas, TX 75223, Ph: 214-  
823-1070

**Mae Blanton Branch:** Joan Kessinger,  
14808 Meadowland Cir., Newark, TX  
76071, Ph. 817-489-5055. Email:  
jdbk@earthlink.net

**atellite Branch:** Pauline Mahoney, 917 rove Rd., Clear Lake Shore, TX 77565-306, Ph: 281-538-1880

**an Jacinto Branch:** Lulu Leonard, 1914 edar Bayou Rd., Baytown, TX 77520-306, 713-422-6245

## Virginia

**otomac Branch:** Carrie Karegeannes, 916 Lake Blvd., Annandale, VA 22003-319, Ph: 703-280-2114

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## Pronunciation of Begoniaceae Names for the Begonian, 68, July August, 2001 by Jack Golding

**cetosa** ay-se-TOH-suh  
**rborescens** ar-bor-ESS-ens  
var. **oxyphylla** ox-i-FILL-uh  
**cutifolia** uh-kyew-ti-FOH-li-uh  
**akeri** BAYK-er-eye  
**arkeri** BARK-er-eye  
**ipinnatifida** beye-pin-nay-ti-FID-uh  
**ardiocarpa** kar-di-oh-KAHR-puh  
**arriacae** kar-REE-ee  
**chinosepala** ek-in-oh-SEP-a luh  
**gregia** e-GREE-ji-uh  
**ehrtii** GEHRT-i-eye  
**icisa** in-SEYE-suh  
**ellermanii** kel-ler-MAN-i-eye  
**oriacea** kor-i-AY-se-uh  
**rispula** krisp-YEW-luh  
**regei** DREG-e-eye  
**erbacea** her-BAY-se-uh  
**mprichtii** lim-PREEKT-i-eye  
**ngifolia** long-i-FOH-li-uh  
**idwigii** LEWD-vig-i-eye  
**izonensis** lyew-zon-EN-sis  
**icrosperma** meye-KROH-sper-

muh  
**multangula** mul-tan-GYEW-luh  
**muricata** myew-ri-KAY-tuh  
**paleata** pa-le-AY-tuh  
**peltata** pel-TAY-tuh  
**prismatocarpa** pris-ma-TOH-car-puh  
**pustulata** pus-tyew-LAY-tuh  
**rajah** RAH-juh  
**reniformis** ren-i-FORM-is  
**robusta** ro-BUS-tuh  
**rotundifolia** roh-tun-di-FOH-li-uh  
**sanguinea** san-gwin-EE-uh  
**soli-mutata** sol-i-myew-TAY-tuh  
**subnummularifolia** sub-num-mul-ar-i-FOH-li-uh  
**thelmae** THELMA-ee  
**versicolor** ver-si-KOH-lor

## Section Names

**Baccabegonia** bak-a-be-GOH-ni-uh  
**Diploclinium** dip-lo-KLEEN -i-um  
**Meziera** me-ZEER-e-uh  
**Petermannia** pet-er-MAN-ni-uh  
**Sphenanthera** sfen-an-THER-uh  
**Squamibegonia** squam-i-be-GOH-ni-uh  
**Tetraphila** te-tra-FEYE-luh

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## Denver 2001

Got your registration form in yet? Mail it now if not. Also, the show needs your plants. Remember almost everyone will be coming to the Denver show by air and that means not many people can bring a lot for display, but everyone should try to bring at least one plant -- even if you must hand carry it on the plane! The traveling begonia category requires only a 4" pot size and all of us could bring at least one of those. Sale plant contributions can be packaged tightly in a box and included with your baggage; they will probably arrive in amazingly good shape.

## ABS Board Meeting Minutes, April 26, 2001, Plano, Texas

**1. President Jaros** opened the meeting and **Mary Bucholtz** read the Aims and Purposes of the Society. **2.** There were 28 board member votes present. **..4.** First Vice President **Morris Mueller** presented the financial report submitted by **Carol Notaras** for 2/1/2001 to 4/20/2001. With income of \$7472.16 and debits of \$15,168.12, the general fund closing balance was \$3967.69...Combined general fund and savings accounts totals were \$79,753.45 beginning and \$72,689.78 ending. The lower ending balance was due mainly to *Begonian* printing, donation to Scott Hoover and transfer to other accounts. **5.** Membership Director **Arlene Ingles** presented a report showing 1240 members in April. Since January 1 we have lost about 200 members from the roster, but gained about 90 new members. Sources of members from February to April were branches 30, unknown 12, gifts 3, former rejoined 16, friends 5, internet 17, 7 Reasons 3, magazines 3, second family 3, and foreign 7. Buxton and Palm Beaches branches gained 8 and 6 members respectively while others gained 1 or 2 members. An informal agreement was made to try out some ideas for recovery of lost members. Arlene again asked everyone to send back their renewal post card with their payment to save her time looking up the data she needs which appears on the card. **6. Freda Holley** reported that a large number of slides have been received from **Scott Hoover** for publication, but the cost of publishing that many color prints is prohibitive so other means are being considered. The Holiday Ad vote tally was 20 yes, 0 no, and 19 no response. Categories of donations will be listed in the ad but not specific amounts. Announcements will be sent out by **Joan Coulat** during the summer. **7.** Back Issues Chair **Ann Salisbury** continues to report a need for more *Begonians*. She will accept donations of volumes or issues or can recommend a buyer so the donor can ask for a bid. **8.** Everyone is urged to vote on the ballot in the May/June *Begonian* and send it to Ingeborg Foo. **...9.** Bookstore Chair **Cheryl Lenert** reports that the John Ingles Memorial Checklist is popular and selling fast. ...Copies

may be purchased in Denver or ordered from the Bookstore. **11.** Branch Relations Director **Mary Bucholtz** reported some progress for new branch in the Philadelphia area. The held a second meeting on April 21, 2001. A update on a possible branch in Pontiac, Michigan is not yet available...**12.** Convention packets for the 2001 Convention in Denver were mailed in March third class, but some members have not yet received them. **President Jaros** indicated that convention packets should arrive four months before the month of a convention. The convention instruction booklet has not been updated since 1995. A suggestion was made to review this again. A motion was made to set up an ongoing convention advisory committee with three permanent members having prior convention experience to assist future convention chairmen. The motion carried. **13.** The computer purchased for entries and classification seems to be worth the investment. **..14.** The question of how ABS could be more involved and recognized at ABS sanctioned branch shows was discussed. It was moved that the ABS sponsor a trophy and/certificate for the best performance at a sanctioned show. Information is to be provided to the judging chair in advance of the show so that the award can be made at the show. The motion was amended to include development of specific criteria for the award and to submit same to the Public Relations Director for study, review, and recommendation to the board at the Denver Convention. The amendment passed and the motion was tabled until the next Board meeting. **Tim Anderson** who made the motion will develop the criteria and send it to **Andy Conely**. **15.** Don't forget to renew your subscription for the MAL Newsletter. Send separate \$5 check to **Arlene Ingles** for calendar year 2001. **...17.** President Jaros announce that seed Fund Administrator **Eleanor Calkin** resigned as of May 1, 2001. **Michael Ludwi** will take over the job. ...A letter of thanks will be sent to **Eleanor**...

Respectfully submitted,  
**Richard Macnair**

*These minutes have been severely condensed for reasons of space. Complete copies are available from Richard at the address on page 159.*

## Identify this Species...

### The Last Mystery

The last issue's mystery species was formerly known as *B. oxyphylla*, but in the January/February 2000 *Begonian*, it was announced that it has become *B. arborescens* Raddi var. *oxyphylla* A.DC.

I saw one in Tampa, FL in the USF greenhouse growing to what I thought was an exceptional size, but then in San Antonio in September of 2000, John Howell exhibited the even taller and very lush plant shown at the right. For more on this species, see the last issue. Using its new name, Mona Harvey of New York was the first to identify this species.



### The New Mystery

This begonia will be no mystery to our terrarium growers because chances are that they will have one in their collection. It is one of those African species with glowing yellow flowers. Although it was described first in 1894 by Warburg, more recent work has indicated that there are at least two other subspecies.

Its leaf is plain green against which the flowers are particularly striking. The Thompsons' described it as rhizomatous, distinctive foliage, unusual surface and/or unusual coloring, medium-leaved and the flowers as orange-yellow, spring to fall and moderate. If any hybrids have been developed, I did not find them in my search - perhaps again terrarium growers might be aware of one. There was an exceptionally beautiful one at the Southwest Region Show in Plano.



*Antonelli Brothers*  
BEGONIA GARDENS  
2545 Capitola Rd.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
Phone (831)475-5222  
Fax (831)4757066  
**WORLD FAMOUS**  
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URL: <http://www.infopoint.com/sc/market/antnelli>



# Garden of Love

by Marie Costa, Providence, RI



My mother was selected, my father was a prize;  
After many attempts I was created by someone very wise.

I started out as powder, rubbed against a pistil slow,  
Laid aside and watched, wondering if I would grow.

We were all delicately handled and placed in separate pots,  
Each given a dose of medicine, in what you call your shots.

The months in hibernation all snug in selected soil.  
The hard work from our owners who loved their constant toil.

As my head came popping out to see such a strange sight,  
They took us out to see the morning, and the noon and night.

## Cloudy Valley Nursery

935 W. Isabella St.  
Lebanon, OR 97355

(541) 258-7517  
goetzk@begonias.com

Visit our web page  
and virtual greenhouse at  
<http://www.begonias.com>.  
Mail order only.

### *Featured this Month:*

#### **Books**

Jack Krempins's  
*Know Your Begonias*  
*Know Your Indoor & House Plants*  
*Popular Palms*  
Peter Sharp's  
*Growing Begonias*

**Propagating Supplies:** Flats, domes and  
Plug Trays

Through all the effort they put in us I feel my roots spread out,  
My leaves are getting stronger and toward the sun I sprout.

I feel a sudden change in me, a pressure from inside.  
All at once it opens up and I'm full of blooming pride.

I never saw so many of us; being watered and well cared for,  
Although I'm just getting started, I wish I could bloom more.

I see them looking up at me with a wide and happy grin.  
They see that I'm so pretty, but to cut me would be a sin.

Each day we are so pampered, checking to see if we're dry,  
When people come to see us, I think I saw one cry.

*For all you poetry lovers and tuberous  
rowers out there and, Virginia Jens, you  
hould have had another poetry contest -  
his one could have won!! It is a lovely  
tribute written by the fourth and youngest*

*daughter of Jackie Davis in honor of her  
mother's hybridizing work. And what lovely  
hybridizing work it is we see in the photo.  
You may write Jackie Davis at 170 Wingfoot  
Way, Aptos, CA 95003*

---

## Winter Board Meeting

### Annual business Meeting, Sept. 8th

### Orange County, CA

The hotel will be Country Suites, Yorba Linda, 1-800-336-0632 or 714-921-8688. Cost of the room will be \$85 plus tax for single and double (\$95 for 3-4), this includes buffet and breakfast. In each room is a refrigerator, microwave, coffee maker and hair dryer. There is no airport service to the hotel so you will have to make arrangements to get there on your own. The hotel is about 20 minutes from John Wayne airport off the 41 freeway at Weir Canyon Road.

Arrival date is Friday, September 7th. September 8th is the board meeting (in the morning) and after lunch everyone is invited to Mary Sakamoto's for her annual Fiesta which will begin around 2 p.m. September 8th will be a bus trip to Huntington Library and Gardens. Cost for this tour will be about \$18 and the bus will leave the hotel about 9:30 a.m. and return about 3 p.m. The costs of this tour and the times of the tour and meeting are tentative. There will be more information at the Convention in Denver and notices will be sent to each board member.

#### **THE NORTH AMERICAN LILY SOCIETY, INC.**

A Society to Promote the Culture of Lilies



We would like to invite you to add the Genus Liliun to your garden--the true Lilies. Join us by sending annual dues of \$20 for 1 year or \$55 for 3 years.

Send to: **Dr. Robert Gilman**  
NALS Executive Secretary  
P.O. Box 71, Owatonna, MN 55060  
For further information: [www.lilies.org](http://www.lilies.org)

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# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Listing

The Margaret Lee Branch, San Diego County, CA  
Michael Ludwig, Seed Fund Administrator

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

**DISCLAIMER:** The seeds distributed by the seed fund are identified as received from the donors. The seed fund cannot guarantee that the identification is correct. When you find that seeds received from the seed fund do not develop into the plant described please notify the Seed Fund so that a warning can be published for others who may have received seeds from the same batch. Each offering is identified by a code to be used whenever writing to the Seed Fund about the seeds. The descriptions published are from the literature and apply to the name used for the offerings.

The Seed Fund needs donations of seeds. Seeds may be traded for seeds offered in the Seed Fund Listings. Unlisted seeds from earlier offerings may be available in small quantities. If you have a special need ask the Seed Fund Administrator.

**The need for new seeds to distribute is acute. Please pollinate your species begonias with pollen from other plants of the same species and contribute (or exchange) to the seed fund.**

Most packets of species seeds are \$1.50; all packets of hybrids (including open pollinated) seeds are 50¢ per packet. Very rare seeds and newly collected seeds will be \$2.00 or more per packet. California residents please add 7% sales tax. All

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### Seed List

July-August 2001

**JA01-01:** *B. echinosepala* (not var. *elongatifolia*)

**JA01-02:** *B. kellermanii*

**JA01-03:** *B. ludwigii*

**JA01-04:** *B. paleata*

**JA01-05:** *B. U#315*

**JA01-06:** *B. 'Cachuma'* selfed.

**JA01-07:** *B. Large flowered Semperflorens*

**NOTE:** July orders may be delayed because of vacation.

## DESCRIPTIONS

**NOTE:** The names reported here are correct and are based on the latest information from **BEGONIACEAE**, Ed. 2, Golding & Wasshausen, manuscript update of 14 December 2000.

**JA01-01:** *B. echinosepala Regel (Brazil)* sometimes called "peach tree begonia" for its bare, elongated leaves, gracefully arching stems; fragrant white flowers winter through summer.

**JA01-02:** *B. kellermanii* (C. De Candolle) Guatemala. Shrub like: felted green leaves with green petioles and stems; fragrant pink tinted white flowers early spring.

**JA01-03:** *B. ludwigii* Irmscher (Ecuador) Trunk like, non-ramified with creamish white flowers in spring and summer, striking deeply lobed leaves tipped with white.

**JA01-04:** *B. paleata* Schott ex A.DC (Brazil) Shrub like with distinctive foliage. The rough textured leaves, much like *B. acida*, are a darker green and petioles are red with white hairs. White flower in late spring carried just above the foliage. Compact.

**JA01-05:** *B. U#315* Madagascar. Collected some years ago by Dr. Mardi Daria of Vista. Semperflorens type plant, make a nice hanging basket and blooms profusely. At each branch from a node the stem is slightly swollen for about an inch.

## Hybrids

The descriptions are of the female parent. The plants grown from these seeds may not resemble the descriptions given and should resulting plants be given the parent name.

**JA01-06:** *B. 'Cachuma'* selfed. *B. 'Cachuma'* is rhizomatous, has medium green, star-shaped leaves with light colored veins radiating from the petiole attachment. The petioles have many light colored scales.

**JA01-07:** *B. Large flowered Semperflorens* type. They are mixed from the glamour and frillies and include solid and picotee flowers mostly with pink.



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# M.L. MacIntyre *Begonia* Research Projects

by Laura Forrest

*Begonia* is one of the largest angiosperm genera, containing circa 1400 species distributed from South/Central America, though Africa and Asia. Given its species richness and geographic distribution, it makes a good model genus for the study of evolutionary diversification. However, despite containing a remarkable diversity of morphology, the genus is not easy to break up into manageable units for research. Sectional Classifications exist, and there is a very useful ext *The Sections of Begonia* by Doorenbos, Sosef and de Wilke (1998), but there is nothing which adequately reflects the genus' evolutionary history. Work at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, in collaboration with the University of Glasgow, is focusing on estimating the phylogeny of the genus in order to provide a natural sectional classification. In addition, the relationships of the African species are being explored, using morphological characters for cladistic analyses, and studying the population and conservation genetics of selected species.

**Laura Forrest** has recently completed her Ph.D. She has been studying the broad-scale phylogenetics of the genus using nuclear ribosomal sequence data (from the 26S, 5.8S and ITS regions). This work has shown a remarkable correlation between phylogeny and geography. Taxonomic affiliations based on morphology have frequently been misleading with morphologically disparate but geographically proximal taxa grouping together in phylogenetic analyses; morphologically similar but geographically distant taxa are often distantly related. The most diverse lineages of *Begonia* occur in Africa, with apparently more derived lineages present in Asia and America. Within Asia, spe-

cies which have been placed in a separate genus, *Symbegonia*, are very closely related to species from *Begonia* section *Petermannia*. Data do not support generic status for these species; *Symbegonia* should be at most treated like a section within *Begonia*.

**Vanessa Plana** is in the third year of a project on the taxonomy, phylogeny and evolution of four Afro-Malagasy sections of *Begonia*: *Squamibegonia*, *Baccabegonia*, *Mezierea* and *Tetraphila*. Molecular sequence data based on ITS and the chloroplast region trnL have been used to study dispersal events and the evolutionary history of African *Begonia*, including the endemic *Begonia* of Sao Tome, which can reach a remarkable 4m in height. In addition Vanessa has been exploring the evolution of the fruit morphology among African species. One clear finding from this is that fleshy fruitedness, which has traditionally been considered an important morphological character for the delimitation of sections in *Begonia*, has evolved more than once in Africa. Research is currently concentrating on the completion of the morphological and molecular data sets.

**Mark Hughes** is at the same stage as Vanessa in his project. He is studying population differentiation and dispersal in *Begonia*. The phylogenetic patterns in the genus suggest limited dispersal - taxa which grow in the same regions are phylogenetically closer to each other than to taxa in other regions. However, the hypothesis that dispersal is limited is based on phylogenetic patterns, and dispersal is an attribute of individuals and populations. Mark's project is thus an attempt to study more directly the levels of dispersal within and between populations

of selected African species. Some of his work has been in collaboration with the Scottish Crop Research Institute in Dundee, concentrating on the isolation of microsatellites (repetitive regions of DNA sequence) to act as high resolution, codominant markers for population genetic analyses. So far the use of microsatellites has been very informative, as they have proved far more polymorphic (i.e. more variable) than more traditional approaches (e.g. isozymes, AFLPs and RAPDs). When the markers are developed, Mark's research will focus on explicitly testing the relationship between geographic and genetic distances and its importance in the evolution of diversity

within Begonia.

These three projects are supported by the M.L. MacIntyre Begonia Research Trust, and are carried out in collaboration with several other people: **Peter Hollingsworth**, **Tony Miller** and **David Harris** at the Gardens, **Richard Bateman** of the Natural History Museum, London and **Rod Page** and **Jim Dickson**, University of Glasgow.

*Thank you, Laura, for the summary. We hope to hear more about the results of this work in the future. You may contact Laura at [L.Forrest@rbge.org.uk](mailto:L.Forrest@rbge.org.uk) or at the Royal Botanic Garden 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh*

## In Memory

**Althea Phillips**

The editor of The Buxtonian, Newsletter of the Buxton Branch (MA), Althea Phillips succumbed Tuesday, March 23 to complications of an operation. She was so conscientious, she prepared the February branch newsletter and delivered it for printing and distribution the day before she went to the hospital for the operation. She had an extensive stay in the ICU.

The Buxton Branch will miss her spunkiness. Throughout the last two years, she had an excellent attitude about her ills, and kept active in her garden club and church. She had many interests, but was very active in the First Parish Church Memorial Garden in Lexington, and in Dignity Dinners, also sponsored by the church. Althea had so little light in her house that she was determined to have a greenhouse added to her house. It was to have been begun the latter part of March. She will be missed in so many ways.

~from the *Buxtonian*

## Touch the Begonias!

Reading an article by **Carmel Browne** in the Queensland Begonia Society Journal with some of her comments about the diversity of the begonias of Brazil, reminded me of how wonderfully tactile, so distinct to the touch so many of our begonias are. Among those she mentioned:

The rough sand-papery feel of *B. egregia*.  
The smooth waxy surface of *B. sanguinea*.  
The soft velvety surface of *B. acetosa*.

To these we can add the:

Crinkly surface of *B. gehrtii*.  
Wonderful raised dots on Brad Thompson's *B. 'Little Miss Mummy'*.  
Thick, succulent leaves of *B. peltata*.  
Tiny raised hairs that we almost can't see, but can feel on *B. limprichtii*, *U062*, and others  
The rough hairiness of *B. carriacae*.  
The tiny, multi-leavedness of *B. foliosa* and *B. thelmae*.

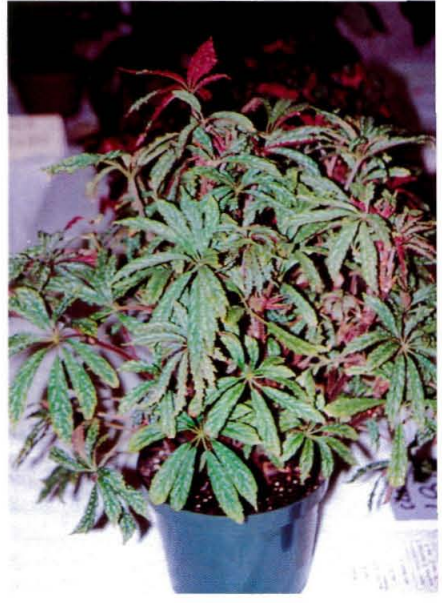
I'll bet you may think of others that I have missed. ~FH



*Vinner for the Best Novice Grown was this lovely B. acetosa grown by Jeanie Dinsmore, and John Howell's B. 'Di-Anna x' was a Division Winner. It and B. 'EstherAlbertine' grown by Bobbie McFadden were representative of the many beautiful canes always to be found at Southwest Region Get-Together shows.*







*B. dregei* was well represented by the small plant embedded in a rock exhibited by Don Mille and the Northaven Gardens exhibit of the one below with the largest caudex most of us have ever seen. And top right, is U404, a new unidentified species.



# Terrarium Growing in the Office

by Virginia Jens

I am relatively new to terrarium growing. My original reaction to "terrariums" was that they were for the unfortunate people forced to live in the frozen northern lands or in condominiums with no balcony. After all, I am fortunate to live in Florida where plants live in their proper place - outside. However, when I decided to try terrarium plants, keeping terrariums outdoors as Charles Jaros did in Miami didn't work for me. The opossums, raccoons, squirrels, cats, and dogs knocked the lids off on a regular basis leaving the plants to drown or dehydrate, or the sun would shift turning that terrarium in the shade into a begonia oven.

Tim Anderson may be able to grow many plants outside of a contained atmosphere in his Miami greenhouse but my efforts without a terrarium weren't successful. My inside efforts, when I was determined that at least I could grow *B. rajah*, weren't much better. It seems that terrarium begonias are in direct competition with cats for grow-light space. (In case you are wondering, yes, it is possible to achieve quite spectacular results by raising your cats under grow lights. Riley, my Himalayan mix is now over 25 pounds, which I attribute to all those hours spent under the grow light after he casually kicked the terrariums off the end of the shelf to claim his rightful place.)

After the 2000 convention when I gave in and bought several of Wanda Macnair's generous terrarium donations to the plant sale, a solution appeared. I started a new job with Palm Beach County's Environmental Resources Management Department. Being so ecologically inclined, they wouldn't mind one or two terrariums by my desk, I thought, even though begonias aren't Florida natives. I

was right; the staff loves to check on their progress, and several plants have found their way to happy new homes in other parts of the building or staff members' homes. *B. microsperma*, *B. prismatocarpa*, and *B. 'Buttercup'*, with their spectacular yellow flowers are conversation pieces. The Assistant Director even worried about the safety of the collection when our building was tented for termites.

Of course, those 3 or 4 terrariums have now increased to approximately 25. The terrariums are taking over. I was fortunate to find and rescue a plexiglass shelf unit from a neighbor's trash pile last month, but that was quickly filled by moving plants out of the propagation box. I have assured my division director that the duplicates would go to Denver and find happy homes elsewhere in the country. I didn't mention that the prop box is full of cuttings which will fill the empty spots or that I would no doubt propagate, trade, and buy more plants (especially those yellow flowering African species). I'd love to try a *Symbegonia* or *Hillebrandia* although I'm told that the latter are huge.

The two propagation boxes have proved to be the only disappointment to the staff. I grow in Fafard (my regular soilless potting mix) rather than cut sphagnum, and my "boxes" are nothing more than plastic baked goods containers. My fellow employees, perpetually hungry, are disappointed to find begonia cuttings and not the expected chocolate brownies in the container. Most, after their initial let-down, are interested in the process of growing from the wedge cuttings.

Growing has been good in the office. Fluorescent lighting for 14 hours a day, with indirect filtered light from the



*Computers and begonias working together! And right, is a closeup of B. 'Buttercup', just as happy as B. microsperma below in Virginia's Bubble City.*



windows on weekends and holidays, works well.

The only plant not liking the lighting so far is *B. U070 (incisa?)*. I got this as a tiny little plant from Doug Pridgen in Miami. It grew well for a while, then seemed very droopy and red after I "pot it up" to a larger terrarium. On the advice of Dianna Wilkerson, I moved it to a lower shelf with lower light conditions. She also thought it might be too damp, but actually after the repotting it was too dry. The lid of the new "terrarium" didn't fit tightly enough and the humidity levels dropped. With increased water and lower light, it has new growth and is more upright. The plants on the shelf above it, cubical walls on two sides, and the typing stand in front of the lowest shelf all provide "shade" from the overhead light.

The only pest problems I've had have been a result of using my previously opened bag of Fafard for soil. Since I store the potting soil outside in the yard, I have found an occasional little snail chomping on my begonias, and an occasional worm. It's a waiting game, but I win eventually. They can run, but it's hard to hide in a glass terrarium!

The big success has been *B. microsperma*. Every time I "pot it up" to a larger terrarium, the leaves get larger and larger. Maybe *B. microsperma* is in the giant leaved category when it's at home in Africa! I don't know if I can find (or afford) the larger glass bowl which it needs. I'm contemplating a plexiglass hex aquarium, maybe 55 gallon. Hopefully one will be offered at a yard sale. I have found that one watering will last for months and months, and as *B. microsperma* dries out it will bloom. I think the lower humidity levels convince it the dry season has arrived and it's time to reproduce. The large yellow flowers

are spectacular.

While I still love my "regular" begonias, terrarium plants have great assets: little watering, little fertilizing, little upkeep in general. Vacations and long holiday weekends have presented no problems.

An "Indiana Jones/Dr. Livingston" quality is there to inspire the imagination to: *B. subnummularifolia* first identified in Borneo in 1926; *B. versicolor* - China, 1939; *B. limprichtii* - China, 1922; *B. crispula* - Brazil, 1950; *B. coriacea* in Java in 1844; *B. microsperma* - the Cameroons, 1895; *B. rajah* - Malaysia, 1894; *B. rotundifolia* - Haiti, 1785; *B. luzonensis* - the Philippines, 1904; *B. prismatocarpa* - Tropical West Africa, 1826; *B. herbacea* - Brazil, 1831. I look up from the computer for a minute or two and I have completed not only a trip around the world, but a history review as well.

*Virginia, you almost make me wish I had an office to go to! Keep us posted on what you add from Denver. Virginia is especially interested in yellow-flowered African species; if you have one she doesn't have, I'll bet you could work out a trade from one of those propagation dishes. You can write her at 922 Upland Rd. West Palm Beach, FL 33401-7550.*

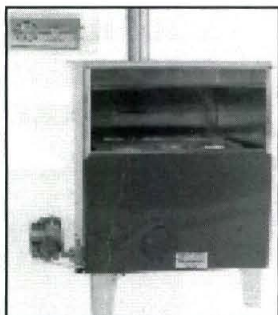
### Send An Article!

The *Begonian* is a hungry monster! It gobbles up articles and begs for more. Virginia, Scott, and Johanna fed it some big meaty chunks this month, but more are needed. What interesting thing do you know about begonias or have you done with begonias? Write it up and keep the *Begonian* from eating the editor!

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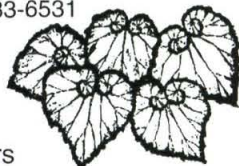
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## COMING EVENTS

**July 4-8, 2001: ABS Convention 2001** in Denver, CO. There will be a preconvention our on July 3 and a tour on July 9. Hotel is the downtown Embassy Suites, 1881 Curtis Street at 800-733-3366 or 303-297-8888. For more information call Andy Conely at 719-568-0656.

**July 21, 2001 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and July 22, 2001 (12 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.): Westchester Branch Show and Sale** with a California theme featuring Rudy Ziesenhenne's California Indian series (i.e. B. 'Sisquoc', B. 'Yonanli', and others). For information contact Janet Brown at 310-670-4471 or E-mail at [JBBrown@aol.com](mailto:JBBrown@aol.com).

**August 22, 2001 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.): The Monterey Bay Area Branch** will hold its Annual Plant Sale and Exhibit in the Cross Road Shopping Village mall Community Room, Hwy. 1 and Rio Road, Carmel, CA 93925. For more information call Leslie Hatfield at 831-384-6519

**August 24-26, 2001: San Francisco Branch Show and Sale.** Call Carol Notaras at 415-931-4912 or Email [cnotaras@juno.com](mailto:cnotaras@juno.com) for more information.

**September 7-9, 2001: ABS Board Meeting** in Orange County, CA. See page 146 for more information.

**September 15, 2001 (12-3:30 p.m.): Buxton Branch (MA) Annual Show and Sale,** combined with the NE/AGGS. Call Wanda Macnair at 617-876-1356 for more information.

**May 2002: Southwest Region Get-Together,** Houston. More information to come.

**September 26-28, 2002: AABS Convention,** Perth, Australia. You're invited.

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### *The Begonian*

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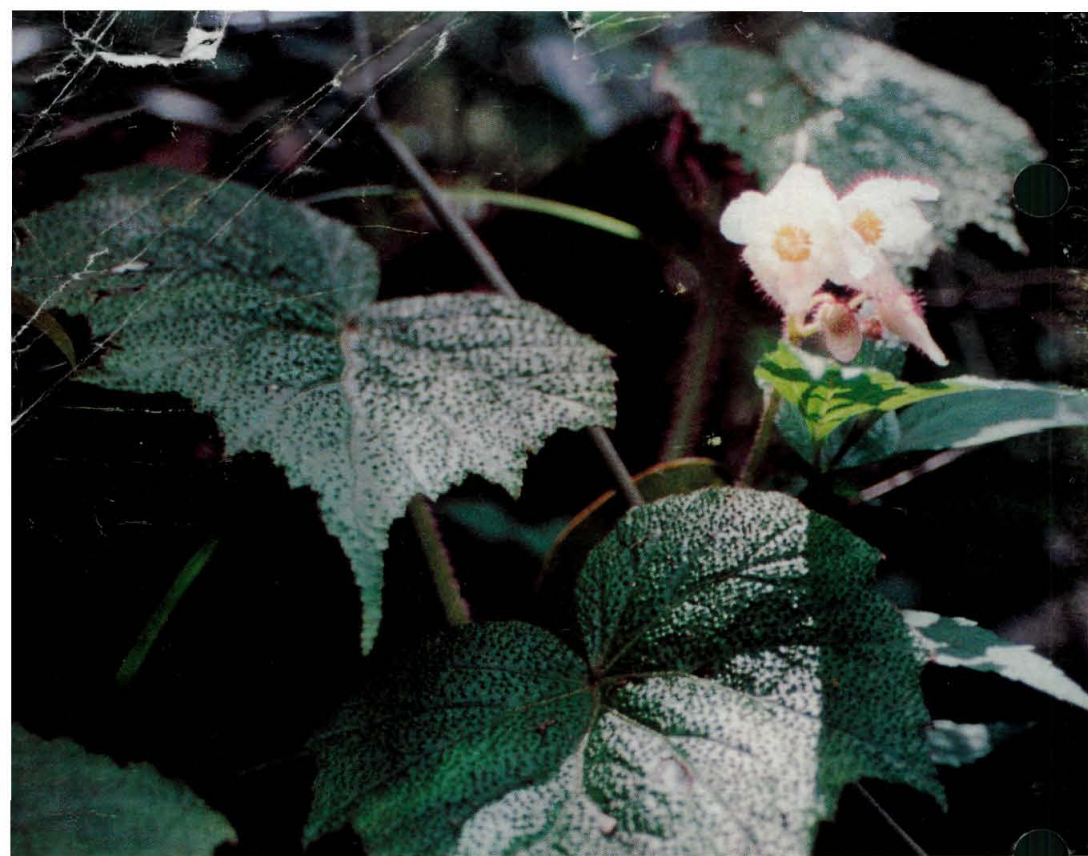
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