

The
Begonian

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The **Begonian**

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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: Here is *Begonia U425* which was collected by **Scott Hoover** who believes it may be a natural hybrid with *Begonia isoptera*. Read about Scott's 2002 trip in this issue.

Back: Here we see *Begonia U415*, also collected by Scott Hoover.

In This Issue

This is an issue with much for us to learn about and to enjoy from the latest on Scott Hoover's collecting in Java to Jack Golding's examination of the Sections of the Begonia. But we also have a chance to see Johanna Kitson's favorite trailing scandent begonia and a gorgeous watercolor by Joy Porter of *B. tayabensis*. And so much more!

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*We'll be Looking
For You
in Oklahoma City
for the 2003
ABS Convention
Celebrating Our Begonia
Heritage including
70 years of the Begonian!*

Quick

Check your mailing label.
If it reads
200305 or 200306, your
membership is about to
expire. Please renew! We
don't want to lose you.

President's Message

This will be a hodgepodge of topics. As it is written, winter-doldrums are in full swing, thus less stimulation. On the other hand when you read this spring will be around the corner.

Having just finished a complete grooming and inspection of the begonias, I'm reminded again of how alike they all are, and yet how each is an individual. Obvious are shape, color, and size of leaves and horticultural classification, i.e. canes, shrubs, rhizomatous, etc. Less obvious are the needs of each plant for light, water, fertilizer, and temperature tolerance. These differences are further magnified by the size of the pot the plant is growing in. So each plant is a puzzle and a challenge, and with the advent of spring the puzzle and challenge will again change.

Our branch library has an English translation of the German Book *Die Begonian* by Fotsch, 1939. How the branch obtained the volume is a mystery. As I am reading it, there are a number of interesting things to share with you. One section is devoted to descriptions and information about individual plants, both species and hybrids. The author wrote only about plants he either grew or had observed. Some of the plants are common to us today such as *B.* 'Lucerna', others either lost in time or have had name changes. Another chapter deals with pests, fortunately most of which do not bother us or we now have effective means to deal with them. The chapter on culture and propagation is most interesting. Much of our "common knowledge" of begonia culture today is the same as it was in Germany 60 plus years ago! But, there are also ideas that, at least to me, are new and worth trying. The most amazing thing to me about this book is to think that at this point in history there was

sufficient interest in Germany to warrant the writing of it. It verifies that our passion for our plants can sustain us through whatever the world at large throws at us.

With pleasure I report the very positive response of individuals and branches to fund the recent Mexican exploration by Rekha Morris. Of the original grant request, national contributed 25%; contributions by branches and individuals brought the total to well over 75% of the request.

There is also something else I want to encourage each of you to do that will cost only 37 cents or less, and some of your time. Make a list of the species begonias you are growing. Mail/email the list to Bill Claybaugh, Conservation Chair. Also adopt one or more of those species. Send your adoption to Rekha Morris, *Save Our Species Newsletter* editor. In return for your adoption you will receive a free subscription to the *SOS newsletter*. Observe your species and note the observations. A year of observations will provide for a nice article that you can then submit to one of our ABS publication.

I hope you enjoyed the January/February issue of the *Begonian* as much as I did. There was such a diversity of voices in both articles and pictures. Please everyone, continue to contribute. Our editor is a

Continued on page 55.

Letters to the Editor

Tubers Wanted

All of my tubers are resting in little brown bag beds, but I'm anxiously waiting for early spring to wake them up. I am a new grower, only having raised tuberous begonias a handful of years, but I have been a gardener since grade school. Being so new to the special interest in tuberous, I don't have lots of sources. Not being



Vera Miller's photo of the Ayr Flower Show exhibit of Hugh MacLauchlan's winning exhibit of begonias: B. 'Orange Rubra', Rex B. 'Green Gold', B. 'Martin Johnson', B. 'Delray Silver', B. 'Benitochiba', Rex B. 'L'Escargo', B. 'Fireworks', B. 'Purple Snow', B. 'Green Spider', B. masoniana, B. 'Botato', B. 'Verde Grande', B. 'Contesse de Montesquiese', and others. Below, we see the 2002 Gold Medal winner display of the Scottish Begonia Society with its 45 double flowered tuberous begonias.



successful in ordering from New Zealand, England or Canada, my only current source for tubers of quality is Antonelli Brothers. They have wonderful, excellent quality tubers, but I've about gone through their offers and feel the need for more. When I see lists of offerings from New Zealand, I'm taken with the hundreds of varieties available with great sounding names and enticing descriptions. Alas, I have not been successful in finding even a short list of named varieties from any United States supplier. Does anyone out there know of a source? Perhaps there are hobby growers that are members and have some extras they would like to sell? I say sell, because I have no extras myself and hope to try my hand at propagation this spring thanks to all of the information in this magazine and the few books I've read on the subject (Wish me luck!).

If you have some named variety tubers to sell, please contact me and see if they are something I'd be interested in. Maybe a posting direct to the magazine would also be helpful to others like me. I hope next year to have a few extras. Maybe then (if I get some named varieties), I will have some to trade! In the meantime, I plan to contact **Virginia Hamann**, Round Robin Chair to see if the tuberous Robin has taken flight so that I can join in. If not, then, maybe a few of you will contact Virginia and we can get the bird on the wing.

Sincerely,

Debra Burgess

Lake Stevens, WA

trogon777@sprynet.com

Debra, you are lucky to be where you can grow tuberous and Virginia really needs more members for the Robins.

Visitors in Scotland

Janet Brown and her daughter recently visited Scotland and came to Bishop

Brigs to see my begonias. I showed her some photographs at the Ayr Flower show and she particularly liked one taken by **Vera Miller** at the show when she came over last year, and she said that the center piece of the picture was good front cover material for the *Begonian* and said I should send it to you, so here it is. This was my winning entry in the class for a display of species and cultivar begonias in an area 4 ft. square.

Janet also enjoyed her visit to Glasgow Botanical Garden when I took her there to meet **Ewen Donaldson** and **John Stevenson**, but no doubt you will hear more about that from her.

I also enclose a shot of the Scottish Begonia Society display taken by me this year when we won yet another Gold Medal. This display consisted of 45 double flowered tuberous begonias.

I will be in Florida from November 14 to 28 and look forward to enjoying some of your wonderful weather and also hope to be in Oklahoma City next April.

Enjoy your begonias.

Best Wishes,

Hugh McLauchlan

29 Tofthill

Bishopsbriggs, Glasgow

G64 3PB

0141 772 4125

Hugh, Vera's photo and your exhibit is indeed front cover quality, but unfortunately a horizontal photo will not size correctly - it would have to be cropped and the remainder overly enlarged, then the quality would go down. Cover photos are almost always vertical shots (and I always need cover shots!). Both displays are outstanding as readers will see on the previous page.

Readers enjoy Letters to the editor. Why not send one?

Begonia Sections

by Jack Golding

The family of **Begoniaceae** is divided into three genera. The genus **Begonia** has more than 1500 species, **Hillebrandia** has one species and **Symbegonia** has 12 species.

The large genus **Begonia** is further separated into 63 sections that are distinguished by their morphological [structural] characters and their geographical distribution. Knowledge of the sections enables one to identify unknown species and to study the relation of species to each other.

A short history: As the number of known **Begonia** increased, it became expedient to subdivide **Begoniaceae** family, first into genera and later into sections.

1. C. Gaudichaud proposed the additional genus *Meziera* in 1841.
2. John Lindley in 1846 proposed the genera **Begonia**, *Diploclinium* and *Eupetalum*, which he distinguished by the number of placentas in each locule of the ovary.
3. J. Klotzsch in 1854 and 1855, distinguished 37 more genera, based on the details of the flowers. But his subdivision of the family was not followed by subsequent authors.
4. A.de Candolle in 1859 and 1864 in his monograph of **Begoniaceae** had only three genera, *Meziera* with 3 species, *Casparya* with 23 species, and **Begonia** with 323 species. *Meziera* was divided into 2, *Casparya* into 5, and **Begonia** into 61 sections. Of these 34 corresponded to the genera of Klotzsch.
5. O. Warburg in 1894 was the first to group sections of **Begonia** according to their distribution in the continents, and he divided the genus (including *Casparya* and *Meziera*) into 61 sections.
6. E. Irmscher in 1925 expanded Warburg's treatment into 64 sections.
7. F.A. Barkley and A. Baranov in 1974, based on the works of Irmscher, defined and listed 80 sections.

The best source of information is **The Sections of Begonia**, by J. Doorenbos, M.S.M. Sosef and J.J.F.E. de Wilde, published in 1998. They defined the morphological characters used to bring the description up-to-date for the sections and in many cases revised the delimitation of them. The 63 sections were described, with references to illustrations of some typical characters and their geographical distribution. More than 1350 *Begonia* species were separated into groups with similar characters and listed for each sections. There are many taxonomic comments concerning the relationship between sections and species. Their user-friendly keys [asks for easily observed and straight forward characters] enables one to identify the section of an unknown species and their analytical keys [of a more scientific nature] are used to show the relationship between the species.

This is a demonstration of how the "User-friendly Key to all sections" from **The Sections of Begonia**, enabled me to find the section for the my plant **B. convolvulacea**. This Key is a lists of 120 characters in dichotomous pairs. I have added the -1 and -2, to identify each branch. In this example, only the characters applicable to

this species are listed. For each character, the branch that best describes the species is selected, and the unused branch is struck-out. The number at the end of each line is the guide to the next character. This procedure is repeated until the section name is found.

1-1	Locules 1 or 2	2
1-2	Locules 3 to 7 [The spaces or chamber within an ovary]	12
12-1	Placental branches 1 per locule [The intrusion of the ovary wall into the locule, that may have 1 or more branches]	13
12-2	Placental branches 2 to 4 per locule	41
13-1	Female flower with 2 perianth segments	14
13-2	Female flower with 3 to 6 perianth segments [tepals]	19
19-1	Tubers present	20
19-2	Tubers absent	25
25-1	Wings developed into hooks	26
25-2	Wings not hook- or spine-like [the thin, dry or membranous expansion or flat extension or appendage of the ovary]	27
27-1	Stem herbaceous	28
27-2	Stem woody (at least the base)	35
35-1	Bracteoles absent	36
35-2	Bracteoles 2 [very small modified leaves on the flower stalk]	37
37-1	Leaves palmately compound	sect Scheidweieria
37-2	Leaves entire or lobed [palmately lobed -shallowly divided in a hand-like fashion]	39
39-1	Plants lianescent [climbing with adventitious roots like ivy]	section <i>Wageneria</i>
39-2	Plants with upright stems	40

The following species are grouped in section *Wageneria* (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle:

B. aeranthos L.B. Smith & B.G. Schubert; **B. convolvulacea** (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle; **B. epibaterium** Martius ex A.de Candolle; **B. fagifolia** Fischer ex Otto & Dietrich; **B. glabra** Aublet.; **B. inconspicua** Brade; **B. polygonifolia** A. de Candolle; **B. smilacina** A. de Candolle.

This is the description of a typical section from **The Sections of Begonia**

Section *Wageneria* (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle

Plants terrestrial, perennial, lianescent, (or scandent); tubers absent; stem woody (at least at base); tubercles in leaf axil absent; stipules usually persistent or rarely early caducous (**B. aeranthos**), entire; junction petiole and leaf blade without a tuft of hairs. **Leaves** alternate, more than 2, straight, symmetric, usually not peltate or rarely peltate (subpeltate in **B. aeranthos**), simple; venation usually pinnate or rarely palmate (**B. convolvulacea**); indument of scales or stellate hairs absent. **Inflorescence** axillary, dichasial at base and monochoasial at apex, bisexual, with male flowers basal and female flowers distal, protandrous; inflorescence axes not reduced; bracts usually persistent (during flowering) or rarely caducous (**B. polygonifolia**). **Flower** with 2 bracteoles spaced from the base of the ovary; perianth segments white or pink, outer ones rounded or occasionally acute at apex (in female flowers only). *Male flower* with 4 free perianth segments; androecium actinomorphic, filaments equal, free (rarely fused below in **B.**

inconspicua?), anthers oblong or rarely ovate (**B. inconspicua**), usually longer than or rarely shorter than the filaments (**B. inconspicua**), dehiscent with laterally positioned longitudinal slits (more than 0.5 of the anther length), apex not hooded, connective usually not extended or rarely extended (**B. inconspicua**). *Female flower* with 5 free perianth segments; ovary or fruit with 3 wings, wings unequal in fruit (usually 2 marginal), not hook- or spine-like, locules 3, placentation axillary, placental branches 1 per locule; styles 3, free, forked once, persistent in fruit, stigma not kidney-shaped, in a band and spiralled. **Fruit** not berry-like, without or with an indistinct break.

Distribution: America: throughout Central and South America except for the Guianas.

The following is a list of the sections, with the number of species in each section and their distribution. The number with uncertain allocation are marked with a ?

Section Name & Author	No. of species	Distribution
1. <i>Alicida</i> C. B. Clarke	3	Asia
2. <i>Apterobegonia</i> Warburg	1	Asia
3. <i>Augustia</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	12	Africa
4. <i>Baccabegonia</i> Reitsma	2	Africa
5. <i>Barya</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	3	America
6. <i>Baryandra</i> A. de Candolle	1	Asia
7. <i>Begonia</i>	62 + 5?	America
8. <i>Bracteibegonia</i> A. de Candolle	3 + 1?	Asia
9. <i>Casparya</i> (Klotzsch) Warburg	24	America
10. <i>Coelocentrum</i> Irmscher	12	Asia
11. <i>Cristasemen</i> J. J. de Wilde	1	Africa
12. <i>Cyathocnemis</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	17 + 5?	America
13. <i>Diploclinium</i> (Lindley) A. de Candolle		Asia
Group I,	57 + 15?	
Group II,	39 + 7?	
Group III,	23 + 3?	
14. <i>Donaldia</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	7	America
15. <i>Doratometra</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	8 + 2?	America
16. <i>Erminea</i> A. de Candolle	12 + 1?	Africa
17. <i>Eupetalum</i> (Lindley) A. de Candolle	27 + 4?	America
18. <i>Filicibegonia</i> A. de Candolle	8	Africa
19. <i>Gaerdtia</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	11	America
20. <i>Gireoudia</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	66 + 2?	America
21. <i>Gobenia</i> A. de Candolle	14 + 1?	America
22. <i>Haagea</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	1	Asia
23. <i>Heeringia</i> Irmscher	1	Asia
24. <i>Hydristyles</i> A. de Candolle	9 + 1?	America
25. <i>Knesebeckia</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	50 + 5?	America
26. <i>Lauchea</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	2	Asia
27. <i>Lepsia</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	4 + 2	America
28. <i>Loasibegonia</i> A. de Candolle	19	Africa
29. <i>Mezierea</i> (Gaudichaud) Warburg	6	Africa
30. <i>Monophyllon</i> A. de Candolle	2	Asia

31.	<i>Monopteron</i> (A. de Candolle) Warburg	2	Asia
32.	<i>Muscibegonia</i> A. de Candolle	2	Africa
33.	<i>Nervioplacentalia</i> A. de Candolle	7 + 1?	Africa
34.	<i>Parietoplacentalia</i> Ziesenhenne	3	America
35.	<i>Parvibegonia</i> A. de Candolle	29	Asia
36.	<i>Peltaugustia</i> (Warburg) Barkley	1	Africa
37.	<i>Petermannia</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	205 + 17?	Asia
38.	<i>Pilderia</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	1	America
39.	<i>Platycentrum</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	96 + 14?	Asia
40.	<i>Pritzelia</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	122 + 13?	America
41.	<i>Putzeysia</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	1	Asia
42.	<i>Quadrilobaria</i> A. de Candolle	19	Africa
43.	<i>Quadriperigonia</i> Ziesenhenne	17 + 2?	America
44.	<i>Reichenheimia</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle		Asia
	Group I,	22 + 1?	
	Group II,	5	
	Group III	13 + 1?	
45.	<i>Ridleyella</i> Irmscher	2	Asia
46.	<i>Rossmannia</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	1	America
47.	<i>Rostrobegonia</i> Warburg	10	Africa
48.	<i>Ruizopavonia</i> A. de Candolle	32 + 3?	America
49.	<i>Scheidweileria</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	6	America
50.	<i>Scutobegonia</i> Warburg	23	Africa
51.	<i>Semibegoniella</i> (C. de Candolle) Barkley & Baranov	13	America
52.	<i>Sexalaria</i> A. de Candolle	1	Africa
53.	<i>Solananthera</i> A. de Candolle	3	America
54.	<i>Sphenanthera</i> (Hasskarl) Warburg	26 + 1?	Asia
55.	<i>Squamibegonia</i> Warburg	3	Africa
56.	<i>Tetrachia</i> Brade	1	America
57.	<i>Tetraphila</i> A. de Candolle	30	Africa
58.	<i>Trachelocarpus</i> (C. Mueller) A. de Candolle	6	America
59.	<i>Trendelenburgia</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	1	America
60.	<i>Urniformia</i> Houghton ex Ziesenhenne	1	America
61.	<i>Wageneria</i> (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	8	America
62.	<i>Warburgina</i> O. Kuntze	1	America
63.	<i>Weilbachia</i> (Klotzsch & Oersted ex Klotzsch) A. de Candolle	14 + 9?	America

For this simplified introduction to Begonia sections I have extracted much information from **The Sections of Begonia**, by J. Doorenbos, M.S.M. Sosef and J.J.F.E. de Wilde, Wageningen Agricultural University Papers 98-2 1998. For a more complete understanding of the Sections, I recommend obtaining this book from Backhuys Publishers, P.O. Box 321, 2300 AH Leiden, The Netherlands.

I thank Freda Holley and Bill Claybaugh for their review of my preliminary manuscript and suggestions.

COMPLETION OF *BEGONIA* COLLECTING IN WEST JAVA, INDONESIA THE THREE CENTRAL MOUNTAINS OF HALIMUN NATIONAL PARK

By

**Dr. Harry Wiriadinata, Herbarium Borgoriense,
W. Scott Hoover and James M. Hunter,
New England Tropical Conservatory**

In May 2002, we completed a long sought after exploratory mission, namely the 3 central mts. of Halimun National Park: Mts. Halimun, Bintanggading and Sanggabuwana. Since our 2000 expedition into this relatively remote area, we have been trying to reach these interior mts. for *Begonia* collecting, and general collecting of plants associated with *Begonia* for ecological studies. Readers may recall, and audience viewers of Hoover's presentation may recall, a description of how our expedition party was forced off the side of Mt. Botol, due to excessive rainfall and gale force winds in March 2000. This last May we accomplished our objective and botanically explored all three mts. and some stream systems draining Mt. Bintanggading. Table 1 provides information on this exploration.

From the standpoint of *Begonia* collecting, only three species were collected: *B. multangula* (typical var.), *B. robusta* (white haired var.) and the small leafed *Petermannia* species that pops up at higher elevations in West Java. For the first time, we were able to "harvest" a sizable quantity of this *Petermannia* sp. seed, another long sought after objective. The seed is still in Indonesia with Harry due to it being wet and not in a condition to export under our normal phytosanitary permits issued by the Indonesia Agricultural Department. Within the next month, we expect Harry will send it to NETC, under a U.S.D.A. green/yellow label, thus conforming to the necessary standards established for plant exportation to the United States.

Some notes on the *Begonia* of these mts. deserve mentioning. Once we crossed the ridge from Mt. Botol to Mt. Kendeng North and proceeded to ascend the ridge to Mt. Bintanggading, the habit of *B. multangula* and *B. robusta* changed significantly. Both species are normally observed to occur to a meter or less in height. We have observed dozens of populations of these species throughout West Java and have quite a background of field experience for comparative purposes. It was as if we were entering a different world: we made camp adjacent to a recent landslide where all vegetation had been stripped from the slopes of embankments, leaving exposed mud on both sides of the trickle of water that gained volume as it descended down the mountainside. Our camp was about 200 m. below the ridge crest, the trail we cut crossing a large exposed mud split in the forest floor, indicating the next major rain may slide another section of forest downstream, including where we camped. (Based on the 2000 experience, we planned this expedition for a dryer season, thus likely avoiding a large rain.) During the three days of collecting, one day assigned for each mt., we could observe these species of *Begonia* growing in small valleys between the mts. where they would reach heights of nearly 3 meters along the sides of trees, where their nodes had rooted. It is like a secret

world where these *Begonia* species grow, since at no other place in West Java have we ever observed *B. multangula* and *B. robusta* growing to this large height.

Another objective we had for this years collecting expedition was to give responsibility to **Deden Girmansyah** for organizing a small collecting expedition to Mt. Cikuray. Deden is a Bogor Herbarium technician whose undergraduate education at Pakuan University is sponsored by NETC. Mt. Cikuray was selected for recollecting due to its high *Begonia* species diversity of 7 species (Wiriadinata, Hoover, and Hunter, in press.) Seed from Deden's work in March 2002 has been received by NETC and subsequently distributed to the ABS.

Table 1
Mountains Explored on 2002 Expedition
to Halimun National Park

<u>Name of Mountain</u>	<u>Lat./Long. & Elevation (in M)</u>	<u>Date for Exploratory Sampling</u>	<u>Elevation Reached/ % of Total Elevation</u>	<u>No. of Begonia Species Observed</u>	
Mt. Halimun-North	106°27'E/ 6°43'S 1929	5/20/02	1929/100%	2 ^B	**
Mt. Bintanggading	106°26'E/ 6°43'S 1896	5/19/02	1896/100%	3 ^B	**
Mt. Sanggabuwana	106°26'/1919 6°44'S 1919	5/21/02	1919/100%	2 ^B	**

** Central Mts. of Halimun National Park, virgin forest; quite dry at uppermost elevations and peak.

Late Notes on the 2002 Collections

Mary Fuqua writes that **Harry Wiriadinata** did further seed collecting at other locations, has dried all the seeds, and is preparing to send half this collection. We will forward them on to **Ann** and **Gene Salisbury** as soon as they arrive.

Because of the current uncertainty of the importation of germ plasm, even flower seeds, it is thought best to bring the other half back when **Scott Hoover** returns from the 2003 expedition.

Scott will not be back in the US by Convention time, but come to Mary's seminar at the convention to learn all about how the 2003 expedition is going.

My Favorite Trailing Scandent Begonia

by Johanna Kitson

Back in the fall of 1999, I was introduced to *Begonia U002* not knowing that it had already been around for nearly 20+ years. Since it had a "U" number I thought it was something new. I was a fairly new begoniac and had just been to my first begonia sales event at the University of South Florida that **Dale Sena** had organized as part of that spring's board meeting. A few weeks later our chapter volunteered to host the 2000 convention and we made cuttings of this "new" begonia. Of this pretty trailing begonia, little did I know.....until now.

Begonia 'U002' had been featured on the *Begonian* cover in 1979, written about in 1981, and talked about on-line in the yahoo begonia group. It wasn't until 6 months ago that I found out on this computer group that this wonderful trailing scandent ground cover had been identified as a natural hybrid.

From what I can glean from talking to people and rereading different articles, the story begins back in the mid 1970's. I heard that seed came in from Brazil as U002. I read that a plant of this U002 was given to **Michael Kartuz** via **Frank Kerin** of Pittsburgh via an orchid collector who knew nothing of its origin. Michael grew it and offered it in his catalog, however, he doubted that it was a true species. **Patrick Worley** saw the plant and in it recognized characteristics of other plants, specifically, what was then known as *U003* and *U009*.

In the February 1981 *Begonian*, Brazilian species *U003* was the cover photo. This unidentified Brazilian begonia came from the garden of **Roberto Burle Marx** (landscape architect in Rio de Janeiro) via **Gilbert Daniels**. This begonia species has a dark green leaf with a pustulate surface and has a distinct light green color radiating from the center, edged in red. It also has tiny white flowers and is now known as *Begonia soli-mutata*.

The second species, *U009*, was also on a *Begonian* cover later that same year in the month of May. Like *B. soli-mutata*, this was from Mr. Marx's garden as well and, therefore, most likely Brazilian even though there was no exact record of its origin. In 1974 Mr. Marx gave the plant to Dr. Gilbert Daniels (past president of the American Horticultural Society and past director of the Hunt Botanical Institute). *U009* has small felted leaves that are dark green with light green markings radiating along the middle veins. Leaves are close together and attached to reddish trailing stems. The flowers are white and *U009* is now known as *Begonia thelmae*, named after *Thelma O'Reilly*. Back in 1976 several ABS members were visiting Dr. Daniels and his greenhouses in Pittsburgh and were given cuttings of this trailing begonia.

My question at this point is, after all these years, has anybody ever found these begonias again in the wild, or was this the last possible plant that just happened to be in the Marx garden? Do people ever go back to re-explore an area to try and verify what is



Above , Johanna's photo shows her B. U002 and B. soli-mutata growing side by side and below is her B. thelmae in a basket.



still there? Perhaps someone has been there and would like to do an article on this aspect of begonia hunting in Brazil?

Meanwhile, this brings us back to B. U002 and its resemblance to B. U003 and U009. Notice in the pictures how the three plants resemble one another. **Patrick Worley** decided to cross these two species around 1978 and when he did so, came up with many fairly uniform seedlings that grew up to be just like U002. The F1 seedlings varied slightly in leaf size and height but this is common in species to species crosses. **Byron Martin** of Logee's Greenhouses duplicated this cross and came to the same conclusion. Patrick then named this cross B. 'Manaus' after the Brazilian city of Manaus.

Begonia U002 seems to like a lot of humidity around it. I have tried growing it in a hanging basket, but it only gets leggy for me. One day a small piece of it fell out of it's basket and just started running along the ground searching for new places to explore. It now grows right over all the old oak leaves that fall in my flower beds and over the occasional limestone rock that gets in its way. It has established itself in several areas of my yard as a compact ground cover and blooms all year long. So, until it freezes in West Palm Beach, I guess this little begonia will just keep trailing along!

Johanna Kitson writes from 14206 Greentree Drive, Wellington, FL 33404 and you may reach her by Email at Oetkbytc@aol.com. Johanna also does those outstanding begonia watercolors!

President's Message continued from page 44. great writer, but as editor she shouldn't be expected to write the articles as well as edit the issues and produce them. Also hope you appreciated the timely manner in which you received the *Begonian* now that everyone gets it by first-class mail. If there is a problem with the mail contact the Membership Chair, **Arlene Ingles**.

A special note of thanks to **Michael Ludwig** for the master seed fund inventory. That was a lot of work. If you haven't grown from seed, order a few packets. You will also receive a sheet of instructions to insure your propagation success.

Just a few words aimed particularly at members who have never attended a national convention. The location is about as central as it can be for all members. If I were a good writer, I could convey to you how exciting and rewarding a convention is. Sure you will go home with new plants, ideas, and memories of what great, well-grown

plants look like. But you will also have the thrill of friendships made or renewed, as well as **getting to** know the folks who so devotedly keep ABS afloat. Attend once and my guess is you won't miss another one.

In friendship,
Morris Mueller

Labeling Your Begonias

What is more frustrating than the whole issue of labeling our begonias? It is no easy task to have a label and the correct type of pen or pencil available when a plant turns upside down and we must make instant cuttings. Then, our labels fade or the dog eats them and for the life of us we cannot remember the hybrid's name.

Do you have any special thoughts or tricks on this whole issue. The editor and other readers would love to hear them; send an article!

BUYING BEGONIAS ON THE INTERNET

by Sandy Boyd

No one ever has enough begonias and few can resist buying more. Unfortunately, most of us do not live near a begonia nursery. So, we can acquire a new one occasionally if we have an ABS branch near our homes or attend the annual convention. Now there is a new way to shop for begonias - on the internet. Most growers have web sites which feature pictures and descriptions of the plants, plus they offer an order form and an email address for questions, some have toll free numbers for ordering.. Some individuals who offer their begonias for sale have large greenhouses in their yards and are not generally open to the public, while others are full scale nurseries.

I have purchased from many of the websites featured in this article and have found the service and plants outstanding on the whole. I feel the best time to buy and have begonias shipped is in the spring and fall. An order now will let the growers select the nicest plants for you when the weather is right for shipping. Summer heat and winters cold can create havoc with begonias. Having said that, many growers will ship during temperature extremes by using express mail which will cost you a higher mailing charge. Most growers ship on Monday so the orders won't have to spend a weekend in a warehouse. Also, many smaller growers may need time to let your ordered plants grow up to a decent size to ship, so don't always expect plants a few days after you order them. Most begonia nurseries have a greater selection of plants than they have listed on line, so if you are looking for a particular begonia an email might bring you a pleasant surprise. Some growers have sales which they "advertise" to members of the on line begonia group.

Mike Kartuz has been a premier hybridizer of begonias for many years and resides in the San Diego, California area. He has both a web site to order from as well as a printed catalog. His plants arrive well packed and nicely sized and his inventory is large. This is a chance to get some of his choice hybrids. He also carries extensive lines of other shade loving plants. Visit his web site at: <http://www.kartuz.com>

Chuck Ades, who owns a wholesale only nursery in San Diego, wrote a wonderful article in the January/February 2003 issue of the *Begonian* about how he is growing "Sure Winner" begonias. These are plants that can survive in a home environment and that a buyer will have success with. He markets through a national wide chain of nursery and gift stores called Smith and Hawkins. They have a terrific web site and order forms at <http://www.smithandhawken.com>.

A little further up the California coast is a new name for on line buying. **Mark Bartholomew** has owned a wholesale nursery in the Carpinteria area for some time. He will be specializing in **Brad Thompson's** beautiful hybrids. They also carry a nice selection of other begonias. I visited the nursery last spring and was impressed with the quality and size of the plants. The web address is <http://www.himarkbegonias.com>.

Antonelli Brothers Begonia Gardens are located in the beautiful beach community of Santa Cruz, California and should be well known to all tuberous begonia growers. Walking through their nursery is like stepping into a begonia heaven. There are hun-

dreds and hundreds of hanging tuberous begonias and many hundreds more on the benches. They sell seeds and tubers of their begonias throughout the year. In addition, they sell canes, rhizomatous etc. in the late spring. Visit their web site at **http://www.antnelli.com** to sign up for catalogs and ordering information. I have ordered from them several times and have been impressed with their plants, but I need to repot them immediately in my soil for success.

The only begonia grower in the Northwest of which I am aware is **Kathy Goetz** of Cloudy Valley Nursery in Lebanon Oregon. She has an excellent web site and is a fine grower. I was fortunate enough to visit her greenhouse a couple of years ago. She is a smaller grower, not open to the public, and will sometimes need a lead in time to get your begonia order grown to shipping size. Be patient. It will be worth the wait. Her web address is **www.begonias.com**.

Lauray of Salisbury in Connecticut features begonias along with gesneriads, orchids, cacti and succulents. I went to her web site but didn't find much about begonias so I emailed her and within minutes had a reply and a very complete plant list and order forms emailed to me to download. Their internet address is: **http://www.lauray.com**

Logee's Greenhouses in Danielson, Ct. have been major growers and hybridizers of begonias for decades. They publish an excellent catalog and have a first class web site. They have a large assortment of tropical plants as well. **Visit them at www.logees.com.**

Robb-mini-o-lets is located in Naples, NY and has a nice selection of begonias as well as African violets & Gesneriads. Their address is **www.robsviolet.com**.

In South Florida is a beautiful nursery and gardens called Palm Hammock Orchid Estate. Many of you know of **Tim Anderson** and his wonderful hybrids. The hardest thing about the nursery is the web site address: **http://members.tripod.com/~PalmHammockOrchidEst/phoe.html**

Once you type it in and make sure it is correct bookmark it immediately because you will come back to it many times. They have a large inventory and ship quickly. It will be one of my top tourist destinations when I visit Florida. I'd skip Disney World to get to see this nursery.

Greg Sytch is the Horticultural Correspondent for the *Begonian* and a fine grower and hybridizer who has a greenhouse in his backyard and raises lush begonias for sale. He does not have a web site address, but if you will email him at planetbegonia@cs.com he will email you back a catalog which you can download for future reference. He will also notify you via email when he is having a sale on plants or cuttings (usually in the late summer or early fall).

Finally, do support the advertizers in the *Begonian*. They all have been active members of ABS and deserving of your business. I have not included growers who do not have an internet or email presence. I have tried to include every grower I know, or have been told, about. If I have not included you I am sorry.

Remember to participate in the Yahoo begonia discussion group. To join go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Begonias/> and follow the instructions on the screen to join. Or, you may simply send an email to **begonias@yahogroups.com** and type subscribe in the subject line. If you have any problems with these web site addresses email me at **samb4mail@aol.com**.

A Fort Worth Botanic Garden Begonia Species Bank Update

by Linda Shires

We have some exciting news to report from the Begonia Species Bank. Our collection is expanding due to the wonderful efforts of **Dr. Bill E. Claybaugh**, the ABS Conservation Chairman. Bill is locating and supplying the Begonia Species Bank with as many species as he can from the ABS membership. In November, Dr. Bill Claybaugh, **Tom Keepin**, and **Cheryl Lenert** from the Astro Branch gave an exciting program to the Mae Blanton Branch.

During the program they presented the Begonia Species Bank with 17 species from their collections that were new to the Bank, including: *B. kingiana*, *B. limprichtii*, *B. petasitifolia*, *B. U089* (*B. quadrialata* ssp. *nimbaensis*), *B. rex*, *B. dregei* var. *dregei* (Syn.*B. richardsiana*), *B. scapigera*, *B. U400*, *B. species ex Malaysia*, *B. species ex Vietnam*, the cultivar *B. imperialis* 'Platinum Plus', *B. conchifolia*, *B. fischeri* var. *fischeri*, *B. luzonensis*, *B. ciliobracteata* (Syn.*B. raynaliorum*), and *B. robusta* var. *robusta*. These additions bring the Species Bank total to 267.

They also presented the Begonia Species Bank with a check for \$550 from the Astro Branch of ABS. The money will be used to complete renovations in the Begonia Collection Exhibition Greenhouse where many of our species and hybrids are being displayed for the public. There was also a gift of about 7 terrariums, 8 inch and 12 inch in size, whose value was over \$50. We greatly appreciate this effort to expand and support the Begonia Species Bank.

I will be updating ABS members on everything in which we participate, any

new species that we receive, requests for plants, etc. I hope I can make this a regular article in each issue. I will also give updates on all workshops that I give in connection with the Bank to the different branches and any "cutting parties" that we have. We recently had a "Christmas Cutting Party" on December 14th with lots of food, poinsettia give ways and, of course, lots of begonia cuttings. We intend to make this a yearly event and hope everyone who can will participate.

Adopt A Species

Rekha Morris has been busy! In December she was off to Mexico on her collecting trip of species and has returned with seed, herbarium specimen, and plant material. You will be hearing more from her about this.

Next, she has published the latest issue of the *Save Our Species Newsletter*. If you did not receive one, contact her to tell her the name of the species you would like to adopt and she will send you one. By adopting a species, you will also be on the mailing list for the future issues of this newsletter that you will not want to miss.

In adopting a species, you simply agree to grow it, try to learn a bit about it, and if possible propagate it or set seed to share with the seed fund. But even more, you get the great feeling that you are contributing to the conservation of our beloved plant group! Contact Rekha at 318 Woodland Dr., Pendleton, SC 19670 or by email at shivavana@juno.com.

Begonia tayabensis Merrill

by Freda Holley

I am always intrigued by a begonia which seems to have been around a long while and yet little has been written about it. *Begonia tayabensis* is one of those.

This begonia appeared in the *Begonian* Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund listing in September/October 1988 (Vol. 55, p. 171) with this descriptive paragraph: "*B. tayabensis* from the Philippine Islands is a small-to-medium leaved rhizomatous begonia with peltate leaves sharply pointed on the tips. The plant is glabrous, with red tinted petioles and reddish color on the rhizome. It is very attractive with its rosy color on the blossoms, although growing under lights may influence this. It was mistakenly offered in 1986 as *B. rizalensis* and probably also as *B. elatostematoides*."

Since that time it has appeared from time to time in the seed fund listings (1990, p. 69; 1991, p. 110; and 1992, p. 69). The March/April 1990, p. 69 listing indicates: '*B. tayabensis* (Philippines SO88 [Seed Fund Offering 88, see above]) blooms year round with large white flowers and long, green peltate leaves.' In some notes sent out in 1992 by then Seed Fund Director **Diane Gould** was this: '*B. tayabensis* is a classy and very elegant grower with its 8 x 3 1/2" leaves that are slightly cupped. The peltate leaf has a prominent midrib and prominent veins. The petiole is a rose-brown fading to light green at the juncture. The leaf ending in a long point, indicates that this species comes from an area of heavy rainfall and expects excellent drainage. Flower tepals are rose-red on top and pale tint underneath while the rhizome is colored the same translucent rose-brown-green.' There was also a sketch included.

Then, we hear no more of *B. tayabensis* until 2002 when we have a photo of her plant by **Joyce Pridgen** on page 123.

I found no listing of this begonia in any of the popular books on begonias.

It appears in the new **Golding and Wasshausen Begoniaceae, Edition 2** with this listing: '**tayabensis** Merrill, Philipp J. Sci., 13:38, 1918 [**Reichenheimia I**]. Philippines. Fig. 2.32'

Doorenbos in Doorenbos et al.'s **The Sections of Begonia** lists it in the index as being in the **Diploclinium** section, but actually shows it in the **Reichenheimia I** section as indicated above which suggests to me he may have had questions about its classification at some point.

Kingsley Langenberg grew this plant from seed fund seed offered in 1990 and reported that these seed took 22 days to first show germination and that within 14 days thereafter he had 8 seedlings. He photographed his plant in the photos you see on the next page opposite the lovely watercolor of the plant done by Joy Porter.

I'm not sure when or where I acquired a plant of *B. tayabensis*. Since I was actively raising seed about the same time as Kingsley, I may have raised it from seed or I may have acquired it from a SWR Get-Together plant sale since I recall having only one initial plant. At any rate, my records show seed being produced in 1997 from which I raised numerous seedlings. Of interest to me was that these produced two variants, one with bright green leaves and the other with dark olive green leaves. Other than color, the seedlings were identical in appearance.

I found it to be much more vigorous in growth than *B. coriacea* which has



Above is **Kingsley Langenberg**'s photo of his *Begonia tayabensis* Merrill and below is a photo showing both male and female flowers. On the opposite page is **Joy Porter**'s exquisite watercolor of this species.





some similarities in appearance and growth habit. Whereas *B. coriacea* did much better in a terrarium setting, however, *B. tayabensis* did quite well without it, both outside and in the greenhouse. I did not find it nearly so hardy as *B. hernandioides* which I grow now and to which it has some similarities also.

When we moved from Arkansas, my *B. tayabensis* plants went to Denver and I have not found any seed in my seed bank. It is also currently listed in the "seed needed" category of the ABS Seed Fund. Thus, all I have now of this species are fond memories and a fairly good photo (but not as fine as Kingsley's although

the plants in our photos look very much the same!).

I believe I recall from internet comments that there is also a hybrid in circulation that may be mislabeled with this species name. If so, these photos and Joy's photograph should help to clear that up.

Now, I have shared with you all the information I could find on this species. As I said initially, this appears to be little information indeed about a species that seems to have been so widely grown. Perhaps you readers have other information that you could share with us.

Notes about *Begonia tayabensis* Merrill by Jack Golding

This is the original description of *Begonia tayabensis* E.D. Merrill in **The Philippine Journal of Science, Botany**, 13(1):38-9, 1918, of the *Begonia* specimen No. 29054 [the Type] collected by Ramos & Edaña, June 3, 1917 on ledges and steep slopes in forests along the Umiray River in the Tayabas Province, Luzon.

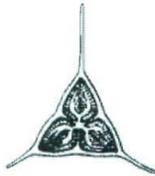
"A subglabrous herb, the stems creeping, reddish-brown when dry, about 1 cm in diameter, glabrous; stipules deciduous, broadly ovate, acuminate, sparingly ferruginous-ciliate, about 1 cm. long. Leaves prominently peltate, the petiole inserted 2 to 4 cm from the base of the leaf, membranous, somewhat oblique, ovate to oblong-ovate, 15 to 20 cm long, 10 to 12 cm wide, base broadly rounded, apex acute or somewhat obtuse, margins subentire, not at all lobed, with a fringe of scattered, tooth-like, short cilia, both surfaces with widely scattered, short hairs, ultimately glabrous or nearly so; basal nerves radiate, about 9, prominent, the reticulations very prominent on the lower surface; petiole 12 to 15 cm long, glabrous or with very few, widely scattered short hairs. Inflorescences 25 to 35 cm long, dichotomous, few-flowered, sparingly ciliate with short, pale, spreading, scattered hairs, the flower-bearing part about 10 cm long. Staminate flowers white or slightly pink, about 2 cm in diameter, the sepals elliptic-ovate, rounded. Capsules about 1 cm long and 1.8 cm wide, base rounded, apex subtruncate, one wing very much larger than the other two and about 1 cm in width, the other two 3 to 4 mm wide."

Merrill also noted after this description "It [*B. tayabensis*] is readily distinguished from our peltate-leaved species, *B. hernandioides* Merrill, *B. rufipila* Merrill and *B. elmeri* Merrill, by being nearly glabrous, the few, widely scattered hairs on the leaves and inflorescences scarcely exceeding 1 mm in length."

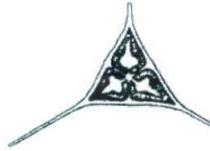
E.D. Merrill had placed *B. tayabensis* in the section *Diploclinium*. It seems that J. Doorenbos following this, listed it in that section in his index. But later he probably

examined either a specimen or plant of **B. tayabensis** and determined that it actually belonged in section **Reichenheimia I**. These two sections are very similar but are easy to separate by the number of placental branches per locule of the ovary.

Cross section of ovaries



Diploclinium,
two placental
branches
per locule

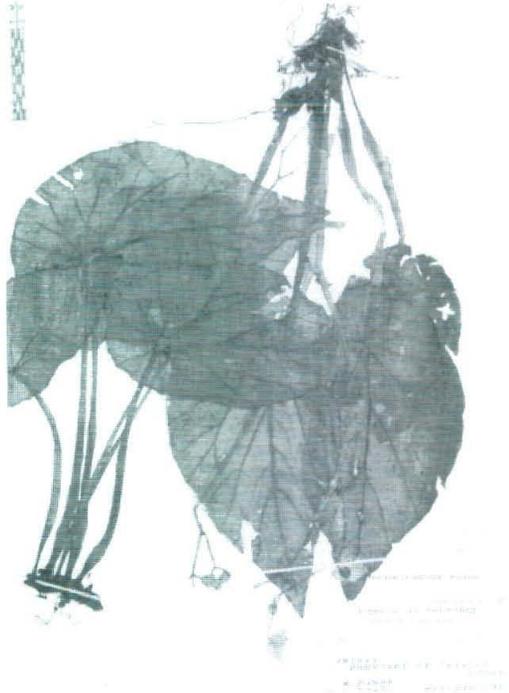


Reichenheimia,
one placental
branch
per locule

If you are growing **Begonia tayabensis**, cut and examine a cross section of an ovary and advise to which section it belongs.

Excerpt from the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, Article 9.1: "A holotype of a name of a species or infraspecific taxon is the one specimen or illustration used by the author or designated by the author as the nomenclatural type." Article 9.3 "An isotype is any duplicate of the holotype; it is always a specimen."

E.D. Merrill when he named *Begonia tayabensis* in 1918, based his description on the specimen No. 29054 collected by Ramos and Edano, June 3, 1917. This is the holotype or nomenclatural type for this species. The Fig. No. 2.32 in *Begoniaceae* Ed. 1, is a photo of the isotype in the United States National Herbarium as No. 01292831. The best way to determine the identity of a species is to compare its characters with those of the type specimen and the original description.



Begonia tayabensis Merrill, TYPE

Red Pigments

by Arlene Hoskins

Pink, red or purple color in leaves is caused by the presence of pigments called anthocyanins. They are glucosides (carbohydrates) that are dissolved in the cell sap, which is the fluid in the cell vacuole. While not vital to the plant, they do absorb light rays that are a different wave length than those absorbed by chlorophyll and are used in food production. This may be a function of the red pigments in the layer of cells on the underside of some begonia leaves.

An abundance of red pigment is part of the genetic makeup of certain plants. *Iresine* and some *Cordyline terminalis* (ti plants) are completely red in color. The anthocyanins mask the chlorophyll and other pigments.

1. In the spring when temperatures rise and light intensity increases, the red

pigment forms on the leaf edges of many plants. It acts as a sunscreen to protect the plant from an increase in ultraviolet rays. Ex: *Pelargonium* 'L'Elegente', *Plectranthus coleoides* 'Variegatus'.

2. In the fall certain succulents produce an abundance of anthocyanin. *Echeveria* and *Kalanchoe thyrsiflora* exhibit a color change from a dull summer gray to a vibrant winter red especially if they are growing in full sun. This occurs when the temperatures drop and the days are shorter. The cooler temperatures inhibit the movement of sugar from the leaves so it accumulates and plays a role in the production of anthocyanin.

3. Red pigments also form when autumn colors appear in the leaves of deciduous plants. Again anthocyanin formation is thought to be a protective mecha-

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nism. It acts as a sunscreen by absorbing sunlight when food production slows down and the chlorophyll disintegrates. Too much light energy when it is not needed can damage the plant.

Some scientists also believe that this protective mechanism may allow nitrogen to move more efficiently from the leaves to other areas of the plant before leaf drop. The nitrogen can be used the following spring in new leaf production.

Yellow and orange pigments are already present in the leaves. When chlorophyll disappears, they are no longer concealed and join the newly produced anthocyanins to give autumn color.

4. Red pigments are also sensitive to pH. Differences in pH may cause the red pigment to take on many different hues. Acidification of the soil will greatly increase the intensity of the color. Use of fertilizers that contain sulfur will lower the pH and the color will be much more vibrant. This is evident in the cultivation of Rex begonias, ti plants, coleus, crotons and many other tropical plants.

A slightly higher pH turns the anthocyanins more purple. In growing *Solandra* the pigment was not visible until I used a more a more acidic fertilizer, which resulted in the appearance of the brilliant purple color in new

leaves. For many years the leaves displayed only a green and white variegation.

In *B. valida* increased light intensity probably triggers red pigment formation. I grow *B. valida* in a greenhouse where it almost reaches the top of the structure. Last year my plant had mostly green leaves even during the summer. Then a fellow begonia lover viewed my plant, pondering the absence of red pigment and suggested using less nitrogen in my fertilizer. Following his advice, the red pigments soon appeared in the upper leaves. Too much chlorophyll was probably masking some of the red pigments. At the present time some of the upper leaves still show some red color, but pigment production is decreasing as the duration and intensity of light changes during the summer months.

All who attended the last LA Convention will remember the beautiful, outsize plants grown by Arlene Hoskins. She attributed some of her success to her methods of fertilizing her plants so as to achieve the proper balance of micronutrients. Above we see more of her careful consideration of what her plants need to properly show their beauty. You may contact her at 5777 Calle Vista Alegre, Yorba Linda, CA 92887.

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Come to Convention 2003 And Hear All About It!

Don Miller and his mother **Vera Miller**, traveled to Australia for the Australian Association of Begonia Societies (AABS) Convention in Perth, Australia held last September. In addition they visited some of our well known friends there and took in New Zealand as well. Don says that other than it being the wrong time of the year for begonias, it was a beautiful and wonderful trip. We will have an opportunity to hear all about it and see some of the sights, when Don presents his seminar at the 2003 Convention in Oklahoma City in April. Don't miss this and other great seminars.

To give you a hint of what's in store check out the opposite page.

Another treat in store for those who attend will be a new quilt made by Vera Miller. And will it be unique? Imagine putting **Charles McGough's** vibrant begonia art into a quilt! Well, that's what Vera has done. The only question is, who will take it home? Believe me, everyone is going to want this one.

The Fun of Hybridising Begonias by John Clare, Australia

*This is the first of two great articles on hybridizing by John Clare appearing in **Begonia Australis**, Journal of the Association of Australian Begonia Societies (Inc.), September 2002, Vol. 12, No. 3. The second article will appear in the May/June **Begonian**.*

Would you like to build a bigger, better begonia or a smaller more compact one with red spots or silver stripes? Why not try? It's a lot of fun.

A friend once said to me, "I see you have the leaf shape from one parent and the colour from the other." The begonia he was talking about took nearly three years and dozens of different crosses to get what I wanted but, along with the plant I was aiming for, I got many others that were worth keeping as a bonus.

Some growers will tell you that the leaf shape comes from the female and the leaf colour from the male (or is it the other way round?), but I have found that it depends on which parent is dominant. Some plants will have only a few characteristics that dominate, e.g. habit of growth, leaf

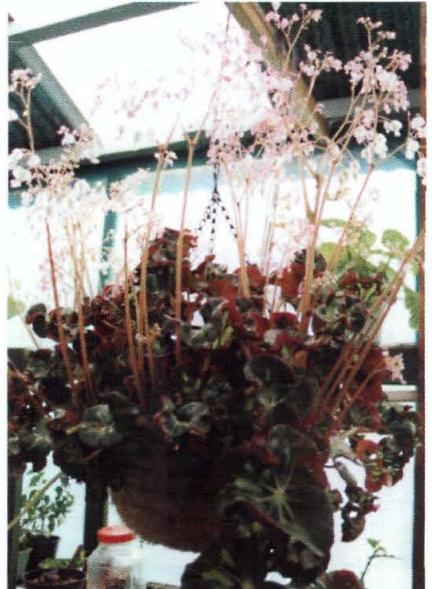
shape or maybe texture. Here is a short list of plants that I have used in the past with their dominant characteristics that may be of help to someone starting out.

- * With cane-type X rhizomatous or rhizomatous X cane-type, the cane-type is usually dominant. (NOTE: the female plant is always written first in the description of any cross.)
- * Thick-stem X rhizomatous or rhizomatous X thick-stem, the thick stem is usually dominant.
- * *B. glandulosa*, the leaf (shape and texture) is dominant whichever way you cross it.
- * *B. heracleifolia*, the leaf shape is dominant.
- * *B. manicata* 'Crispa', the leaf colour is dominant, the crested edge usually comes through in about 10% - 30% of the seedlings depending on the other parent.
- * *B. hydrocotylifolia*, the round succulent leaf is dominant.

Continued on page 74.



*Below left, we see **Don Miller** present the Alfred D. Robinson Medal to **Ross Bolwell**. It was awarded for his beautiful hybrid B. 'Flamingo Queen'. This is a well presented medal since it was officially awarded at last year's Houston convention and then Don had the pleasure of presenting it twice, first at a local meeting and then at their Convention. Below right, we see the outsize B. 'Cathedral Windows' in **Coral Sinclair's** greenhouse in West Australia. Above, we see Don, Vera, and Coral in Perth.*



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A Treasure for the Garden: *B. listada* by Peter Sharp, Australia

*This article originally appeared in **Begonia Australis**, Journal of the Association of Australian Begonia Societies (Inc.), September 2002, Vol. 12, No. 3, p. 98.*

The gurus on TV and radio, and in the glossy gardening magazines, keep telling us that mondo grass is the way to go -- mondo grass for everywhere, especially in the courtyards that presently proliferate so monotonously in all the gardening mass media. What a dreary result! Tufts of black or green, no flowers at all, just something useful to plug a gap. Problem is that none of these expert gardening writers and commentators seem to have had any experience with begonias, which are in my opinion, among those few plant families which can be so usefully and beautifully employed in the courtyard, and indeed in the general gardening scene.

Semperflorens especially come to mind as a really good sun or shade planting with year round flowers, but of course Semps need a bit of ongoing care like regular tip pinching and light to heavy pruning. And then there are the ground covers, amongst which we have had success with *B. listada*, *glabra*, *thelmae*, *fagifolia*, *convolvulacea*, "Bob-o-link", and "Withlacoochee". Admittedly these are not substitutes for mondo grass when used to fill the cracks in courtyard paving, but what wonderful plants to cover all those bare patches in shady to lightly sunlit places.

Best of all these, my favourite just has to be *B. listada*. Found as recently as 1961 in Brazil (that natural begonia nursery so full of wonder and delight), this beautiful plant is beloved of begonia growers the world over. Velvety leaves of deep, deep green with a central stripe of almost iridescent lime delight the eye, and the

blush red buds opening in early winter to four pure white tepals are an added joy. Certainly most at home in deeply shaded places, we are finding that *B. listada* will do just as well in well lit locations although as yet we have not tried to grow it in very bright spots or in direct sunlight. A bed of some 50 plants in the Royal Botanic gardens where in Sydney is doing very well indeed although located beneath a quite sparse canopy and receiving a half hour of diffused late afternoon sun. I have seen *B. listada* under a tank stand in our western suburbs where it had developed into a dense mass of velvet beauty, luckily somewhat protected from winter frosts. Again, I have seen it growing in a rockers, spilling its delightful foliage down the rocky slope, happily filling in those gaps between the ferns and other inhabitants and pushing its foliage up in the most unexpected places. It is not demanding in any way, seemingly happy once planted into a fairly rich and well drained soil. Of course, *B. listada* is quite willing to be confined in pot or hanging basket and here tip pruning is beneficial as the lateral growth helps to produce a compact plant.

Propagation is as easy as wink. Use good firm tips, reduce the amount of foliage and set out in your favourite cutting mix (I am now using a mix of perlite with a small amount of very sharp sand). Bottom heat is a must during the cold months, but cuttings taken in spring could do well on the shade house bench, covered when necessary to produce a high humidity. Care after planting is minimal, but fertilizing on a regular basis is as necessary with this begonia as with all others. So, if you don't have this begonia beauty in your collection, seek out those who do and beg or borrow a cutting or two.

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Thank you to recent donors for their seed donations: **Beatrice Huckreide, Eleanor Calkins, Ingeborg Foo, Thelma O'Reilly, and Michael Ludwig.**

Please make these changes to the master seed list for 2003. **Add:** *B. carrieae* (\$2.00), *B. convolvulacea*, *B. dichotoma* (\$2.00), *B. gehrtii*, *B. hernandioides* (\$2.00), *B. incarnata*, *B. macduffieana*, *B. taiwaniana*, *B. 'Vanderveldiana'*, *B. U237*, *B. 'Sword Fighter'*. **Delete:** *B. coriacea*, *B. herbacea*, *B. involucrata*, *B. itaguassuensis*, *B. roxburghii*, *B. wollnyi*, *B. U008* = *B. subvillosa*, *B. U115* = *B. multinervia*, *B. U252*, *B. U335*, *B. U345*, *B. 'Cachuma'*, *B. heracleifolia* (op), *B. 'John Souza'*, *B. solananthera* (op).

Descriptions for **ML03** will be published in installments starting in this issue with *B. acetosa* to *B. convolvulacea*.

BEGONIA DESCRIPTIONS FOR SEED FUND

B. acetosa Vellozo (sect. *Pritzelia*) Brazil. A compact plant with numerous branching, horizontal, thick rhizomes. Leaf blades thick, fleshy, ovate, not peltate, palmately veined and covered with fine white hairs, underside dark red, green petioles to a foot long with fine, shaggy red hairs. White flowers well above the leaves. Plant grows best in warm, humid atmosphere in medium light. Leaves are deep coppery olive green above and deep wine-red underneath. White flowers on long peduncles.

B. albo-picta W. Bull (sect. *Gaerdtia*) Brazil. Shrubby, branched stems. Two inch elliptic-lanceolate leaves glossy green with silvery white spots, short petioles. Small greenish-white flowers in summer.

B. angulata Vellozo [Brazil] (Sect. *Pritzelia*) Tall, erect shrub, forming a clump up to 5 ft. high; leaves oblong, 2-4 ½ in. long, ½ -1 in. wide; white flowers on purplish pedicels. Originates in the Atlantic rain forest of Brazil and prefers high temperature and humidity.

B. biserrata Lindley [Mexico, Guatemala] (Sect. *Quadriperigonina*) Tuberous, stems erect; leaves to 8" long, orbicular, usually palmately divided into triangular lobes, acute, toothed, sometimes merely once-cleft between base and apex, ciliate, green, hairy above and on veins underneath; flowers, in summer, white with serrate tepals, in dense axillary cymes, shorter than foliage.

B. boliviensis A. deCandolle [Bolivia, Argentina] (Sect. *Barya*), 'Skagums' A

Horticultural variety of a tuberous species from Bolivia. This variety has much larger blooms than the species.

B. cardiocarpa Liebmann [Nicaragua] (Sect. *Gireoudia*) Thick-stemmed rhizomatous, becoming erect with age; leaves large, green, puckered, coriaceous, often marginally reddish; lower surface darker green shading to red at the margins, palmately 7-8 veined, petioles 2-8" long; many flowered large cymes high above the leaves, white to pink.

B. carolineifolia Regel (Sect. *Gireoudia*) [Mexico, Guatemala] Large erect rhizome; large palmately parted leaves on long petioles; flowers large, pink, with dark pink spots; late winter to early spring.

B. carrieae Ziesenhenné [Mexico] (*Gireoudia*). Branching rhizomes; large, lime green, rugose, lobed leaves; white blossoms in late winter to early spring.

B. cinnabarina W. J. Hooker [Bolivia] (Sect. *Eupetalum*). Low growing tuberous to 18 inches; green leaves; cinnabar red single blossoms; summer, fragrant.

B. coccinea W. J. Hooker 'Speciosa' [Brazil] (Sect. *Pritzelia*). Stems erect, 3'-4', branched, succulent, glabrous; obliquely ovate to oblong leaves, 4-6 in., thick, green with wavy red margins, serrate; coral red wax-like flowers in pendulous racemes on red peduncles; summer. **NOTE:** Some of the *B. coccinea* seeds offered have been described by the grower as a basket type. Earlier descriptions of *B. coccinea* from Brazil are of a tall erect plant.

B. convolvulacea A. deCandolle [Brazil] (Sect. *Wageneria*) Vining stems to 7 ft. or more, thickened at the nodes; leaves 3 ½-4 ½ in. long, broadly cordate, pointed, irregularly and shallowly 5-7 parted, dark glossy green above; flowers white in spring.

In Memory

Again the American Begonia Society has lost one of its "Giants" with the passing of "Skip" Antonelli from lung cancer on January 5, 2003. Skip, and his cousin Linda Bobbitt, were owners of Antonelli Brothers tuberous Begonia and Fuchsia Gardens. In 1935 his father and two uncles started the nursery. After working at the gardens for 20 years, he and his cousin purchased it from his father and uncle in 1981.

Those of us on the west coast who grow tuberous begonias know only too well that Antonelli hybrids are unsurpassed for their color, sturdiness, size and excellence. In the last several years many new numbered hybrids were brought forth. Seeds from Antonelli Brothers grace botanical gardens in many countries.

At one of our meetings, when Skip came as our speaker, he ended his wonderful presentation saying that his father has always taught him to "GIVE." No matter what, give, it will come back a thousand fold. That is how all of us who knew Skip will remember him. He gave, he shared, was understanding, loving and caring.

In 1989 when we held the National Convention here in San Francisco, one of the tours was to their nursery. No one will ever forget walking into their sky of hanging tuberous begonias. He gave all the flowers that were used for decorations, along with a beautiful 6' planter full of plants that were auctioned. In the 1950's the Antonelli's conceived the idea of the Begonia Festival which helped make Santa Cruz famous.

How he will be missed!

Carol Notaras



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With this convention we celebrate the marvelous heritage that goes with our begonia plants. The people who discovered begonias, grew them, hybridized them, wrote about them; the written materials we have inherited including the 70 years of the *Begonian*; the artistic materials from paintings, watercolors, and illustrations to majolica and stained glass -- all these contribute to our enjoyment of this very special family of plants. Below is a short quiz to help you check out how much there is to know and how much you remember of it. Match the numbers and letters.

1. First known American begonia published is known today as...
2. Person who named the genus *Begonia* was...
3. The begonia that was first crossed with *B. semperflorens* (now *B. cucullata*) to begin the extensive cultivation of the *Semperflorens cultorum* group was...
4. The author who wrote what is probably the first book in the U.S. on begonias and their culture, entitled *Begonias*, was....
5. The author who wrote the first edition of the *Species of the Begoniaceae* was...
6. The principal author of *The sections of Begonia* was....
7. The artists and author of *Begonia Portraits* was....
8. The author of the chapter on hybridizing in the **Mildred and Ed Thompson's Begonias** was...
9. The Superba type cane-like begonias were originated by...
10. The first Superba cane was a cross of *B. aconitifolia* and....
11. The oldest known hybrid rhizomatous begonia, *B. 'Erythrophylla'*, is a cross of *B. manicata* and...
12. *B. 'Marjorie Daws'*, one of the earliest trailing scandent begonias, was introduced by....
13. *B. bowerae* was named by...
14. The begonia that **Rudy Ziesenhenn**e named after **Carrie Karegeannes** was...
15. *B. thelmae* was named by **Smith & Wassenhausen** after...

A. **Eva Kenworthy Gray**

B. **Jan Doorenbos**

C. *B. gracilis* HBK

D. **Fred A. Barkley**

E. **Alice M. Clark**

F. *B. schmiditiana*

G. **Charles Plumier**

H. **Belva Nelson Kusler**

I. *B. hydrocotylifolia*

J. **Theodosia B. Shepherd**

K. *B. 'Lucerne'*

L. **Eva Kenworthy Gray**

M. **Rudy Ziesenhenn**e

N. **Thelma O'Reilly**

O. *B. carrieae*

Questions and answers were derived from *Mildred and Ed Thompson's Begonias*. 1. C; 2. G; 3. F; 4. A; 5. D; 6. B; 7. E; 8. H; 9. L; 10. K; 11. I; 12. J; 13. M; 14. O; 15. N.

Continued from page 66.

- * B. 'Morning Mist', the silver leaf colour is fairly dominant depending on the other parent.
- * B. 'Bedford Delight', the brown leaf stitching is fairly dominant with the curled leaf bases turning up in about 20% - 50% of the seedlings. If the other parent has curled leaf bases the percentage is higher.
- * B. 'Joe Hayden', the black leaf colour is dominant.
- * B. 'Baloo', the brown leaf colour is dominant.
- * *B. conchifolia* var. *rubrimacula*, the red spot in the center of the leaf usually comes through in about 10% - 20% of the seedlings.
- * B. 'Lowana', the yellow color is dominant, also the curled leaf bases will come through in about 20% - 50% of the seedlings depending on the other parent.

It seems easy - for a yellow leaf use B. 'Lowana'; for a brown leaf use B. 'Baloo'; for a red spot in the middle use B. *conchifolia* var. *rubrimacula* or for a star-shaped leaf use *B. heracleifolia*. The only catch is that you might get the leaf colour that you want, but not the shape or the markings.

It is fairly easy to predict the outcome of a cross between two species, a species being a plant originally occurring naturally in the world. When you start crossing with hybrids a lot more factors come into play. The hybrid you are crossing with is probably crossed with other hybrids and all sorts of shapes and colours can surface in the seedlings. Some of these shapes and colours may not show in the parent and only come out in a later generation. This is what makes hybridising so interesting. There are hundreds of species and thousands of hybrids out there so why not try hybridising. You never know what you will come up with.

Editor's Notes...

If you read between the lines you will note that I did not have nearly enough material from readers to fill this issue. I am grateful I have resources to draw on, but I truly like to provide original material for you readers. So it's time to press you all again to put on your thinking caps and come up with articles for me. Even as you read this, the deadline for the next issue will be pressing on your editor!

It has been suggested that an interesting issue for sometime this year might be on tissue culture; I have one article from Australia at hand, but this is such a big topic I would ask any of you who have experience in this area to write something and submit it.

Another article that I believe might be of interest to readers is one on the use of capillary matting. I have seen the ef-

fects of this material in the greenhouse of **Gene and Ann Salisbury** and I believe it is being used even out of the greenhouse in some areas. If any of you have used this material in any fashion, share your experience with readers by sending a letter to the editor or an article on your experiences.

I have a wonderful photo of *B. crispula* and would dearly love to have someone research and write about this gorgeous begonia, but any article you can contribute will be received with joy.

You will note that I have used a couple of articles from *Begonia Australis*. The new editor **Tricia Marriot** together with Assistant Editor **Peter Sharp** is putting out a very high quality journal and any begonia lover would benefit from a subscription. For more information you may write Geoff Apps at 29 Bowen Street, Warragui VIC 3820 or email him at gapps@desi.net.au.

Rizome, Jointed at or Below the Soil, With Erect Stems

by Isobel Crossley

This article first appeared in The Queensland Begonia Society, Inc. Journal, Vol. No. 47, Summer 2002 (our winter) on page 16 and is reprinted here with our thanks.

Begonias in this group have rhizomes that are either below or at the surface of the soil; often they are not fully exposed. Those with rhizomes below often resemble elongated tubers, which at maturity sometimes appear at soil level. The rhizomes are usually short and have erect stems that give the plant a bush-like appearance. The average height of most remains under 2 feet, ranging from 10 to 24 inches, depending on the variety.

The foliage of many of these is striking and could easily be placed in the distinctive foliage grouping. However, they are placed here because their rhizomes and erect stems require similar culture. Some of these species are the early ancestors of the Rex Cultorum group: *B. diadema*, *B. hatacoa*, and *B. robusta*.

Most of these begonias need special care and observation. Watering must be done very carefully so that they are not overwatered as the underground rhizomes might rot. If possible, provide humidity to the area where they are grown.

Most plants in this group suffer unfavourable effects with some insecticides and fungicides. In fact, some even die.

Staking is seldom required because the erect stems are strong and fairly close together. Use a potting mix a little lighter than the type used for other begonias.

Begonias with this type of growth habit are not commonly grown because they are rare and usually difficult to grow. Nevertheless, the beauty and interesting characteristics of these plants when they

are well grown reward the grower for the extra care they demand.

*This has always been a favorite group of plants for the editor. Most of them grew easily for me when I was in Arkansas. I did have trouble with them in the greenhouse in winter where temperatures went down to 50° F at night and if kept too wet they would rot. Still, they grew and bloomed luxuriantly outside in our cool summers. Here, *B. delicosa* and *diadema* grow well in winter in my heated plant room that does not go below 60, but the summers are death to them. I know they grow well in Florida, so it must be the combination of low humidity and high heat that does them in.*

*I can also attest to the effects of fungicides or pesticide sprays on these plants; I lost *B. U358* after I sprayed it (that scale overwhelmed me) and even *B. roxburghii*'s leaves grew misformed and took on an odd color. *B. roxburghii* is the only one of these plants that does survive and grow fairly well here although I must keep it in the plant room where a water cooler supplies extra humidity.*

*In this classification are the two species that I have grown that have male and female plants - that is one plant bears only male flowers and the other only female flowers. One is *B. roxburghii* and the other is *B. handelii*. No one seems to have both male and female plants of the latter. My male *B. handelii* struggles through the summer in a terrarium inside the air conditioning, but lives happily in winter in the plant room. I have found that *B. roxburghii* seems to contribute its greater tolerance of heat to the hybrids I have used it in. All these plants are fascinating and otherworldly to me.*

~FH

With this page we salute St. Patrick's Day through this photo of **Armando Nodal** at the Miami Begonia Society 2002 Show which used it as their theme. Armando is with his prize winning B. 'Magdalene Madsen', the hardy offspring of B. listada X B. echinosepala. Wonder what their theme will be this year?

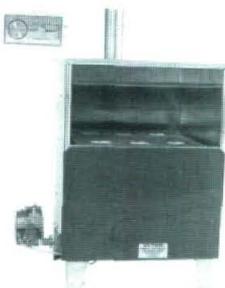


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COMING EVENTS

March 7-8, 2003, Saturday, 2nd Annual Begonia Bonanza held by the University of South Florida in Tampa, FL. Workshops and/or lectures are scheduled by Bob Koehler and Tim Anderson and there will be a garden tour. The retail shop plans to have plenty of begonias available for purchase from several sources. For more information contact: Dale Sena at dalsena@cs.com

April 22-27, 2003, Our Begonia Heritage, American Begonia Society 2003 Convention, Oklahoma City, OK. The tour to the Salisbury's Greenhouse in Tonkawa is Wednesday, April 23 and will leave early so come on the 22nd. And there will be a great tour on Sunday April 27 as well. Packets will go out at the end of January. For info in the meantime contact Ann Salisbury at 580-628-5230 or geneann@cableone.net.

August 28-September 2, 2003, Southwest Region Get-Together, Ft. Worth, TX. Includes ABS Annual Board Meeting and installation of ABS officers.

Closing Date for the May/June Issue is March 15!

The Begonian

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