

The
Begonian
November/December 2006

The Begonian

ISSN 0096-8684

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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Membership (subscription) \$25., US, Mexico, and Canada. \$45. Overseas airmail except Mexico and Canada.. Added member, same household, no charge. Consult Membership Chairman for sustaining, benefactor, life membership dues. U.S. currency only. Back issues (current volume) \$2.50.

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Cover

Front: Here we see another begonia photographed by Jim Hunter in his travels. This one was not identified. Ream more from Jim on pages 224 and 235.

Back: In the Bali botanic Gardens is growing the most magnificent *B. acetosa* that I think anyone has ever seen. Read about this garden from two perspectives in this issue.

In This Issue

Jack Golding lays to rest the confusion about *Begonia hatacoa* while Rekha Morris tells about its collection in India. In his continuing series on terrarium growing, Charles Hentorne writes about another beauty. Janet Brown is trying to entice us all to Scotland next year while others lure us to Bali. So take a break from your holiday celebrations and travel with the *Begonian!*

Once again this holiday issue is brought to you in large part by the contributions of members and branches shown on page 205.

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Season's Greetings!

Quick

Please Remember:

All ABS

Dues for 2007

are due by

January 1, 2007.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Southwest Region Get-Together in St. Louis was superb. **Cheryl Lenert** and **Tom Keepin** kept us busy every minute. It was quite an accomplishment to make the arrangements long distance and everyone who helped should be congratulated. We made many new friends in St. Louis and at the Missouri Botanical Garden. We found begonias everywhere in the area including a magnificent array of *B. 'Christmas Candy'* at the Anheuser-Busch Brewery. On Wednesday we toured St. Louis. The tour included the Brewery (which is incredible and we even saw those handsome Clydesdale horses), the magnificent and awesome Arch (not for the faint hearted, acrophobes or claustrophobes) and possibly the most beautiful church we had ever seen, the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis, that was a masterpiece of mosaic artwork. Thursday we spent the day at the Missouri Botanical Gardens. The gardens were very interesting with great collections of plants from all over the world and included another display of Chihuly glass similar to the one we had seen at Fairchild in Miami last winter. Friday the tour included several private gardens in the area that can be best described by photos which should appear in the next *Begonian*. They were most interesting and diverse and all had an amazing collection of the area's trees. We made some new friends along the way—the gardens' owners—a very nice group of interesting and creative people.

The ABS Board Meeting and Annual Meeting was held on Saturday afternoon. Attendance was low but we accomplished quite a bit. Branch Relations Chairman **Mary Bucholtz** submitted a letter to be sent to all branches regarding membership in the American Begonia Society. This letter was approved and will be sent

to the National Directors very soon. The response will be evaluated at the next meeting in April, 2007 and at that time a course of action will be determined. I would ask you all to send me your thoughts on the subject, i.e., mandatory membership in ABS on joining a branch. It is so stated in our Constitution and By-Laws but by no means universally complied with. Because this clause is in all your branch constitutions it is the responsibility of the membership chairman to insure that all new members join the American Begonia Society.

Past President **Howard Berg** reported on the *Begonians* on DVD project. We are in the final stages of getting that launched and will hope to have the details worked out by the next issue of the *Begonian*. I would like to thank **Donna Marsheck** for acting as secretary. **Richard Macnair** was unable to attend. Donna has done so much for us as membership chairman. She had the incredibly difficult job of changing us over to once a year dues and in the process has brought us many new members. The addition of PayPal to our web site has been a very fruitful source of new members as well.

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of **Julie Vanderwilt** as the new Internet Editor. Her appointment was approved by the board at the meeting. **Sandy Boyd** has done a great job in that position but wished to resign. We thank Sandy for her dedicated service in a difficult job. She will remain as MAL Chair and has done a magnificent job in that post. Julie has long experience with computers. She has worked on the Joan Coulat Branch newsletter for some time providing the photos for their Plant of the Month (it is going to be on the web site now as well), has been very active on the Yahoo begonia site and has taken on the job of Editor for the Rudolf Ziesenhenné Branch just

Continued on page 217.



ABS HOLIDAY GREETINGS

2006

BRONZE

Alfred D. Robinson
Branch
Greater Atlanta Branch
San Gabriel Valley
Branch

SILVER

Delaware Valley Branch
Long Beach Parent
Chapter
Mae Blanton Branch
Morris Mueller
Rudolph Ziesenhenn
Branch
South Bay Branch

GOLD

Howard & Barbara Berg
Freda & R.L. Holley
Knickerbocker Branch
Cheryl Lenert
Mabel Corwin Branch
Marge Lee Branch
Palos Verdes Branch
San Francisco Branch
Santa Clara Branch
Westchester Branch

PLATINUM

Alamo Begonia Club
Astro Branch
Begonia Society of Tampa
Bay
Begonia Society of
the Palm Beaches
Janet B. Brown
Buxton Branch
Fred A. Barkley Branch
Houston Satellites Branch
Lula Mae Leonard
Richard and Wanda Macnair
Brad Neugebauer
Carol & Peter Notaras
Orange County Branch
Potomac Branch
Ann & Gene Salisbury
San Jacinto Branch

*I would like to thank all who
participated in the holiday ads
donations. Congratulations to
you all for supporting such a
great cause.*

Wanda Macnair

Nomenclature Notes

Begonia hatacoa Hamilton ex Don

By Jack Golding

The confusing misidentification of *Begonia hatacoa* Hamilton ex D. Don in a recent *Begonia* book and other publications prompted me to review its history and present its correct identification.

David Don in *Prodromus flore nepalensis* on page 223, 1825 first described *Begonia hatacoa* based on the Hamilton manuscript and herbarium specimen as follows [my translation from the Latin]:

Begonia hatacoa, Leaves with unequal sides, oblong, [apex] acuminate, [margins] denticulate, rounded at the base, on the upper side glabrous, underneath and stem hirsute [short erect, stiff hairs], capsule wings obtuse-angled; one greater.

Begonia hatacoa, Hamilton Manuscript.

Habitat: near Suambu Upper Nepal, Hamilton, perennial, flowering in July, stem a foot long (30 cm.) Leaves 5 inches (13 cm.) long.

As was typical of the many botanists that described *Begonia* from herbarium specimens, there was no mention of leaf color.

In 1853, W.J. Hooker published in *The Botanical Magazine*, 79, a color plate No. 4689 and description of a live plant, collected in Bhutan, N.E. India, that he named *Begonia rubrovenia*. In his description he indicated the colors of various components. He wrote "...the blade of the leaf..., glabrous (as is the whole plant), the upper side dark satiny-green, glossy, marked and dashed with white blotches; the underside of a full but rather dull purple color..." The hand colored plate No. 4689, in an error by the artist, does not match Hooker's description in the text. The markings on the upper leaf were not colored white as described but are black.

A copy of Hooker's plate was printed in *Flore des Serres*, 8:243, pl.839, 1852-3. There the colors were correct in accordance with the text by Hooker. The leaves have white blotches on the upper surface.

J.F. Klotzsch in 1854 had divided the Family *Begoniaceae* into 32 genera [which later were not accepted by A. de Candolle and other botanist, who reclassified his genera names to section names]. Klotzsch in his *Begoniaceen-Gattungen und Arten*, : 124, 1855, as *Platycentrum rubrovenium* adopted Hooker's *Begonia rubrovenia* description, his plate 11B had very good detailed drawings of the flowers.

C. B. Clarke in J.D. Hooker, *Flora of British India*, 2: 645, 1879, described *Begonia rubrovenia* W.J. Hooker as follows: "Caulescent, leave elliptic or lanceolate acuminate entire or slightly angular undulate, perianth-segments white with rose-red veins." He noted the A. de Candolle, *Prodromus* 15(1): 347, 1864 description and listed as synonyms *Begonia barbata* Wallich ex A. de Candolle, 1864 and in part *Begonia 3679 B* in the Wallich, *Num. List*, 129, 1831. He listed the habitat of the plants he collected as "Sikkim, Bhutan and Khasia Mts. frequent at the altitude of 3000 and 6000 ft.



Begonia hatacoa var. *hatacoa*
from *Flore des Serres et Des Jardins de L'Europe* 8:243, pl. 839, 1852-53.



Begonia hatacoa var. *viridifolia*, RM-AR 58b from Papumpare, 4/14/05.
Begonia hatacoa var. *rubrifolia*, RM-AR-22 from Lower Subansiri, 12/19/05.
Rekha Morris photos.

At left, Photo 1. *Begonia hatacoa* var. *hatacoa* from *Flores Des Serres* 8:243, pl. 839, 1852-53

Next page, Photo 2. *Begonia hatacoa* var. *hatacoa* from Klotzsch, *Begoniaceen*: pl. 11B, 855.

Above, Photo 3. *Begonia hatacoa* var. *viridifolia*, RM-AR 58b fom Papumpare, 4/14/05,

Begonia hatacoa var. *rubrifolia*, RM-AR-22 from Lower Subansiri, 12/19/05

Below, Photo 4. *Begonia Hatacoa* 'Silver' Ed and Mildred Thompson photo.



Begonia hatacoa 'Silver' E. & M. Thompson photo

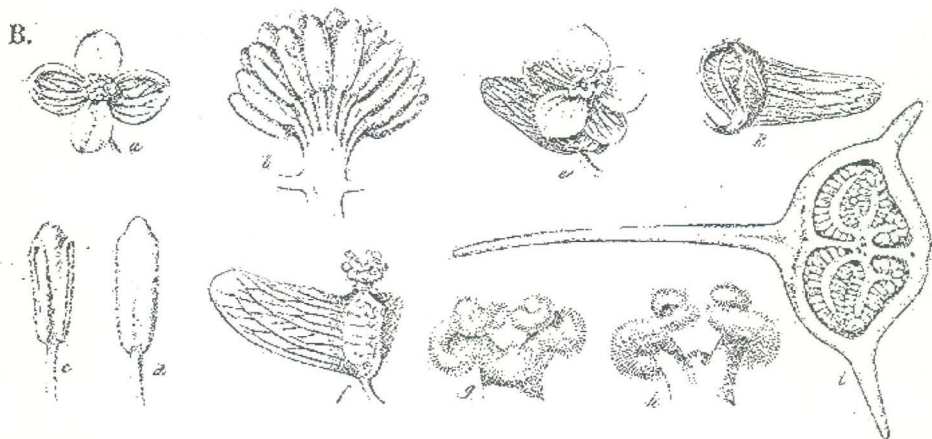
C. B. Clarke described these plants as follows:

“*Rootstock* thick. *Plant* 8-16 in., stem puberulous [exceedingly short, fine, rather dense straight hairs] or minutely pubescent [downy]. *Leaves* 3 - 6 in., usually narrow sometimes elliptic, shortly pubescent on the nerves beneath otherwise glabrous, base unequal rounded scarcely cordate; petiole 1- 2 in.; stipules persistent, lanceolate, caudate, glabrous. *Peduncles* axillary, 3 - 6 in., usually divided only near the top and few flowered; bracts like the stipules and persistent; flowers medium-sized. Male: sepals 2, rounded; petals 2, narrower, white; stamens numerous, very shortly monadelphous; connective produced, obtuse. Female: perianth-segments 5, 3 inner gradually smaller, white; ovary glabrous; styles 2, combined at the base, very tortuous. *Capsule* 1/2 - 5/8 by 1 - 1 1/4 in. including the wings, often recurved in fruit, the broad wing much descending its upper edge concave; broader faces first falling away. *Seeds* ellipsoid.”

Clarke then defined *Begonia rubrovenia* var. *meisneri*, and listed as a synonym *Begonia meisneri* Wallich, Num. List, 129, :no. 6294, 1832., His description is as follows:

“shortly caulescent, leaves linear-lanceolate very tomentose [matted wooly, curled, and appressed hairs] on the nerves beneath. —Habitat Khasia Mts by Wallich, alt. 3500 ft by Clarke. — *Leaves* 2-4 by 1/4 - 1/2 in.; petioles 1/4 - 1 1/2 in. pubescent, tomentose. Flowers and capsules like those of *B. rubrovenia* but smaller. Wallich’s type samples look like a distinct species, but the examples of C.B. Clarke connect the two.”

Photo 2.



Platycentrum rubrovenium (W.J. Hooker) Klotzsch, *Begoniaceen*: pl. 11 B, 1855.
= *Begonia hatacoa* Hamilton ex D. Don var. *hatacoa*.



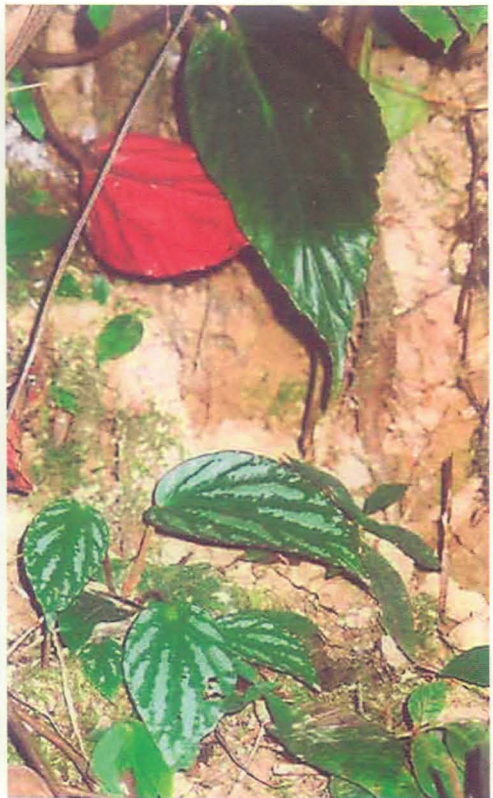
1. *Begonia hatacoa* var. *hatacoa*, from W. Kameng, December 21, 2005
 Rekha Morris photo RM-AR-1428.



2. *Begonia hatacoa* var. *viridifolia*, in hills of
 Lower Subansiri, April 14, 2005. R. Morris photo.



Begonia hatacoa var. *rubrifolia*, in hills of Lower
 Subansiri, April 21, 2005. Rekha Morris photo
 Rm-AR-58.



4. *Begonia hatacoa* var. *rubrifolia*, at top, *Begonia*
hatacoa var. *hatacoa* at bottom. December 19, 2005.
 Rekha Morris photo RM-AR-125

H. Hara in *The Journal of Japanese Botany* 47(5): 143, 1972, listed the following:

“*Begonia hetacoa* [a typographical error for *Begonia hatacoa*] Hamilton ex D. Don, *Prodr. Fl. Nepal.*:223, 1825.

B. rubrovenia Hooker in *Bot. Mag. t.* 4689 (1853) — *Flor. Brit. Ind.* 2:645 (1879) — Hara, *Fl. E. Himal.* 215 (1966) ; 2:85, (1971) [He Listed specimens collected: 1960, 1963 and 1969]. C. Nepal: Sembu (Hamilton, Jul. 8, 1802 — type of *B. hatacoa*, BM). Distr. E. Himalaya (Nepal to NEFA), Khasia, and Manipur.

I have confirmed that the Hamilton's type exactly agrees with *B. rubrovenia* Hooker.”

In conclusion, the leaf color was first described in the description of *Begonia rubrovenia* by W.J. Hooker, in *Botanical Magazine* 79: pl. 4689, 1853, which H. Hara in 1972 determined that it is the same species as *Begonia hatacoa*.

The correct citations:

Begonia hatacoa Hamilton ex D. Don *var. hatacoa*, *Prodr. Fl. Nepal.* :223, 1825.

[The Type].

Distinguishing characters: Leaves, glabrous, upper surface green, glossy, marked and dashed with white blotches; the underside varies from light green with purple, or all purple or all red.

Additional habitats found by Rekha Morris are in India: Arunachal Pradesh; Lower Subansiri, Papumpare and West Kameng.

Begonia hatacoa Hamilton ex D. Don *var. meisneri* (C.B. Clarke) J. Golding, *Phytologia*, 40:19, 1978.

Distinguished by leaves linear-lanceolate, very tomentose on veins beneath.

Begonia hatacoa Hamilton ex D. Don *var. viridifolia* J. Golding & R. Morris, *var. nov.*, *A var. hatacoa foliis omnino viridibus undique differt.*

New variety, from *Begonia hatacoa var. hatacoa*, it differs by the leaves completely green on all sides.

Begonia hatacoa Hamilton ex D. Don *var. rubrifolia* J. Golding & R. Morris, *var. nov.*, *A var. hatacoa foliis omnino viridibus supra et rubris infra differt.*

New variety, from *Begonia hatacoa var. hatacoa*, it differs by the leaves completely green on upper surface and red on the underside.

Begonia hatacoa ‘Silver’.

This may be a hybrid cultivar descended from the cross of *Begonia hatacoa* X *Begonia xanthina* made by Roezl in 1853.

See the following: “A Note on *B. hatacoa* from Arunachal Pradesh, India” by **Rekha Morris** for details about their recent collections and habitats.

A note on *Begonia hatacoa* from Arunachal Pradesh, India.

by Rekha Morris

The correct identifications and new variety epithets are from the previous **Nomenclature Notes, *Begonia hatacoa*, by Jack Golding.**

In 2005 I documented *B. hatacoa* both in April and December in three western districts of Arunachal Pradesh in the eastern Himalayas of India, Lower Subansiri, Papumpare, and West Kameng.

In April 2005 I briefly explored the hills of W. Kameng up to 6000', and at that time I found a few scattered juvenile plants of *B. hatacoa*. The first one I noticed, growing in solitary isolation was *B. hatacoa* var. *hatacoa* [had green leaves with white blotches]. However, some 20' from this plant there was a scattered sprinkling of more juvenile plants of var. *hatacoa* as well as *B. hatacoa* var. *rubrifolia* [had green leaves with a rich maroon-purple on the undersides]. This small colony was at a fairly low elevation of about 500'.

Returning to explore these hills more carefully in December, I was astonished to find *B. hatacoa* var. *hatacoa* growing in large drifts from approximately the elevation of this first site at about 500' to about 5000'. Both var. *hatacoa* and var. *rubrifolia* grew intermingled throughout this range, together with a third variety *B. hatacoa* var. *viridifolia* [had dark green foliage which sometimes is a light green or flushed pale pinkish-maroon on the reverse]. None of these were in bloom, and most looked somewhat peaked during this comparatively dry spell in the winter.

In exploring the hills of Papumpare district in April 2005, I encountered *B. hatacoa* var. *hatacoa* growing profusely on a steep hillside at an elevation of about 2000'. The hills in this section were moist both in April and December, and without doubt subject to torrential rains during the monsoons thus supporting a lush and gregarious mix of tree ferns, species bananas, and bamboos intermingled with broad leafed trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, and herbaceous plants. As in W. Kameng, all three varieties referred to above grew together on exposed cliffs which received morning light. On hills facing west they grew in shaded ravines and seasonally dry stream beds. In early April, unlike those documented in W. Kameng a mere 3 to 4 days previously, these were more advanced in growth and beginning to bloom. The somewhat cooler hills of W. Kameng probably accounted for the delayed development of *B. hatacoa* there, although those in Papumpare and the few from Lower Subansiri were approximately at similar elevations, from about 1500'-3000'.

The **Red Data Book of Indian Plants [vol. 3, 1987]**, edited by M.P. Nayar and A.R.K. Sastry, lists *B. rubrovenia* [synonym of *B. hatacoa*] var. *meisneri* collected by Wallich in the Khasia Hills of Meghalaya [formerly Assam] at an elevation of 1064 m. (3500') as rare and endemic. Among the hundreds of specimens of *B. hatacoa* which I saw growing in W. Kameng, Papumpare and Lower Subansiri districts of Arunachal, I did not notice any that I examined, with hair along the veins on the reverse side of the leaves, as reported for var. *meisneri*. Nor are any present in the half a dozen specimens I have growing here in South Carolina. None of these specimens of the three varieties of

B. hatacoa from Arunachal are being grown in a terrarium. They do quite well under the shade of tall trees during the summer months, and in the greenhouse in the winter.

In cultivation is *B. hatacoa* 'Silver', possibly a hybrid resulting from the cross of *B. hatacoa* with *B. xanthina*. I have not encountered this cultivar in the wild, however, since natural hybrids may occur it is useful to mention other *Begonia* which I documented in the vicinity of *B. hatacoa* in Arunachal.

I did not find a single *B. xanthina* plant anywhere in Papumpare and Lower Subansiri districts where I was able to explore in April and December 2005. These are two of the of the three areas where I found scattered colonies of *B. hatacoa*. The *B. hatacoa* var. *hatacoa* was widespread in Papumpare as well as the *B. hatacoa* var. *rubrifolia*, with a sprinkling of *B. hatacoa* var. *viridifolia*. Although I also encountered all three varieties in Lower Subansiri, in this district they were not as frequent or as profuse. The one species which grew in the general area of these colonies of *B. hatacoa* in Papumpare was *B. aborensis*, and in one small section of Lower Subansiri I also found a few plants of *B. aborensis*, *B. griffithiana* and what may be a subsp. of *B. burkillii* within 50' of about a half a dozen plants of *B. hatacoa* var. *hatacoa*.

In W. Kameng the three varieties of *B. hatacoa* referred to above occurred in intermittent colonies up to about 5000'. I documented them close to colonies of *B. rex* although not intermingled with them. While *B. xanthina* also occurred in this district between 3000-5000', there were no plants of *B. hatacoa* intermingled with these. *B. xanthina* tended to occupy 15'-20' spans of steep cliff sides. There would be large stretches with no *Begonia* in sight, and then maybe a colony of *B. hatacoa* or *B. rex*. At one site *B. hatacoa* grew among an as yet unidentified cane-like species, and about 200 yards or so was a small colony of *B. xanthina* on a near vertical cliff side. *B. xanthina* and *B. rex* occurred in one area close to each other but there were none of *B. hatacoa*, and in a couple of sites *B. rex* grew in close proximity to two as yet unidentified species.

Since *B. hatacoa* has been recorded in Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim and Meghalaya, this documentation in Arunachal Pradesh in 2005 presents a new find spot for this species in India.

In Memory: Wally Jones

Wally Jones, the husband of **Jeanne Jones**, passed away on Sunday, August 27, with a service following on August 29.

Wally was one of those spouses who did not grow begonias, but was always at the side of his wife as she did. He cheerfully traveled to ABS meetings and shows with Jeanne. He also supported Jeanne's always generous open arms to ABS visitors who came to LA and stayed with Jeanne. I, too, benefited from and enjoyed their hospitality. Without the aid of such spouses, ABS would be at a loss.

We in ABS will miss Wally and we give our deepest sympathy to Jeanne.

Freda Holley.

Begonia luzonensis

By Charles Henthorne

In the *Begonian* of November/December 2002 there was a wonderful photo of *B. luzonensis*. Leora and I have grown this begonia, both separately and as a joint venture after we were married in April of 2004. *B. luzonensis* is in the section Diploclinium. Its distributional range is Asia, and more specifically, it is found in the Phillipines. Narrowing it down even further in its location it is found in Luzon, Phillipines. Thus its name *B. luzonensis*. Reference to this begonia can be found in Jack Golding & D.C. Wasshausen, 2002. *Begoniaceae*, Edition 2, Jack Golding & D.C. Wasshausen, 2002. Other than this there seems to be few other references or information about this begonia. So I have decided to share some observations about this interesting, easy to grow begonia.

Rhizomatous begonias are grown mostly for their interesting leaves and compact growing habits. Along with this they have an added bonus of great quantities of blooms that can cover the whole plant. Most of the rhizomatous begonias are spring blooming but there are a few that will bloom all year. We are finding that *B. luzonensis* falls in this category. Our plant has been blooming continually for the last several months and is still loaded with open and unopened flowers. As the reader might suspect, we grow our *B. luzonensis* in a large terrarium. However if one had a greenhouse it would grow just as well there. At this time I know of no one who grows it outside of the terrarium or outside of a greenhouse. After this article appears I am sure that someone will come forward to admit that they have grown a huge specimen in their backyard, perhaps someone from certain areas of Florida or California, where begonias that will only

grow well for us in a terrarium, do well in those areas outside of the terrarium or greenhouse environment. The texture of the leaf surface is coriaceous, being medium thick, but with the texture and feel of soft leather. Leaf color borders on being an odd dark silvery green with earth green coloration extending along the main veins in all directions. There is a frosty coating covering the entire leaf which adds a shimmering chatoyant visual effect to the leaf. On the underside the entire surface is a deep burgundy color. The dimensions vary in size from a width of 1 to 2.5 inches. The margins are described as entire, which is a margin with a bare edge with no indentations or divisions along the margin. The leaf is velvety to the touch. There is a very occasional hair on the upper surface, that hair being soft. The underside veins are lined with soft, short hairs. The underside edge is also lined with villous hair. There are 8 main veins attached to the petiole. The petiole is 2.5 inches long and is downy (covered with short and weak soft hairs). I am not going to go into much detail on the blooms except to say that they are on stems approximately 4.5 inches long with white blooms. Both male and female blooms open at the same time. The whole plant is in a 16 inch diameter terrarium and is entirely covering the surface of that terrarium. There is no leaf taller than 5 inches.

We have found that this begonia does well being kept barely moist and with a low grade fertilizer being given with every watering. However, that being said, we do not have to water a lot, as we do not take the cover off of the terrarium very often. We use our growing medium which is long strand sphagnum peat and perlite



B. Luzonensis in its terrarium above and below is a closeup with leaves and blooms.
Photos by **Charles Henthorne**.



mixture over a 1 inch layer of plant grade charcoal. There is some talk and printed material going around that says aquarium grade charcoal can be used, however, speaking from experience, that is not true. It is wise to invest a little more money in the plant charcoal and have well growing and happy plants in the end. We grow the *B. luzonensis* in our plant room under a cool and warm fluorescent light and it seems to like that. The plant is healthy and has been putting on new growth for the last several months. If we do get too much water on it, it does have a tendency to droop, and with that warning, we crack the cover of the terrarium for a few days to let the medium dry out a little. The plant revives with no ill effects.

I have written several articles on our terrarium begonias, and have tried to show the ease with which we can grow beautiful plants. I do not say that terrariums are care free, for they do require care.

For one who wishes to grow terrariums, all I can say is start out with one which is a little on the dry side. It is easier to add moisture, than it is to take it away. Be careful of direct sunlight, because your plant will bake if it is too hot. Medium to indirect light is preferable for most terrarium begonias, and a select few require hardly any direct, or indirect light at all. If I had to come up with a plant for the beginning terrarium begonia grower I would definitely recommend *B. luzonensis*.

'Dragon Wing' Begonia Story

By Lynne Knosher, Pan American Seed

A question was raised in the July/August issue of the *Begonian* as to the origin of 'Dragon Wing' *Begonia*. I was involved in the resurrection of the hybrid and wanted to pass on the history of how it all began.

The original 'Dragon Wing' hybrid was created in the late seventies at the Pan American research station then in Florida. An unnamed wild species, acquired by **Bruce Christensen**, seed production manager and a breeder for Pan American Seed, was crossed with a *semperflorens* selection to produce a unique, vigorous, large flowered hybrid later named 'Dragon Wing Red'. 'Dragon Wing' did not fit the ideal compact type of the time, so after initial trialing production was stopped.

There were still a few growers that wanted all the characteristics that 'Dragon Wing' offered, so they began to take cuttings from the plants they had trialed and

named the cutting variety 'Sunbrite'.

In the early 1990s a Wisconsin grower asked if Pan American seed would revisit producing 'Dragon Wing' as a seed product, as 'Sunbrite' could not be produced in sufficient quantities to satisfy his market.

Parent line material was grown out and reselected and Dragon Wing was reborn.

Because of the popularity of the red, a pink was added later.

Both have proven to be showy and durable bedding and containers plants. They continue to gain popularity in the market.

We all thank you for a response and a solution to this mystery. FH

Begonia Freeze

by Tony Collins

When you're running around
Like a tail-chasing hound,
Cause you've heard the forecast is
freeezing

I suggest you must choose
Which technique you will use
To keep frost your begonias from seizing

You have to decide
Whether to take safe inside
'Sinbad' and his so tender brothers

But the problem you face
Is you haven't the space
Besides, moving the the furniture's a
bother.

Then a solution arises
And it doesn't surprise us
When you tell where you heard about it

At a San Jac meeting,
When after the greeting
The speaker stood up to tout it.

"Heating cables," he said,
"Will keep from the dead
Your begonias when winter comes
calling

Weave the wire in and out
And its heat, without doubt,
Will save them when temperature's
falling

And this gentle heat
Simply can't be beat
For keeping their toes all toasty

But watch for blue skies
And a temperature rise
Or your plants will end up all roasty."

But I say, "Tsk, Tsk,"
That's a moderate risk
When you think of all the advantage

Of not having to haul
Plants, pots and all
Into the den or garage

Yes, a greenhouse is nice,
But it fills in a trice,
You can't fit all your begonias in there

With a cable device,
Those outside will stay nice
And we get pneumonia from cold air

So weave in that cable
And you will be able
To get a night of full slumber

It can't help but please,
To know that a freeze
Won't get your begonia's number

So let me conclude
And I may sound rude
When I say you're at fault
If you sit there and balk
And not take my advice
About something this nice,
To keep your plants warm,
And secure from all harm.

If you promise to buy a cable
Then, clear-conscienced I'll be able
To sit at my table

And enjoy our Christmas party!

Tony Collis is Vice President, as well as Past President, of the San Jacinto Branch in Texas. You may write him at 2114 Parakeet, Houston, TX 77034.

Letters to the Editor

Old Begonians

I have been trying to complete my collection of Begonians. I have been a member since 1980, and was the former bookstore manager back then. I had to drop out for a few years and have been trying to get the issues I missed. It would be from 1985 thru 1995. I was wondering if there is any member that is looking for someone to pass on their back issues. I would be willing to take any year and pass them on to other members or potential new members. I would also be glad to pay the postage for shipping. I can be contacted at BBOOPFANS@aol.com, or write me at 10550 Western Ave. #133, Stanton CA 90680.

Thanks,
Bobbie West

Bobbie, I am sure you know that old issues of the Begonian are available from the Back Issues Chair, Donna Marsheck, address on page 239. I think there is a special rate for full year copies, but you can contact her for more information and availability. However, perhaps as you suggest someone would like to pass their's along.

Information on U Numbers

I am just writing to thank you for the article that you wrote in the last Begonian about *Begonia U439 & U440*. I have these plants and never knew what they were as they were seedlings when given to me and the person who gave them to me didn't know either. Now the mystery is solved.

You will have to pass the photos on to Bill Claybaugh to use on the U number web page as the ones he has on the page doesn't do the plants justice.

Once again thanks for the article.

I remain,
Ivy McFarlane

And thank YOU for the feedback, Ivy. You don't know how great it is to have feedback of any kind about the contents of an issue or to have unsolicited submissions such as Tony's poem on the opposite page. Just know that writers and editors both sometimes suffer from loneliness and not knowing whether what they are offering is of interest to readers. Send in those letters if you like (or don't like) something, please!

Continued from age 204.

recently. It is a great newsletter.

The full proceedings of the meeting will be printed in the *Begonian* soon.°The attendance was quite low and the committee reports and branch reports were sparse as well. National Directors, if you have not written your annual report we would appreciate hearing from you. Send your reports to **Mary Bucholtz** and to me. And to the committee chairs would you please send your reports to Secretary **Richard Macnair** and to me.

I would like to tell you a little about Scotland, 2007. The report of my trip in the summer appears in this issue. **President Samuel Kennedy** has been working on the agenda for next summer and I will tell you about a few of the events planned. At this writing the dates will be approximately the last week in July and the first week in August ending after our visit to the Ayr Flower Show. If enough people sign up there will be a bus tour of Scotland and/or England that includes breakfast and dinner and hotels. General Manager Ewen

Continued on page 223.

SCOTLAND, 2006 and the AYR FLOWER SHOW (Preparing for the ABS Visit Next Year) by Janet Brown

Scottish Begonia Society President **Samuel Kennedy** and his lovely wife and Scottish Begonia Society (SBS) Treasurer **Betty Kennedy** met us as we staggered off the plane in Edinburgh. It was so very nice to receive their warm and welcoming greeting. We rented our car and Sam rode with me, steering me through the rigors of driving on the left side while jet lagged. Betty took Jessica in her car and we met at their home in Airdrie, almost midway between Edinburgh and Glasgow. They have a lovely garden and 4 or 5 greenhouses which hold an astonishing array of begonias. Sam is a hybridizer specializing in rexes much like our **Bob Golden**. Betty does the computer work and while we were at her home she put together a display for the ABS with photos I had brought and text provided by the Tampa Bay Begonia Society about growing all kinds of begonias. Although I had never met the Kennedys we were soon fast friends. We had been in communication by e-mail and phone since **Hugh McLauchlan's** passing in January. After recovering from the flight a bit Sam led us to our hotel in Glasgow which I would never have found on my own. I will always be grateful to these wonderful people.

I had chosen our hotel well! It was right across from the Glasgow Botanic Garden and on the banks of the River Kelvin which runs through the gardens. There are lovely paths leading down to the river where you can walk and enjoy peace and tranquility in the middle of busy Glasgow. The gardens hold a most beautiful and elegant Victorian conservatory, the Kibble Palace. Renovation was started, I believe, just after my last visit in 2002 and is just about complete. It will be ready to reopen in October or November this year and

most definitely will be ready for our visit next year.

The next day when we were feeling much better we drove out to Sam & Betty's home again and saw just a hint of the amazing amount of work that goes into their Ayr Show venue. If you think we work hard on our show, it is nothing compared to what the SBS does. Their efforts are rewarded. Betty & I worked on the ABS display again while Sam was putting together photos for the New Zealand and Australian booths. I managed to get a few pictures of Sam's hybrids and his tuberous begonias. They were most impressive, but he had some beautifully grown specimens of *B. aconitifolia*, *peltata*, various shrubs and canes as well. Also took pictures of his carrots and beets, very enviously.

On Monday I met with **Ewen Donaldson** the General Manager of Glasgow Botanic and also took a quick run through the back begonia houses. We talked about next year and how many events would be held at the garden as well as the Royal Botanic in Edinburgh. Glasgow will have a welcoming reception for us at the start and we will have plenty of time to view the begonia houses open to the public and the back houses where there are many treasures. I met **David Menzies** who takes care of those treasures. He is from New Zealand and wrote a great article about Glasgow Botanic and the M.L. Macintyre Begonia Trusts in the 2005 Nov./Dec. issue of the *Begonian*. Co-authors were **Eric W. Curtis** and **Christopher T. Wheeler**. You can get some idea of what the collection is like from that issue and there is a great photo of the begonias on the cover.

We spent 6 days in Glasgow and managed a few side trips, scouting the beautiful Scottish countryside for the tours

next year, to Aberfoyle in the Trossachs, Loch Lomond, Inverarry, Dunblane and later Turnberry in the south for those who golf. Then it was down to the Ayr show on Thursday, Aug. 3 as the show was set up. I worked on the ABS booth and had plenty of lovely plants to arrange. Did I bring them? No way! Our friend in the Netherlands **Antoon Hoefnagels** sent many beautiful begonias for the display and the rest came from Sam Kennedy's greenhouses. Our ABS display won a third place awarded by the Ayrshire Horticultural Society. The SBS 70th anniversary display took a Gold Medal and it was gorgeous. The first two rows were a massive collection of the very beautiful *B. 'Mrs. Elizabeth McLauchlan'*. I'll hope to have some pictures in the next issue. One of the displays was a lovely tribute to Hugh McLauchlan with his photo in the midst of some lovely tuberous begonias. How I did miss him. We had made plans for my visit to the show at least 2 years ago.

The Show was huge and beautiful with many displays of orchids, sweet peas, geraniums, bonsai, lilies, amazing vegetables (leeks as tall as trees) and garden tools, furniture, on and on. There are gigantic white tents that hold all these wonderful things and it takes a few days to see everything. But most of my time was spent meeting the members of SBS, talking about next year and gawking endlessly at those tuberous begonias. The begonia show alone is worth the trip to Scotland.

Bill and Muriel Ash were there. They had driven up from England and Bill entered a lovely display of his plants. It is always a pleasure to see them. They will be in Scotland next year and hopefully in L.A. as well for our convention.

I hope that many will consider going to Scotland next year. Much planning work has been done already and all we need to make our dreams come true is set aside two weeks next summer for the trip of a lifetime to enjoy gorgeous begonias

across the pond. And it will be my pleasure to introduce you to the wonderful friendly people in the Scottish Begonia Society.

~Janet Brown

Membership Notes

by Donna Marsheck

New Members: We have had 38 new members since July.

CA-9; WA-2; PA-1; MS-1; MO-3; NY-2;
MD-2; TN-1; OR-1;
UT-1; KS-1; FL-2; VA-1; IL-1; TX-1;
CANADA-2;
FRANCE-1.

Branch New Members:

Astro Branch-2; Houston Satellites
Branch-2; Westchester Branch-2.

As per this August 31, 2006 report, we mail the *Begonian* to 1,042 U. S. mailing addresses and 94 mailing addresses outside of the U.S.

We have a wonderful, friendly group of begoniacs and we appreciate our membership dedication to spreading the word about the begonia!

It is my pleasure to visit and get to know so many of you through the office of Membership Chairman. Thank you for the personal notes that accompany the renewals and for keeping me "glued" to the Begonia File on my computer.

Remember that dues for the 2007 year are requested by December 31, 2006. Beat the rush, send yours in early!

:0)...Donna

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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. The species names (in italics) reported here are correct based on the latest information from **BEGONIACEAE**, Ed. 2; Golding, and Wasshausen. Hybrid names are made consistent with the "ABS Check List of Begonia Hybrids" edited by Howard Berg dated 9/13/2005.

Save Your Seed!

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All types wanted; species
especially appreciated.**

Potting on of Vegetative Cuttings by Jane Blundell, Australia

This article is taken from the Spring 2004 issue of The Queensland Begonia Society, Inc. Journal published in Brisbane, Queensland edited by June McBride. Our thanks and appreciation to both Jane and June!

Cane-like

This February, following the annual show, when all the hoo-ha had died down, I performed my usual ritual of taking cuttings. This year I decided to take cuttings only from a select few of my new hybrids which we'll call the "Beauty Queens". At this time of the year, having been prepared for showing and display, these plants are large and in peak condition, and can supply copious quantities of strong, healthy, pest and disease free, choice cutting material. It is not easy to attack the plants when they are looking so stunningly beautiful, however it is a game plant, a blue print to success, which allows me to make crucial decisions on the quantities of cuttings I want and the destiny of the mother plant.

First, all plants must be absolutely turgid. This was the first propagation of these particular hybrids and I scrutinised each individual with a critical eye. Had I been feeling greedy I would have decided to take a cutting from every available node - in other words, cut to the base, all stems in one node above the potting mix. This does no harm to a vital plant. Place back in a well lit position and when growth resumes, fertilise, water, and take dutiful care of these bountiful beauties. I would then proceed to cut these cut stems into individual nodal cuttings. These would have a longer piece of stem below the node. This piece of stem allows stability when the cutting is planted to the base of the node in the propagation medium Stake. Place in a well lit position as above etc. etc. etc.

However, that was not my state of mind, so I cut the plant retaining shape and some size, taking only a moderate amount of cuttings.

Continued on page 230.

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Continued from page 217.

Donaldson of Glasgow Botanic Gardens is planning a reception for us at the start and tours of the Begonia House and the back green houses as well. There will be a trip to the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh with visits to their begonia house. And we will have a tour of the magnificent city of Edinburgh. Various lectures and seminars are planned in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Our base will be Glasgow and some of the things to be seen there are the Kelvingrove Museum, just newly reopened this summer, the Hunterian Art Gallery at the University of Glasgow, many Charles Rennie Mackintosh buildings including a reproduction of his house which has been set up at the University of Glasgow, and one of the world's greatest museums, the Burrell Collection. Day trips by bus will be taken to Loch Lomond, the Trossachs and will include some of the many "Glorious Gardens of Argyll & Bute". There is so much to see in Scotland that we cannot possibly cover it all but we will try.

We are trying to get an estimate of the number who will be going to Scotland and would appreciate hearing from you. **Cheryl Lenert** has graciously agreed to help with the travel plans and air fares at

this side of the Atlantic and we hope to have more definite information by the next issue. We hope that many of you will plan to attend this once in a lifetime event. The Scottish Begonia Society is working very hard to set up this Ceilidh. The Ayr Show is not to be missed and you will see how they are growing magnificent begonias and not just tuberous. Believe me, it is worth going just for the tuberous but there is much, much more. Please let me hear from you.

As we end this begonia year we wish you a most happy and joyous holiday season. Thanks to **Wanda Macnair** for another very successful Holiday Greetings campaign. Her efforts help to make the holiday issue of the *Begonian* possible. And thanks to all the members and branches who contributed.

Get ready for 2007: The Southwest Get-Together at the end of April in Oklahoma City, the Scottish Begonia Society "visit" in July & August and finishing with the ABS Convention 2007. September 4-9 in Los Angeles.

In friendly contact,
Janet Brown



THE AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY INC

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BEGONIAS AT BALI BOTANIC GARDENS, INDONESIA

By

W. Scott Hoover and James M. Hunter, New England Tropical Conservatory

Harry Wiriadinata and Deden Girmansyah, Bogor Herbarium

Since 1995 New England Tropical Conservatory (NETC) has been undertaking collecting expeditions for *Begonia* and its associated flora in conjunction with Herbarium Bogoriense. At this point about 55 mountains from Sumatra, Java, Bali, Lombok, Sumbawa and Sulawesi have been explored with Herbarium Bogoriense. Seed and some cuttings have been grown by ABS members as well as by Harry Wiriadinata, NETC's partner at The Herbarium.

For all these years Harry has been collecting *Begonia* cultivars along with the native begonias from NETC/Herbarium Bogoriense expeditions together with other field trips he has taken, primarily to Kalimantan. He has developed a beautiful show garden as an entryway to his home with an additional display garden at the back of the house including a propagation area.

In 2001 **Mustaid Siregar** became the new Director of Bali Botanic Gardens (Eka Karya) one of LIPI's (Indonesian Institute of Sciences) gardens. Under Mr. Siregar's directorship have been built a number of new specialty gardens and greenhouses, an orchid house, several *Begonia* green houses, a cactus house and an ethno botanical collection. Mr. Siregar is clearly a dynamic, focused and successful director.

In October of 2003, Director Siregar's wife, **Hartutiningsih** M. Siregar, known

as 'Tutie', a plant physiologist, began to collect begonia's with the help of Harry, who gave Tutie cuttings from his cultivars and native species. As of March 13, 2006 when I visited Bali Botanic Gardens the *Begonia* were spectacular. As you entered, the show room housed a collection of native Bali *Begonia* including, *B. longfolia* and several unidentified species of which some maybe new to science. Only begonias and a few ferns, moss and *Selaginella* were included in this beautiful landscaped garden under an open sided greenhouse.

Species such as *B. acetosa*, *B. venosa*, *B. heracleifolia*, *B. serratipetala*, *B. exotica*, *B. kellermanni*, *B. imperialis* and many more species along with cultivars formed large beds and colonies throughout the estimated 70' x 20' house. Moving from the main house to the support facilities proved quite overwhelming; 3 new green houses filled with several dozen *Begonia* species and cultivars, one of which was devoted to propagation, were toured with Director Siregar, 'Tutie' and several staff members. Most impressive was the horticultural skill and expertise apparent with Tutie and her staff. Using a special soilless mix of shredded leaf material observed at a processing center at the garden. We observed a bench of 6 - 7" diameter poly bag pots of a *B. mazae* cultivar; these plants started as cuttings in October 2005 and by the time I observed them 6 months later they were 12 - 15" tall and 7 - 10" wide arranged pot to pot on the bench. A bench of *B. acetosa*

leaves were observed for propagation, laid down in January and in 2 months the small plantlets growing from the petiole apex, where the leaf blade joins, was nearly an inch tall with 6 – 7- recognizable leaves. By my estimate this seemed to be an accelerated rate of growth.

At this point, Bali Botanic Gardens has been designated as the *Begonia* center for Indonesia by **Dr. Irawati**, Director of Bogor Botanic Gardens, the command center for LIPI's Botanic Gardens. Dr. Irawati, the Siregars and Harry all want more *Begonia* seed and cuttings of different species and cultivars for display at Bali Botanic Garden. In a coordinated effort with **Gene Salisbury**, I ask the ABS if we can arrange to send accurately identified cuttings or seed to Indonesia.

Along with *Begonias* at Bali Gardens, it may be said that *Begonia* is becoming popular in Indonesia being promoted by the following:

1. In 2003, Harry and Dr. Irawati were given the task of picking endemic plant species from each of Indonesia's 33 provinces for a new set of Indonesian stamps. *B.robusta* was chosen to represent West Java.

2. Deden and Harry's poster of *Begonia* of Java was printed. Some ABS members have seen this poster already.
3. A calendar printed by Bali Botanic Garden showing leaves of about 25 *Begonia* species and cultivars was observed in a LIPI office in Jakarta sponsored by HSBC Bank.
4. Two more *Begonia* posters at Bali Botanic Gardens were seen.
5. Perhaps the most important promotion of *Begonia* is the interest of, according to **Karen Sjarief**, the Indonesian Botanical Gardens Foundations which is a not for profit organization founded by former Indonesian President **Megawati Soekarno Putri**.

Clearly *begonias*, with their diverse and colorful leaf shapes and beautiful flowers are taking root in Indonesia. Let's expand our efforts and help develop *Begonias* in Indonesia.

Good News!

Update: Fort Worth Botanic Gardens by Linda Shires

The Fort Worth *Begonia* Species Bank will have a new home starting in 2007.

The Fort Worth Botanic Garden is building a large new greenhouse from capital improvement bonds, and this greenhouse will be ready for occupancy sometime in early 2007. Because of the additional space made available by the new greenhouse, the *begonia* collection will have extra room for expansion. We are anticipating a much-needed improvement in the environmental conditions under which the *begonias* will be grown in their new home.

BALINESE'S BEGONIAS IN BALI BOTANICAL GARDEN

by Hartutiningsih-M. Siregar *

*Begonian Researcher, Bali Botanical Garden, Indonesian

Institute of Sciences - LIPI

Candikuning, Baturiti, Tabanan, Bali, Indonesia. 82191

Email: hartutiningsih@yahoo.co.id

Do not miss Bali Botanical Garden when you are visiting Bali. It is a branch of Bogor Botanical Gardens, founded in 1959 especially to conserve mountainous dry climate plants affinity. The area of the garden is 157.5 Hectare and it is located in the heart of the island at Bedugul mountainous area resort, at 1.250-1.450 meters above sea level. The Garden plays roles especially in conservations of endangered and rare Indonesian plants, education and also recreation.

Why is the Bali Botanical Garden very interesting? The Garden offers something special for anybody who loves plants and nature. The entrance gate, buildings and landscape were decorated by Balinese Architecture. It has some interesting sites like the Orchid's Park, Usada's Park (Balinese Medicinal Plants), Fern gardens and the most of all is a beautiful Begonia's park.

BEGONIA COLLECTIONS

The begonia collections are planted in a beautiful park and in a special Begonia's House. The informal park design is based on a natural concept that images the natural habitat of the begonias in general. The Begonia's House is designed by Balinese architecture.

The visitors would be astonished by the beautiful appearance of many species of begonias that grow like an Arabic carpet. The shape, variation and colorful leaves are very attractive and can make somebody feel happy like an apple to a sour eyes. *Begonia bowerae* and *Begonia acetosa* are two exotic herbs among the 75 collections of common and exciting species.

FROM WILD TO GARDEN PLANTS

Before I came to the gardens a few years ago the begonia collections were very poor, maybe less than 10. But now more than 50 exotic and more than 25 wild Begonias have been grown very well. Some of the begonias collections originated from the private gardens of **Dr. Harry Wiriadinata**, who works in Herbarium Bogoriense, Bogor, some came from **Gregory Hambali's** collections.

In order to add to the number of wild begonias collection for the Bali Botanic Gardens, some staff and technicians have carried out many explorations at the mountainous forest and virgin forests in Bali, Lombok, Sumba, Sumbawa, Java, Borneo, Sumatera, Celebes (Sulawesi) and



*The photo in the Bali Gardens above was labeled *B. herecleifolia*, but what catches the eye is the huge species, not identified, to the right. Another view, below. Photos by G.W. Setiadi.*



the Eastern part of Indonesia.

Most Begonia are collected from the mountain and the Bali Botanical Garden is very convenient because it is cold with the temperature about 17 to 25 degree Celsius in daytime drop to 10-15 degree Celsius at night. So in this new home the begonias grow well. They have been conserved and survive in this gardens even though their original habitat might be already disturbed.

Most of the new collection from the wild have not been given a "species name". Some of them are assumed to be a new to science. To make it easy to remember the new begonia, all are labeled and recorded after the collector(s), its origin place or other special characteristics. For new findings it requires more intensive taxonomical research. It will take time and we are trying to describe and find a name for them.

BEGONIA'S HOUSE

Wild begonias seems to prefer convenient habitat such as shade places like the river banks or near the waterfalls such as Gitgit waterfall near Singaraja, Bali. So in this Bogonia house the Begonia "Hartutiningsih" is planted stuck on to a rock like their natural habitat when we first found and collected them. The *Begonia muricata*, *Begonia longifolia*, *Begonia goegoenensis* and *Begonia aptera* are planted near the entrance of the Begonia's house since they usually grow at the entrance of the forest or at the forest margin.

Begonia "Hoover" clusters on the other side. This species was a gift collection from Mr. **Scott W Hoover**, a *Begonia* specialist from New England Tropical Conservatory, Vermont - USA on his journey to Tana Toraja, South Sulawesi few years ago. This is a very adaptable species to its new home in this garden

The stairs or "Undak-undakan" is used to separate wild begonias and exotic begonias. Supporting elements such as turning pathways, trees stems, water ponds, fountain water, bench and "undak-undakan" are used to make this park more artistic. Other plants besides begonias also are used to make the atmosphere cooler and refreshing. A cut of a tree's stem with its wild epiphyte orchids is left just the way it is, and the tree ferns or *Cyathea contaminant* are planted to give a cooling shading effect.

More than 50 species of begonias are planted following their habitus, *Begonia aconitifolia* (syn. *sceptrum*) that has a cane like habit is planted a bit more inside so as *Begonia venosa*. Begonia's leaves color that has a rich texture was arranged so neat and beautiful so that it can give a natural refreshing atmosphere. The colorful exotic Begonias are: *Begonia acetosa* and *Begonia listada* which have red and yellow leaf color, *Begonia manicata* which has curled. broad leaves is planted in a bit higher place that allows the leaves to grow hanging down. At the corner of the exit way there is *Begonia brevirimosa* that has red with a striped line leaf pattern. Some species including the so called 'Hanging Begonia' (*Begonia tuberosa*, Begonia 'Jurrah' and *Begonia thelmae*) are put in a hanging pot.

Species with close relationships are planted near each other. Among them are species such as the *Begonia bowerae* group (*Begonia* 'Bethlehem Star', *Begonia* 'Cleopatra', *Begonia bowerae* Z. var. *nigramarga* Ziesenh); *Begonia s* group (*Begonia* 'Thousand Wonders' red, *Begonia* 'Thousand Wonders' pink, *Begonia* 'Thousand Wonders' white, *Begonia* 'Tinkerbell'); *Begonia heraclifolia* group (*Begonia heraclifolia* Schlech & Chamisso, *B.* 'Ben Lexcen', *B.* 'Black Falcon', *Begonia* 'King of Prussia'); *Begonia* group (*Begonia* 'Fiji Islands', *Begonia* 'Lettuce Magic'), and *B.* 'Argenteo-Guttata' group (*Begonia* 'Argenteo-Guttata Creeper', *B.* 'Argenteo-Guttata' Hort, *Begonia* 'Annan Wish', *Begonia* 'Fanfare').

SEED EXCHANGE

Beside begonias collections from the wild, the garden also get begonias seeds from exchange with other botanical institution regionally and internationally. Besides those collection that are planted in the park, we also have been doing a research and development of begonias inside a green house and also the propagation of begonia to fulfill the needs of Park Architectural Arrangement.

BENEFIT

Commercial benefit that comes from these begonia collections are from plants sales. It is very cheap to buy begonias in this botanical garden. With just Rp. 5.000 to Rp. 10.000 (US \$ 0.5-1.0) you can get a pot of beautiful begonia in flower. For the begonias which grow in a hanging pot like *Begonia themae* and *Begonia bowerae* the price is Rp. 15.000. "Wow that's cheap enough!"

So Do Come and enjoy the beauty of Indonesian nature in Bali Botanical Garden and do not forget to buy some begonias for your gardens.

Photography : **Gede Wawan Setiadi**

Plan now to attend!
Southwest Region ABS Get-Together
and Spring ABS Board Meeting
Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
April 25, 2007 to April 28, 2007
(Come celebrate Oklahoma's Centennial - 1907 to 2007)

Continued from page 221.

That brings me to the plants which we have before us today. The "Beauty Queens", now elegant and vital, resplendent in full dress tip to toe, are surviving the winter as they should, not a blemish, not a spot. Their offspring a.k.a. the "Ugly Ducklings" from approximately May until today, are still small, but now that spring is on our doorstep, will quickly pick up their heels and bolt into growth. The first wave of dishevelled and gangly ones, the "Ugly Ducklings", having been systematically subjected to continual pruning, can now receive a just reward for their loyal serve. Refashion the "Ugly Ducklings" into artistic representations of their parents, the "Beauty Queens". Treat as for "Beauty Queens" below. As the plants burst into growth, pinch diligently, fertilise regularly, turn and fuss. Visit often, take time out to delight in creating a plant of outstanding quality, a stylized winner, a delight to give and receive as a gift or a desirable acquisition from the trade table. Love your plants and they will reward you. Neglect them and they will never reach their true potential. If your aim is to produce a "Beauty Queen" you'll need to do this with several plants because just when you're standing there with that self-satisfying grin on your face, down comes the chopper. That hissing snaky hose, that pesky possum, that sudden hail storm or cyclone or maybe just one lone hairy caterpillar will bring you back to earth. The third generation as they grow may also be turned into "Beauty Queens" or used to produce successive generations.

Now back to the "Beauty Queens", the original hybrid plants. These can now be groomed once again into celebrities for comparison. This is the time to summon up all your artistic bent. Cut the plants back as before, leaving the centre stems taller and gradually stem down the stems toward the outside. Remove them from their pots. Check the roots. If there is a strong growing root ball indicated by lively fresh roots with lots of lovely little root hairs near the tips, you've done your job well. It's helpful if you allow the mix to dry a little before you do this and shake some of the mix from the bottom and around the sides. Gently does it; you wouldn't like being shaken like a rag doll in a dog's mouth. Remember celebs require a little finesse; they

have feelings. No harm will befall your plant should this be undertaken at the beginning of the growing season (around the end of August here in Brisbane) while the weather is mild. Now pot up into a slightly larger pot, put a little mix in the base of the new pot. Hold the plant in place in the centre of the pot (we all know celebs always like centre stage) with the roots dangling loosely above the mix. You're now going to perform a little superficial cosmetic surgery by situating the plant so as to have the stems lower in the pot, thus burying almost to the base of the lowest cut node - give a fresh young lift. Place around roots and tap the pot on a firm surface. Water and set aside in very good light, not direct sun. Fertilise and turn regularly, pinch and groom.

Oh no! Not more lovely cuttings from the preparation of your celebs. Following this practice, your celeb has proved a cornucopia, furnishing you pretty well as many new plants as your hear desired. All this in only one year. What a change.

Rhizomatous

All the rhizomatous cuttings, both rhizome pieces or leaves and wedges taken in late summer and autumn will now (August) be ready for potting up. Make sure you pot according to the size of the root ball, not the amount of leaf surface. Try to keep as much of the mix attached to the roots as possible because even the slightest root disturbance will damage the fine root hairs. Root hairs increase dramatically the amount of mineral salts and water taken up at this crucial stage of life of these small plants.

Rhizome piece cuttings will usually require larger pots. By cutting off the growing tip end of the rhizome cutting, at this stage, you will encourage shooting from along the entire length of the rhizome. This produces a much fuller plant. When this happens, you may decide to remove all the old leaves to give the new season's leaves even light ad more room to grow - giving a fresh and zesty look.

Happy propagating and growing, never be happy with anything less than a "Beauty Queen", a real "Celeb".

**Convention 2007
Los Angeles, CA
Hotel News
by Margaret Fisher**

The Palos Verdes Branch of the American Begonia Society has made an agreement with Ayres Hotel Hawthorne/Manhattan Beach/LAX to use their facilities for the 2007 ABS Convention for the period of September 5, 6, 7 & 8, 2007 with a pre-convention tour on Tuesday, September 4, 2007.

We were able to obtain the following room rates: \$109. for 1 or 2 persons; \$119. for 3 or 4 persons; \$139. for a Jr. Suite; and \$169. for an Executive Suite. This price includes full breakfast at the buffet and parking and other amenities. A contract is being prepared by the hotel at this time.

After visiting and obtaining quotes

for other hotels in the greater LAX area. this is a great "find".

It is a small hotel that is about 2 or 3 years old and is beautifully furnished with one of a kind art works. It is located 3.5 miles south of LAX. You can view the Ayres locations at: www.ayreshotels.com.

We will contact you when other details become final.

**Season's Greetings to All
and Thank You to all
the donors (page 205)
who brought this issue to you
and to Wanda Macnair for
all her work!**

*The donor page is in black and white
this year in order to bring you one more
page of the beautiful photos available.*

**Conservation Comments
Bill Claybaugh
Conservation Chairman, ABS**

***Begonia* 'Ricinifolia'**

The *Begonia* 'Ricinifolia' (A. Dietrich, 1847) was noted by A. D. Candolle in his Prodrumus, 1864, as being a hybrid of two species in Section Gireoudia, *B. heracleifolia* and *B. peponifolia* (later called *B. barkeri*). He also noted he had seen it the dried state in Herbariums "petr." and Boiss" (?). This cryptic notation has interested me ever since I read it several years ago. How does one know a begonia is a hybrid just from examining its dried remains, or was he taking the word of another researcher, perhaps Walpers whom he also notes in the same passage?

I first encountered *B.* 'Ricinifolia' when Linda Shires sent me a plant from the collection at the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, June of 2002. I have grown the plant in the ground as a bedding plant thereafter. It naturally dies back each winter, but comes back to life with a burst of flowers in March and then puts on very large leaves for its spring and summer period. Overall a very enjoyable yard plant.

B. 'Ricinifolia' is described by M. L. Thompson in *Begonias the Complete Reference Guide* as rhizomatous, large leafed, cleft, described by A. Dietrich in 1847, and perhaps of English origin. My plant is all of the above, plus has very unique petioles. They are heavily covered in red scale, perhaps best described as "fimbriate ciliate paleate". There are also several rings of red trichomes (i.e. scale or hairs) at the top of each petiole, just below the umbo (point of attachment



Above, the red hairs on B. 'Ricinifolia' leaves, and below is the entire plant. Photos by Bill Claybaugh..



to the leaf blade). The scale is a strong indication of the *B. heracleifolia* parentage, only it is even more intense. I have never seen a large plant of *B. barkeri*, so have no comment here. The leaves also have one character similar to some variations of *B. sericoneura* in that the leaves have short, stiff red hairs on the major leaf veins, both top and bottom. This combination of characters seems to set this plant apart from others that I have examined.

My next encounter with this plant was a small rhizome cutting that I obtained from **Don Turrentine** in the summer of 2004. He had brought it back from Mexico where he said it grew wild, in profusion, covering large areas of ground. He has grown the plant for several years in Houston and also uses it as a yard plant. The interesting thing is that he did not know its identity, so asked me to search for a name. Being a plant from the wild, I naturally assumed it to be a species, so I turned to the *Begoniaceae* Keys for help. Here I was stopped dead in my search. Nothing worked. I tried all the tricks but got nowhere. I did not have flowers to work with so was at a serious disadvantage, but tried anyway, making numerous assumptions and going down many false paths. Finally I gave up, but was sure that come spring, with flowers available, everything would be clear. I was right, but was also surprised by the answer.

This March, both Don's plant and the one from FWBG bloomed well. The peduncles were long, with the inflorescence held high above the plant leaves. Close examination of the staminate flowers revealed two big surprises. My initial examination showed the male flower to have two tepals, just as one would expect with both parents coming from section *Gireoudia*, but it had **no** androecium. There were no stamens, i.e. no filaments, no anthers, so obviously, no pollen. These flowers were just the pedicel and the two tepals, thus totally

sterile. The pistillate flowers appeared perfectly normal with two tepals, a three-winged capsule (one wing large and two small), a bifid placenta with ovules both inside and outside the divisions, stamen, and three lunar stigmas. All of these pistillate characteristics are typical of Section *Gireoudia*.

Two weeks later, a re-examination of the staminate flowers of the same plant gave me a new surprise. These later staminate flowers now had four tepals, the same large sepals as before, but now it also had two very small, elongated, highly distorted petals. Also there was now an androecium consisting of a very few, very small anthers with no filaments visible. I finally concluded that either my initial examination was faulty or this variety has some inherent fault and produced both fertile and infertile staminate flowers. I checked the *Astro* database of cultivars and found nine plants that had *B. 'Ricinifolia'* as the pistillate parent. These were: *B. 'Bardon Hills'*, *'Lowe's Ricinifolia'*, *'Mrs. Mary Peace'*, *'Troll'*, *'Fischer's Ricinifolia'*, *'Immense'*, *'Leo C. Shippy'*, *'Magnus'*, and *'Marian'*. I also found four cultivars with *B. 'Ricinifolia'* listed as the staminate parent. These were *B. 'Jose Gaspar'*, *'Jose's Firstmate'*, *'Palomar'*, and *'Ramone'*. I grow *B. 'Immense'* and *B. 'Magnus'* and they both resemble *B. 'Ricinifolia'* in most respects, but seem to flower better and have no infertile staminate flower problem.

After the above analysis, I am still not satisfied. It doesn't seem logical to me for this plant to exist in large numbers in the wilds of Mexico as reported by Don Turrentine, and still be a hybrid. Lets hope our current intrepid explorers of Mexico locate *B. 'Ricinifolia'* and return with new information to clarify what I see as a 150 year old mystery.



Begonia U484 by Gene Salisbury

Begonia U484 is a begonia of subtle beauty. (Photo of *Begonia U484* at left, by Gene Salisbury)

The leaf is ovate with denticulate margins and a cordate base. The flower is white with red margins. The size of the leaf in my greenhouse is about 6" x 5". The foliage color, grown in moderate sunlight is gunmetal gray with platinum flakes and small platinum dots. The under side is a bright red. The leaf margin shows a small band of dark red. The stem is mahogany color and 12" in length. I would call *B. U484* perhaps rhizomatous jointed at or below? I believe *Begonia U484* will be a popular show plant. It grows well naturally. The grooming, due to its fast growth need not be done on a continuous basis, but rather about one month before show time. I have three plants growing. Two are in 18" bowls and the other plant is in a 12" pot. As you would expect the bowls are a fuller plant and in the pot the stems have much more arch. It doesn't appear to be a "mealy magnet" and the foliage seems to stay fresh looking for a long period of time.

I would recommend *Begonia U484* next to *B. fisheri* for a beginner.

As Gene says, this is such a wonderful plant it is to be recommended for all. Charles Jaros says that this is another of those great Mary Sizemore imports from Thailand and that on his recent visit there he saw them growing in many places, some in the ground. He is unsure whether it might be a species; I rather think it is a hybrid, but perhaps I will get seed this year and be able to tell. Since my growing conditions are quite different from those of Gene, I wanted to report that this plant summers outside for me luxuriantly. Last year before our greenhouse was completed, it also underwent temperatures in the low 20s in a plastic covered shed; these conditions were not to its liking, but all plants came through fine. I did have a lot of damaged leaves. Several of those I stuck down whole in a pot and new plants emerged from the stem. FH

Begonia atricha: A Lost *Begonia* from the "Flora of Java"

By

James M. Hunter and W. Scott Hoover

Among flowering plants the genus *Begonia* is distinguished by a number of unusual characteristics. *Begonia* includes about 1600 described species, ranking it among the top ten largest genera of higher plants. Many species have a rare leaf anatomy, exhibiting stomata aggregated in varying size clusters with a multi-layered epidermis, both characteristics found in only a few other plant groups. Further, the arrangement of vascular bundles in the petiole of many species is often more like monocotyledons than dicots. Residual meristematic tissue is observed among many species, resulting in a propagation technique frequently used by horticulturalists.

Curiosity abounds regarding taxonomy of the *Begoniaceae*. The family is comprised of two genera, *Begonia*, the mega-genus and *Hillebrandia* enus with one species from Hawaii. Modern molecular techniques indicate begonias are most closely related to the *Datisceae*, a family limited to 4 species, one of which is a tree. Prior to molecular methods, classical taxonomists debated for over a hundred years about the evolutionary position of the family.

One of the great concentrations of tropical rainforest in the world is Southeast Asia, where the island of Java, Indonesia likely represents the most well documented flora in the entire region. In 1963, C. A. Backer and R. C. B. van den Brink published "Flora of Java", (N.V.P. Noordhoff, Groningen, The Netherlands), documenting 13 native species of *Begonia* including *B. areolata* Miq., *B. laciniata* Roxb., *B. tenuifolia* Dry., *B. muricata* Bl., *B. coriacea* Hassk., *B. bracteata* Jack, *B. isoptera* Dry., *B. longifolia* Bl., *B. robusta* Bl. and *B. multangula* Bl., plus numerous introduced species and some hybrids.

It turns out there is a 14th species of *Begonia* that was neglected for inclusion in "Flora of Java"; *Begonia atricha* (Miq.) A.DC., originally described from Sumatra collections in 1864 but later collected in Java by Koorders, # 27666 on June 15, 1897 from Semarang and Ambarawa, Central Java and by Doctors van Leeuwen #103 on September 27, 1910 from 1200 m. on Mt. Oengaran, Central Java, this information taken from herbarium specimen labels at the Bogor Herbarium, West Java, Indonesia. Both specimens were misidentified as *B. isoptera* in 1924 and correctly determined by Irmscher in 1949 with a reconfirmation by Sands in 2002. We collected *B. atricha* # 10018 on March 14, 2004 with our Indonesian partners, Harry Wiriadinata and Deden Girmansyah of Bogor Herbarium, at 862 m. on Mt. Slamet, Central Java, above Baturaden, in a mature silviculture forest above trail to hot springs, 300 m. past ticket booth. Deden recollected *B. atricha* in forest above the shores of Lake Maninjau, West Sumatra in 2004 though we have not seen the original type specimen from Sumatra from which the species was first described. On Mt. Slamet, the population was limited to a few mature individuals, but a revisit to the site in 2005 indicates the population is spreading to the exposed embankment above the trail and below the scattered small colony growing in the silviculture forest; a most welcome and beautiful plant for visitors to the hot spring.

B. atricha is exquisite, with blood-red leaf undersides, lensatic cells on the upper surface, changing shades of brownish-green when light angle is changed and large creamy-white flowers. It has been introduced to cultivation with difficulty, seeming to prefer enclosed containers, though still possessing the beauty of its wild parents.

As to why *B. atricha* was missed from Backer and van den Brink's "Flora of Java" is a mystery but like so much with *Begonia*, unusual circumstances are observed.

A photo by Jim Hunter of B. atricha in East Java appeared in the last issue of the Begonian at the bottom of page 169

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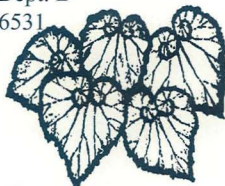
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COMING EVENTS

2007 Southwest Region ABS and ABS Board Meeting, April 25-28, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Embassy Suites. More to come.

2007 American Begonia Society Convention^A: Scotland! Details to come.

2007 American Begonia Society Convention^B, Los Angeles, CA, Palos Verdes Branch hosting. See page 231. More info to come.

March 22-26, 2008, Association of Australian Begonia Societies Convention in Brisbane, Australia. Begin you plans! More information to come.

**Deadline for January/February issue
is November 1, 2006**

**Remember: Dues for 2007 must be paid by
December 31, 2006 - pay them earlier
and
help out our membership chair!!**

The Begonian

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