

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: **Rekha Morris** brings us a new variety of the species *Begonia sikkimensis* var. *kamengensis*, formerly *B. U525* in this issue and what a beauty.

Back: Anyone who remembers that gorgeous sweep of *Begonia acetosa* in Bali on the back cover of the November/December 2006 *Begonian* will be delighted to meet newly registered *Begonia* 'Tuti Siregar' which springs from that origin.

In This Issue

Our writers in this issue bring a holiday gift that should be exactly what our readers have said in surveys that they most want in the *Begonian*: news and photos of new species and hybrids. We hope it makes good holiday reading for all.

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*Have a
Wonderful
Holiday and a
Very Happy New
Year!*

President's Message

Here it is November already and the Holidays are right around the corner. The begonias are still doing well here in So. California, but when it starts staying cold at night then they stop doing so well. Leaves start to fall and growth slows and they just start to look scraggly. Not to worry; this is what happens in the winter with begonias when they are kept outside. This is the time of year when begonias rest here in So. California, and this is the time when I rest too or maybe I should say get lazy. Just be sure and keep all the dead leaves picked up so you don't get any rot around your plants. If it is raining a lot, don't think that you should keep your begonias out of the rain. I have found that rain water doesn't hurt them; in fact, it seems to make them look better. I think it washes away all the salts and sort of cleans the soil.

I am getting some of my holiday shopping done and getting ready for some of the branch parties. It is a busy time of year for most of us. This is why it is good that we don't have to spend a lot of time with our begonias. After the first of the year and a little rest from all the work it will soon be time to clean pots, buy fertilizer and mix soil in preparation of the start of warm weather.

Remember we are still looking for a member to take over Freda's job as editor of the *Begonian*. She has been putting the *Begonian* together for 11 plus years and would like to retire. She is willing to help the new editor with the *Begonian* until they are comfortable with publishing it on their own. If any of you are interested or know someone who might be, let Freda or I know. Both our e-mail addresses are in every issue of the *Begonian* on the inside back cover and its facing page.

As I finish this message I just received a call from Jan Brown that one of our greatest growers, **Louise Korobkin**, passed away last night. Those of you that attended the convention in Los Angeles in 2007 will remember her as the convention treasurer. Louise had been having some health problems since her husband, Marty, died last November and I don't think she ever got over his death. It was a shock and all of us in the So. California area will miss her. She was the "best."

Have a wonderful holiday and be safe.

Mary Sakamoto

Editor's Notes

This has been one of those months in preparing the *Begonian*: Started off with our losing power to Gustav for two very hot and sweltering days in early September and then having to leave the computer off for the stormy days of Ike. However, we missed the fury of the latter here, but all our hearts go out to those in the Houston area who have been and are being displaced by Ike.

By the time you read this, it will be almost November or even November so I will not try to update you on how the people I have been able to reach are doing. I know the area well, however, and I know that there will be suffering for a long time. I send my best hopes for all and, I'm sure, yours as well.

We thank **Wanda Macnair** for doing her usual excellent job with handling the Holiday Greeting Program. We also thank all the individuals and the branches who have contributed to make another issue of the *Begonian* economically feasible. We also thank all the contributors who make this and every issue so special.

Freda Holley



Holiday Greetings 2008

Platinum

Alamo Begonia Club
Astro Branch
Begonia Society of Tampa
Bay
Howard & Barbara Berg
Janet B. Brown
Buxton Branch
Houston Satellites Branch
Lulu Leonard
Richard & Wanda Macnair
Margaret Lee Branch
Carol & Peter Notaras
Palos Verdes Branch
Potomac Branch
Rudolph Zieshenne
Branch
San Jacinto Branch
Southwest Region

Gold

Begonia Society of the
Palm Beaches
Dallas Area Branch
Doug Frost Branch
Freda and R.L. Holley

Joan Coulat Sacramento
Branch
Knickerbocker Branch
Linda Lawson
Cheryl Lenert
Long Beach Parent
Chapter
Mabel Corwin Branch
Brad Neugebauer
Orange County Branch
Santa Clara Branch
Westchester Branch

Silver

Alfred D. Robinson
Branch
Greater Atlanta Begonia
Society
Delaware Valley Branch
Morris W. Mueller
San Francisco Branch
San Gabriel Branch
Nikki Y. Taussig

Begonias at the National Botanical Garden

by *Louis Welsh*

A recent trip during the Christmas holidays found us in our country's Capitol where we visited the National Botanical Garden. What an overwhelming collection of virtually everything green, from miniatures to uncounted flora.

Passing through the exhibit area adjacent to the entrance, we were charmed by the artistic representations of the major capitol buildings, fabricated from natural materials and surrounded by varieties of poinsettias. The uniqueness of the miniatures and the color contrasts of the flora highlighted models of the Capitol, Smithsonian, Jefferson Memorial and other national buildings.

We found our nook of fascination in the "Jungle", an enclosed structure for tropical plants, including ferns, palms, orchids, bromeliads, and our favorite begonias among others.

Moving into the "Jungle" we explored an enclosed greenhouse featuring a ground level and elevated walkway surrounding the inner building. This perimeter of the growing space provided a view of

the crowns of the palms and ferns rooted in the lower level. Ascending by stair the metallic pathway is resplendent in plants attached to the railing and others rooted on the floor, reminiscent of a trail through a forest. Begonias are scattered in this natural setting along the pathways. They are spectacular in design, foliage, and flowers. We spotted numerous examples including *Begonia* 'Pink Surprise', 'Fiji Islands', 'Hocking Shockwave', *solimutata*, *chloroneura*, 'River Nile', 'Tiny Gem', 'Mirage', 'Red Planet', *nigramarga* and others.

We left this oasis overwhelmed by the staging and the interaction of the mixtures of the compatible and complementary plants. As begonia enthusiasts we were sated by the show. We encourage our colleagues to make this trip, once exposed, back for more.

Lou and Janet are members of the Delaware Valley Branch and live at 2236 Deer Path Rd., Huntington, VY PA 19006-5906. You may contact them at jwbegonia@comcast.net.

Sunshine on Begonias

by *Ivy McFarlane, Australia*

This article was first a presentation at the 9th Australian Begonia Convention and then appeared in Begonia Australis, June 2008. We thank them. The topic is one of continuing interest in the U.S. with all our variations in sunlight, temperature, and humidity. Here in the deep South, we often say that our deep shade is equal to full sun to the north. Before you try sun exposure in your location, study how it works in your area.

This subject is written from my experience and not in any book. I know that not everyone is able to grow begonias out in full

sun or in the garden on account of the climate in their area, but some begonias do lot better in the sunshine rather than the shade, while others are shade lovers.

Why do begonias need sunshine on them?, be it full sun or filtered sunlight, well it helps with good growth and flowering, but growing out in the garden or in pots they also need to be kept well watered and fertilised so as not to cause stress on the plant.

The begonias that do best with lots of sunshine on them are cane-like, shrub-like,

Continued on page 219



Louis Welsh shares with us photos of the U. S. Botanical Garden representation depicted above. The Garden has many begonias, both species and hybrids, spread throughout, such as *B. chloroneura* below.



A New Variety from West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh, India — *B. sikkimensis* A. de Candolle var *kamengensis*

By Rekha Morris, Patrick McMillan, and Jack Golding

Each time I return to Arunachal Pradesh in the eastern Himalayas of India it is like stepping into a gigantic coffer of treasures not of metal and gemstones but of plants more exquisite, varied and enticing than any jewel. So it was on my second trip there in December 2005. Among a number of unexpected finds, such as encountering for the first and only time *B. burkillii* in bloom, I recorded a stunning begonia which has since been given a U number, *B. U522*. The first few plants I saw were small ones either wedged in the crevices of near vertical, bare cliffs or between boulders where their deeply lobed foliage flushed carmine on the reverse was a dramatic contrast against the grays, browns and tans of their stony habitat. Like a heat seeking missile, I found myself relentlessly tracking the intermittent sprinkling of these plants along this ridge in W. Kameng between 1550-1750 m. Making a sharp 'U' turn the path twisted and turned gradually uphill, and the near bare cliffs were replaced by the usual lush tangle of moist evergreen forest undergrowth. For many yards there was no sign of these palmately lobed begonias, and with dusk fast approaching I realized with increasing apprehension that I would soon have to abandon my search. Continuing to search among the shrubs and ferns whose forms were blurred and shadowed in the darkness, I unexpectedly found myself looking up at a tall, branching cyme of capsules atop a large plant of *B. U522*. Growing in the shade of thick growth, the leaves of this specimen were a dark olive green with barely a hint of the striking color which I had seen on the smaller plants barely a

kilometer away. Further uphill and well beyond my reach were more plants along a high ledge, and here with greater exposure to sunlight these 4'-5' tall plants had purple-black stems with widely separated internodes resembling the culms of black bamboo, and the dark olive green leaves were reddish purple on the reverse. As the sun disappeared behind the jagged layers of indigo hills, I hurriedly took my last few photographs, collected all the capsules I could reach and a few of the smaller plants I had seen earlier, and reluctantly headed out of the mountains I was not to return to for another year.

Back in Pendleton the rhizomes recovered relatively quickly. I watched them daily and soon they sent out fresh foliage in an inimitable shade of sienna infused chocolate. As the days grew longer and warmer, I placed them outdoors under the high shade of oaks in our woodland garden, and soon noticed flower buds forming. In late May these opened into flowers resembling apple blossoms but a startling vermilion-scarlet in color, a shade I had not encountered among the species I had documented in India. Convinced that I had found a new species, I persuaded Dr. Patrick McMillan, director of the Campbell Museum of Natural History at Clemson University to analyze and describe this species botanically.

After his initial examination he surprised me by saying that it appeared to meet all the criteria of *B. sikkimensis*, a species I had first documented in Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal on my first trip there in April 2005. Assembling my photos and herbarium specimens of

B. sikkimensis we re-examined the two, and the conclusion was indisputable or nearly so!

In his description of *B. sikkimensis* [documented in Sikkim by Hooker and Thomson] A. de Candolle, in *Prodromus 15(1) 349, 1864*, indicates his uncertainty regarding the color of the flowers by describing them as “intense rosei?” C. B. Clarke describes *B. sikkimensis* in J.D. Hooker, *The Flora of British India 2: 646, 1879*, as having “stems 12-18” when well developed” with bracts which are “bright – red, as are the pedicels and flowers,” and adds that the female flowers have 5 perianth segments with the “inner bright red gradually smaller.”

Although I did not find any flowers on *B. sikkimensis* I documented in lower Subansiri in April 2005, in returning to this site in December 2005 I found a couple of open flowers which were pale pink. The plants in this small colony of *B. sikkimensis* I documented in Lower Subansiri were approximately as in Clarke’s description between “12-18 in. when well developed” and likewise the flowers were “not very many”.

In a recent article, “*Begonia L (Begoniaceae)* in the Nepal Himalaya”, *Journal of Taxonomy and Biodiversity Research*. 1(2):1-10. 2007, **Sangeeta Rajbhandary and Krishna K. Shrestha** illustrate *B. sikkimensis* with pale pink flowers, and the herbarium specimens of *B. sikkimensis* listed as having been examined were from plants documented on p. 10, in western Nepal in 1954, 1971, 1972, 1984, and central Nepal in 1967 and 1969. In personal communication Sangeeta Rajbhandaray informed me that the flowers of *B. sikkimensis* documented by her in central Nepal in October 2006 & June 2007 were also pale pink on plants which were about 30-50 cm high. Although I have not received any visual confirmation yet, Rajbhandaray indicated

that the flowers on *B. sikkimensis* recorded in eastern Nepal by her group in September 2007 were red.

B. sikkimensis has also been documented in two other areas, Mizoram, which is one of the seven northeastern states of India, and in China, in the *Flora of Mizoram, Botanical Survey of India, 1:652, 2002*, *B. sikkimensis* is described as being 15-20 [-45] cm. tall with erect, green stems, and few flowered floral cymes. The inner of the 5 tepals of the females flowers are described as being bright red. In the *Flora of China 13:198, 2007*, *B. sikkimensis* is described as being 30cm tall with pink staminate flowers. In both these areas as in Nepal *B. sikkimensis* is a much shorter plant than the form originally referred to as *B. U522* from West Kameng in Arunachal. Although the flowers of *B. sikkimensis* documented in China are described as being pink there is no information regarding the size and profusion of the floral cymes.

In comparing the descriptions of *B. sikkimensis* documented in Nepal, Mizoram and China with *B. sikkimensis* I documented in West Kameng, Arunachal it became increasingly evident to me that the startling brilliance of the floral color of the form from Arunachal was only one of the several significant features which distinguished this variety from those recorded elsewhere in India, Nepal and China. My persistent and multiple discussions with Patrick McMillan and Jack Golding regarding *B. sikkimensis* I documented in W Kameng have resulted in a reconsideration of this as a distinct variety*. **RM**

**Description of *Begonia sikkimensis* A. de Candolle var *sikkimensis*,
*Prodromus 15(1) 349, 1864.***

Translation by JG

199. *Begonia sikkimensis* (at Alphonse de Candolle, *Ann. Sci. nat., Bot.* 4. 11:134. 1859,) glabrous, rootstock

Stem simple, Leaves irregularly palmate-5-7-nerves 5-7 divided lobes, a little cordate, outline ovate-almost round, lobes acuminate, margins variable with unequal very small teeth, stipules long lanceolate, peduncles a little longer than the petiole, at tip 8-10 flowers, bracts broadly ovate membranous dropping off early, male flowers, sepals broadly ovate, petals obovate somewhat shorter. female flowers, capsule nodding, 2 wings in the form of small ribs, the third larger at last ovate and descending. Perennial. (I have examined specimen from J.D. Hooker and Thomson) from Himalaya, province Sikkim, at altitude of 1500-2100 m. Stem 16.2-32.4 cm. high, arising from rootstock or thick rhizome. Petioles 5.4-10.8 cm. long. blade 8.1-24.3 cm. wide and long, membranous, sinuses cut now midway between lobes as it is beyond, lobes variously dentate and at present somewhat lobed. Stipules 18-27 mm. long, 4.5- 6.8 wide at the base, dropping off early, acute not exactly awl-shaped. Peduncles 8.1-13.5 cm. tall. Bracts below 1.35 cm., ovate-acute or elliptic, translucent. Flowers crowded together, intensely rose? male sepals 9-11.3 mm. long, petals 6.8- 9 mm. anthers crowded together, at tip ovate-acute. Stigmas akin to *Begonia cathcartii*. Capsules (immature) 13.5 mm. long, colored, greatest wing descending very obtuse crenulate. (I have seen it in a dry state).

***B. sikkimensis* A. de Candolle var *kamengensis* R. Morris, P.D. McMillan & J. Golding, var. nov.** Section *Platycentrum* (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle

A var sikkimensis multo major et robustior habitus, floribundus, petiolis, pedunculis et floribus vividus ruber dif-fert. JG

It differs from var. *sikkimensis* by the much larger and robust habit, profusely

flowering inflorescence, with petioles, peduncles and flowers bright red .

Herbaceous perennial with rhizomes from which erect stems arise, often dark red, 1.2-1.5 m tall, becoming deciduous after flowering; leaf axils without tubercles. Stipules (1-2), 2.0-2.5 cm long, broad lanceolate, entire, membranous , smooth throughout. Leaves alternate; petioles 1.0-7.0 cm long, 0.7-1.8 mm wide at midpoint, glabrous, base strongly dilated, forming a large disk-like attachment and leaving a strong, circular leaf scar on the stem after the leaves have fallen. Leaf blades to 19.5 cm long and to 26 cm wide, asymmetric, with midrib oblique; deeply palmately parted with 5 to 7 primary lobes, rounded on outer margin; olive green, often with a red-flush, darker on adaxial surface, occasionally reddish on abaxial surface. Leaf margin double serrate with small teeth ciliate extending 0.5-1.0 mm beyond tips of the minute serrations, both leaf surfaces strigose, with scattered multicellular trichomes when young, glabrate with age. Inflorescence axillary, a compound dichasium, pedicels bright red; protandrous, male flowers basal and female flowers distal. Bracts caducous, broadly ovate, 12-25 mm long, leaving a large, swollen, round circular scar at base of pedicels. Bracts, tepals and ovary all a vivid red coloration. Male flowers with four glabrous tepals, broadly ovate to obovate, with rounded tips, outer 2 tepals larger than inner, 10-18 mm long and 7-12 mm wide. Stamens, more than 50 with filaments fused below into a short, monadelphous column, dehiscent by longitudinal slits. Female flowers with five tepals broadly ovate to broad ly obovate with outer and inner tepals all of nearly the same size and shape. Ovary with 2 locules, placentas axillary. Styles 2, fused about halfway to base, two-lobed, the lobes highly contorted, stigmas lunate,

falling as capsule matures. Capsules narrowly obtrullate, 9-16 mm long, 3-5 mm wide (excluding the wings) strongly nodding at maturity, with 3 wings, the upper wing longest, broadly lanceolate, 14-18 mm long, 8-18 mm wide at base; lateral wings, broadly lunate, 4-9 mm long, 8-18 mm wide at base; capsule dehiscing via longitudinal slits at the base of the two lower wings. PDM

Range and Habitat

Apparently restricted to West Kameng Province, Arunachal Pradesh, India where it grows either terrestrially, or in cracks of rocks (epilithic) in moist to wet areas on shaded to partially shaded banks in evergreen cool, tropical forests. The only documented location is at approximately 1550-1750 m elevation.

Observations:

Begonia sikkimensis var *sikkimensis* appears to be a smaller, more delicate plant that produces fewer, pink flowers. The tepals of var *kamengensis* are larger and more obovate to broadly ovate, and it produces many more flowers per stem and per cyme. Moreover var *kamengensis* grows nearly 1.2-1.5 m tall at maturity with sturdy dark purple-black stems with widely spaced internodes, and has purplish-carmine flushed foliage. Not only are the flowers a stunning vermilion-red but so are the capsules produced in profusion on tall branching cymes.

B. sikkimensis var. *kamengensis* from the West Kameng province in Arunachal Pradesh is distinguished from the more commonly encountered, smaller, pink flowered form which so far has been recorded at lower altitudes. A. de Candolle's uncertainty about the flower color in his description of the type specimen and the frequency with which the pink flowered form of *B. sikkimensis* has been recorded in recent explorations in Nepal, India and

China further distinguishes *B. sikkimensis* from *W. Kameng* and these other recorded forms.

Although there appear to be no recent documentation of a red flowered *B. sikkimensis* var *kamengensis* from Sikkim to support Clarke's description of *B. sikkimensis* from this region as having red flowers, it nevertheless appears that *B. sikkimensis* var. *kamengensis* may have a range from eastern Nepal through Sikkim and into western Arunachal where I documented my colony of this species. In the more eastern district of Arunachal, Lower Subansiri, the pink flowered, *B. sikkimensis* var *sikkimensis*, once again makes its appearance, and from its general growth habit and the paucity of capsules it appears that the plants recorded by Rekha Morris further east in Lohit district of Arunachal in 2007, is the same.

Although *B. sikkimensis* var *sikkimensis* has been recorded in two areas of India [Sikkim & Mizoram], and in Nepal and China, it has never before been recorded for Arunachal Pradesh, and we propose it and *B. sikkimensis* var. *kamengensis* as new finds for this northeastern state in the eastern Himalayas of India.

RM, PDM, JG

* I continue to be deeply indebted to both Patrick McMillan and Jack Golding for their more than courteous and patient attentiveness to my persistent demands on their expertise. This scholarly botanical discussion of *B. U522*, now *B. sikkimensis* var. *kamengensis*, would not have been possible but for their ever generous and time consuming contributions which have resulted in this authoritative and well considered discussion of *B. sikkimensis*.

RM

New Cultivars
Official International
Registration 1001
Gene Salisbury, Nomenclature Director

Applications to Register *Begonia* cultivars may be obtained from Gene Salisbury, P.O. Box 52, Tonkawa, OK 74653. Forms must be typed or printed in ink and accompanied by a \$2 check payable to the American Begonia Society. Clear photos for publication in the *Begonian*, drawings and dried specimens are requested. ABS is the International Registration Authority for *Begonia* cultivar names. In the listing of the cultivar parents below, the female (seed) parent is given first.

***Begonia* ‘Tuti Siregar’**
No. 1001 *Begonia* (*B. listada* x
Begonia acetosa) ‘Tuti Siregar’

This shrub-like cultivar reaches a height of 18” at maturity. It has brown-green, ovate leaves with silver hair above with a broad light yellow center stripe. The leaf underside is red-maroon with pinkish hairs. They are 6” by 4” with serrulate margins. Leaves have 7 main veins with overlapped basal bases. Leaf tips are truncate. Petioles are 4”, red with lanate hairs. Stipules are red and 1 1/2” in length and 1” in width.

Flowers have ovate tepals, white above and white with pinkish hairs on the underside. Both male and female flowers have 4 tepals. Clusters have 27-30 male flowers and 5 female flowers. There are many clusters in December in Bali. Flower peduncle is 6: long. (See also pages 216-7.)

This unique cross has both leaves and blooms that are unusual.

This cultivar has been recommended for registration by W. Scott Hoover, New England Tropical Conservatory, Vermont, and by Ching-I-Peng, Biodiversity Research Museum and Herbarium Curator, Research Center for Biodiversity, Academia Sinica, Nangang, Taipei 115,

Taiwan.

This cultivar was developed by Hartutiningsih-M. Siregar in 2005; it first bloomed in 2006, and was first distributed in 2006.

It was registered on August 20, 2008. Please see the article on page 214 for more information.

In Memory:
Marie Sinnot

Marie Sinnot of Australia was the former editor of *Begonia Australis*, the newsletter of the Australian Association of Begonias. Many people who attended the meetings of the Society in Australia got to know her first hand.

Although I did not know her first hand, I communicated with her many times as one editor to the other. She was always tremendously helpful to me when I need information. She was helpful in sending me electronic versions of articles I was interested in using and, of course, I was happy to reciprocate. She was unflinching generous with her time and assistance.

ABS sends its deepest condolences to our begonia friends in Australia.

Freda Holley



Figure 1. *Begonia* "Titi Siregar"

***Begonia* ‘Tuti Siregar’, The New Hybrid From Bali Botanic Garden - Indonesia**

by Hartutiningsih – M. Siregar

**Bali Botanic Garden – Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI)
Candikuning, Baturiti, Tabanan, Bali, Indonesia 82191**

Exotic begonias are kinds of begonias which are liked and planted popularly as ornamental plants. The habit is very variable from small to big. The flower lends itself to crossbreeding to make the various begonia varieties. The diversity of begonias is commonly found in nurseries or with begonia lovers. Bali Botanic Garden is the ex-situ conservation institution which has a main task and function to conserve tropical plants including begonias. Begonia collecting activities in Bali Botanic Garden were started eight years ago, and nowadays is one of the botanic gardens which has the most complete begonia collections in Indonesia. The collection numbers until 2007 was 218 consisting of 81 wild begonias and 137 exotic begonias. The begonia collections are arranged in a beautiful specific park inside of the Begonia House.

Conservation strategy that is done, especially to increase the collection number with active efforts to add to our collection is by conducting floristic exploration to entire archipelago, doing seed exchange with conservation institutions both national or international, and also from seeds donation.

In addition to collecting, research, and development of Begonia, there is also exploration activity, adaptation research, cultivation, physiology, propagation and crossbreeding. The research result that is real and can be enjoyed by society is development of commercial begonias.

The research of crossbreeding to produce a new begonia that is better than the parents with beautiful habit, unique, and with a good endurance will be done continually. The expectations of crossbreeding results are to add to the biodiversity of begonias which has high economic value.

Generally, begonia does self pollination, while artificial cross pollination is done in breeding activities to produce F1 offspring. Those are steps to produce species or new hybrids that are more varied. Artificial breeding will be successful if we see the factors as follows : (1). The parents used, (2) Method, and (3) Breeding time. Beginning research to do crossbreeding is a phenology study. From the study, we are able to know and select the best parents for parental breeding until we get the good seeds with the special quality that we want. Begonia crossbreeding is not difficult provided the main prerequisites are filled, with the choice of a good parent for crossbreeding material. Healthy begonias with a cool and humid environment are needed to get a good result. To get good crossbreeding material can be done in regions which have cool weather, at altitudes of more than 600 m a.s.l. The region which has hot weather is not good for breeding, because the stamen will dry faster and die.

*Opposite is the plate with characteristics of this new hybrid.
See also the back cover.*



Figure 3. *Begonia* "Tuti Siregar". A and B, leaf; C, flower; D, stipule; E, habit
Photo by: Gd. Wawan Setiadi.

The Glance of Crossbreeding Research in Bali Botanic Garden

Crossbreeding research that was done in the nursery of Bali Botanic Garden was started in 2006, at an altitude of 1250 m a.s.l., the temperature in the daylight period is 24-26°C and 18-20°C in the night and the humidity is 78-96%. The plants that were used are *Begonia listada* Smith & Wasshausen x *Begonia acetosa* Vellozo.

Female flower of *Begonia listada* has these characteristics:

- (1). The habit is erect;
- (2). The leaf is broad winged;
- (3). The color is green, the venation is yellow and beautiful.

Male flower : The pollen is taken from the male flower of *Begonia acetosa* that has characterizations as follows :

- (1). The habit is rizhomatous;
- (2). The leaf is obovoid;
- (3). The colour of the adaxial is green and the abaxial is bright red.

The crossbreeding result is expected to produce a new hybrid *Begonia* which has erect habit, obovoid leaf with clear yellow venation and bright red abaxial.

The research result showed the fertilization is good, the ovary will fade, became big and ripe within 30-35 days after fertilization. The colour was changed from green becoming brownish. The ripe fruit is brownish, picked and saved in a small envelope, because if not picked quickly, the fruit will be broken and eject the smooth seeds like flour. The next step, the fruit is opened and separated from the seeds and germinated.

The seedling that has been produced must be selected. The selection result is only the seedling from crossbreeding that has good morphology, such as obovoid leaf with yellow venation and bright red abaxial. It is a good seedling and will be

developed. This species is the new hybrid *Begonia*, given the name *Begonia* 'Tuti Siregar'. The name of this species is taken from the breeder, Hartutiningsih Siregar. In Bali Botanic Garden, this species has been propagated with cuttings. After doing literature study and searching the *Begonia Registration Handbook*, American *Begonia* Society, this research is not done and registered yet. The results have been registered before is *B.* 'Marbel Corwin' (*B. listada* x *B.* 'Jill Adair'); *B.* 'Magdalene Madsen' (*B. listada* x *B. echinosepala*); *B.* 'Maxine Wilson' (*B.* 'Venetian Red' x *B. listada*); *B.* 'Raymond George Nelson' (*B. listada* x *B.* 'Jack Golding') (Tebbitt, M.C. 2005).

Therefore, with scientific consideration and supporting from *Begonia* experts who came to Bali Botanic Garden, such as Dr. W. Scott Hoover, *Begonia* expert from New England Tropical Conservatory, Vermont USA; Dr. Harry Wiriadinata, as a *Begonia* taxonomist from Herbarium Bogoriense, Cibinong Science Centre, Bogor; Prof. Dr. Ching-I Peng and Dr. Wei Hsin Hu as the *Begonia* taxonomists from Biodiversity Research Museum and Herbarium (HAST), Research Center for Biodiversity, Academia Sinica, Nangang, Taipei, TAIWAN. This species will be listed and registered to get legality for the new crossbreeding species in American *Begonia* Society with the number No. 1001

Description *Begonia* 'Tuti Siregar'

Shrub-like type, 40-75 cm, stem brownish-green, hairy, internode 3-4 cm, without rhizome. **Stipules** ovate, membranous, uppersurface brownish-yellow, glabrous, undersurface magenta, appressed hair, persistent. **Leaves**: petiole red, villous, 12-15 cm long; blade ovate (15-17) x (10-11) cm, apex truncate, base

overlapped, venation palmate, margin serrulate.

Inflorescence: in upper leaf axils, dichotomous; bracts 16-27 flowered; peduncle 16-24 cm; bracts deciduous, bracteoles ovate, small, 11 x 4 mm. **Male flowers;** tepals four, outer pair white with pink 1,2 x 1 cm outer surface, white on inner surfaces, inner pair obovate, 8x4 mm. Stamen many, yellow.

Female flowers: bracteoles deciduous, tepals four, unequal, outermost ovate 6x3 mm, white, glabrous, innermost narrowly obovate 4 x 2 mm; ovary white 9 x 5 mm; unequal wings, three-locular, placentae bifid, styles three, once branched, stigmas in a spiral band.

Flowering : December-February. Easy to grow.

Propagation with stem cutting.

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Hartutiningsih - M. Siregar writes from the Bali Botanic Garden, Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), Candikuning, Baturiti, Tabanan, Bali, Indonesia 82191; hartutiningsih@yahoo.co.id. She wants us to know that in addition to the begonias in Bali Botanic Garden which she invites us all to visit if in Bali, they also have a souvenir shop that sells books or products with Begonia pictures, such as t-shirts, pins, books and others. The book of begonias is quite beautiful and may be available for purchase by mail; check this out with her.

**Note Membership Chair's
New Address on Pages 202,
238, 239.**

Three New Thick-Stemmed Begonias from Brazil

by Freda Holley

At the convention in Houston, I was given some beautifully grown small plants to trial by **Bobby Price**, one of the corps of volunteers who work hard to keep the begonia collection at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens in good condition. The volunteers had grown these plants from seed obtained from Brazil. Now, I think almost everyone knows that I love plants from Brazil, especially canes and thick-stems so I was delighted to grow these new plants.

Although all of these are still small, the thick stems I describe here are getting large enough to show their character. I cannot give a full description yet, but I think people might enjoy seeing them at a young age and I promise to give more looks as they grow. If anyone else is growing them or has older forms, please let the editor know.

Although I was not given the source of these seeds (This will be relative to the last species I describe here.), I believe they are probably from the **Mario Peixoto** at the www.brazilplants.com website. These seed are offered at a very reasonable cost and can be purchased through Paypal I believe. (See these plants on page 234.)

Begonia jocelinoi

My plant is just about a foot tall. It is stocky from summer's high light and heat. First leaves are rounded without the appearance of hairiness, but on touch the short hairs can already be felt. The next leaves begin to show what is evidently its most distinguished characteristic - they are distinctively trilobed. I thank **Jack Golding** for sending me a copy of

the description from the *Arq. Jard. Bot. Rio de Janeiro* 13: 71-3, 90, pl. 1 1954. Translating the German version of the description, we find this species compared to *Begonia lobata*, now *Begonia rufa*, but differing in those lobed leaves. In my collection, I find this one most like a begonia I received from **Rudy Ziesenhenn**e as a form of *Begonia vitifolia*, now classified as *Begonia reneformis*. Both have lobed, hairy leaves.

The species is named for Jocelino J. Sampaio who took excursions in the Itatiaia region over a 20 year period. *The Sections of Begonia*, Doorenbos et al. assigns this begonia to the *Pritzelia* section in which many thick-stem Brazil plants are placed.

When I took to the internet to see if this plant was listed, other than being on various lists, I found only one series of emails dealing with growing it. These emails were on a German begonia chat exchange. The originating member signing himself 'Crazy-begonia' had grown seed of the species. One of the seedlings had gone crazy in growth compared to its siblings, growing to what appeared to be a foot while the others were still at the soil line with the first leaves. This seedling does not yet have the lobed leaves, but is clearly the same plant.

I find it an interesting plant and I look forward to seeing it at its mature size. I'll keep you posted.

Begonia gardneri

This plant has deeply lobed leaves, similar to *Begonia aconitifolia*, however it shares no other traits that I see with this

species.. It is identical to those seedlings I have grown as *Begonia* U442 and which I tentatively identified as *B. gardneri*. This is a very different begonia which I have found to require quite warm temperatures. It froze for me in the winter here without a greenhouse (temperatures down into the 20s F) Last winter in the greenhouse, it did quite well and bloomed quite profusely, but did not set seed as I have found many plants do not at first bloom. The blooms were typical to those that I have found on many of the thick-stems - white, many branched cymes, many very small male and female individual flowers.

The stems on my plants are thinner than most thick stems and droop easily. I would guess that this because it probably requires high, cool light. There are few stems. I suspect it might be a quite attractive species given the right conditions.

***Begonia* Species from Maranguape**

This begonia came to me with the name "*Begonia* maranguape", but on finding no such listing in *Begoniaceae*, I went to the internet and also found no listing there. Later, in looking over Mario's listing which I mentioned in the beginning of the article, I found a listing for "*Begonia* sp 'Maranguape-CE'" indicating this was an unidentified species from somewhere in Brazil. Although there is no photo, I believe this is probably the same plant. Again from the web, I located the city of Maranguape in the state of Ceara, which borders the Atlantic in the mid region of Brazil. The city is slightly inland evidently, near the seaport of Forteliza placing it in the upper part of Ceara state.

You will see in the photo on page 234 that my plant is still small, not growing as quickly as the other two listed here and so I have little from which to identify

it. However, having raised many of these thick-stemmed unidentifieds, if I had to guess, I would say that it will be another of those ubiquitous forms of *Begonia reneformis*.

You will note that the stem is quite thick and sturdy compared to *Begonia gardneri*, but near in appearance to that of *Begonia jocolinoi*. Even its initial leaves are similar to the latter, but I think the next leaves will be more like those of the *Begonia* 440 which **Jacques Jangoux** also found in Ceara state. Although that begonia also has not been identified, I have tentatively placed it in the *Begonia reneformis* group. This one appears the same as the seedlings I have grown.

Perhaps, **Charles Jaros** and **Mary Bucholtz** will wish to assign a U number to this begonia as well.

Thus, we have three new begonias to puzzle over. I thank the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden volunteers for giving me an opportunity to try out and write about these plants. I know that many others of you are trying the wonderful seed offered to us by Mario Peixoto and I hope that you too will write about these. And, may I say, if you love begonias and are not a seed grower, you are missing one of the greatest joys of growing begonias. I have failed with many begonias, both from seed and from bought plants, but I have never ceased to learn about the plant family from each one grown and what its requirements are.

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See Page 220-21**

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Seed featured this issue:

Three new collections of

B. bolivenensis

B. nelumbiifolia

And an open pollinated *B.* 'Flamingo' from Kingsley Langenberg

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DISCLAIMER: The seeds distributed by the seed fund are identified as received from the donors. 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.

Continued from page 206.

and some trailing scandents, also there are some thick stemmed ones that like to have sunshine on them. I have 13 thick-stemmed species growing out in the garden which gets full sun on them at some time of the day. I also have quite a few thick-stemmed hybrids out in the full sun.

The canes that I find best out in full sunshine are ones with dark leaves, plain green, or green with spots. The green with silver splashes don't seem to do so good in full sunshine.

Shrub-like begonias do very well out in full sunshine as they are mostly everblooming and need the sunlight to flower.

Semperflorens are best growing out in full sunshine because if they are grown in shade they grow weak and lanky, and don't flower as well.

Other begonias that do well with some sunshine on them are the variegated ones like *B. 'Charm'*, *B. manicata 'Aureo-maculata'*. *B. 'Namigo'* as the sun helps bring out the colour, but too much and you will get some red in the leaf.

Begonia plants are put into full sunshine they need to be conditioned first, be it in pots or to plant in the garden. The way I do this is to take them in and out from the shade and into filtered sunlight every day for about three weeks gradually moving them further out into the sunshine and leaving them for a month or so before

planting them into the garden, or just growing them in pots, this could take up to 3 months from start to finish.

When we have planted into the garden it is done about July so they are established before the growing season starts. They are watered in with fertiliser and not just water.

Plants that Do Well in Sunshine

Cane: *B. undulata*, *albo-picta*, *albo-picta ('Rosea')*, 'Mrs. Hashimoto', 'Syllya', 'Tom Ment'.

Shrubs: *B. acutifolia*, *alnifolia*, *cubensis*, 'Nilee', 'Trilby Gem', 'Island Gem'

Thick-Stemmed: *B. dichotoma* (syn. *sulcata*), *valida*, *reneformis*, 'Persian Flyer', 'Persian Luster', 'Typhoon Tango'.

Semperflorens: *B. cucullata* var. *cucullata*, *cucullata* var. *arenosicola*, *cucullata* var. *spatulata*. all types of bedding begonias.

There are many more plants that are suited for growing in full sunshine, but always make sure you have a back up plant just in case the one you put out in the sun doesn't make it. A foliage fertilizer of fish will help with stress during the really hot weather.

(When I first saw the begonias in California's moderate temperatures, I was amazed at the size and extent of blooms where, indeed, plants were growing in the full sun. The leaves were also much thicker and had higher color than those I grew in warmer climes. I also found that in the Ozarks with its more moderate temperatures, I could place some begonias in more sun and get better bloom. Begonia maculata is one cane, for example, that I have found to give few blooms if it doesn't get generous amounts of light although the leaves always suffered in the higher heat. So do experiment with caution. ~FH)

Fort Worth Botanical Garden

Little Known Texas Treasure

by Charles Henthorne

Hidden in Fort Worth, Texas, in plain sight, and on a well traveled street, is truly one of the most important places in Texas, and indeed, in all the United States. When one thinks of global warming, ecology, and flora and fauna becoming extinct, hardly ever does a botanical garden come to mind as a refuge for those plants that are in danger.

Indeed, in years past, it seemed that those who were acquainted with the Fort Worth Botanical Garden, had lost hope that it would ever fill a niche that needed a true savior. We watched

in despair at times, as begonias were relegated to the bottom of the list as far as importance was concerned. As interest waxed and waned, it seemed that what was once thought of as a refuge for the different vanishing species of begonias, as well as the new species being discovered, had become another lost dream. I wondered how things were going now, so I planned a short trip there to see for myself.

I paid a visit to the Garden last week, and was very pleased with both the condition of the plants, and the new small library that they are constructing



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for the various collections of written material that has been donated over the last several years. One of the main collections is the material from **Millie Thompson**.

The plants were well maintained, and were growing well without any indication of disease or pests. The begonias are slowly being moved into their new home, which will give them more growing area. The terrarium section is now thriving, with more begonias being added frequently as Leora and I donate those to them. The growing conditions are ideal for seed propagation, and indeed they have successfully grown many Brazilian species from seed to mature plant.

They were able to present a well maintained, and healthy collection to me, and also able to show that their exhibition house for show plants exhibited to the general public, is nicely planted now and also well maintained, with more improvements to come over the next few months. I believe that they are well deserving of our support, both financially, and also by supplying

them with seed, and plants of our vanishing species. All will be greatly appreciated, and all will be lovingly used, and maintained. You can notify me of any questions at charleshenthorne@verizon.net or you can contact the curator, **Deborah Garrett**, at Deborah.Garrett@fortworthgov.org. If you would like to contribute any financial support you may send money donations to the Southwest Region of the American Begonia Society, and mark your donation as going to the Fort Worth Botanical Garden Fund.

Charles Henthorne has been appointed the liaison to the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden's begonia efforts. If you write Deborah, be sure to send Charles a copy so he can stay informed. SWR has identified supporting the Begonia Species Bank as one of its main goals as we go forward and as Charles says, it has established a fund to assist in that effort. To assure that funds are well and appropriately used, Charles will review and approve any expenditures with the approval of the SWR Director and Treasurer. Won't you contribute with plants and funds?



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In Memory: *Alberta Louise Korobkin*

Louise Korobkin left us on August 26. She had been hospitalized for several weeks and never recovered from two devastating surgeries that left her with pneumonia. We had just seen her at our show on July 19th. She wasn't able to enter any plants this year because of failing health. Last year at Westchester she won the John Thieben Perpetual trophy for Best In Show for her gorgeous *B. 'Madam Queen'*. Over the years, Louise had won many trophies, culturals and Best In Shows at Westchester, Palos Verdes and two ABS Conventions in 1999 and 2007. She was one of the best begonia growers I have ever known and should have been nominated for the Gene Salisbury award. Why didn't we do that?

Louise served as Treasurer and Registrar for those two Los Angeles ABS conventions in 1999 and 2007. She was an organizer and did a terrific job in a very difficult, demanding and time consuming task. She also was the treasurer for Palos Verdes and held the job of Show Chairman at P.V. for several years. And she was judge, several times for the Westchester and P.V. shows. Her garden was a masterpiece, a work of art.

After losing her beloved Marty late last year her health began to deteriorate. It is wonderful to remember how much fun they had (and we all had) on the Scotland trip last year and how much everyone on the tour loved them. Louise brought the Scots many cuttings and received some very nice begonias in return. She won the hearts of everyone who met her.

Pat McElderry, Katsu Nakagawa, Stephanie & Tom Cootz, Mary Sakamoto, Margaret Fisher and Janet Brown represented the American Begonia Society at the services for Louise on August 29 at Mt. Sinai, Forest Lawn. In the Hebrew tradition we tossed three shovelfuls of dirt in the grave and also tossed begonia leaves and flowers on the coffin. And there we said goodbye to one of the greatest ladies we have ever known. It is hard to believe we will never see her smiling face again, but we will always remember Louise Korobkin.

Janet Brown

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**Know Your Begonias* by Jack Krempin --\$47.
**Growing Begonias* by Peter Sharp -- \$29.50
(book prices include U.S. shipping. International ship is extra.)

*Begonias *Gesneriads *Tropicals



Above, **Bill Claybaugh's** photo shows *B. quadrialata* and below, his photo of *B. staudtii*.



Conservation Comments

Bill Claybaugh

ABS Conservation Chairman

Negative effects of excess light

Over the years, I have searched for the optimum lighting conditions for my plants, and conversely, for the right plants for my lighting conditions. This work has been fairly successful, with my flower beds at home now filled with begonias that will successfully grow in full sun to full shade, and then regenerate themselves each year after freezing back. The plants range from large rhizomatous species, to small *B. Rex Cultorum* varieties, numerous cane-like, thick-stem, etc. covering the whole spectrum of begonia types. In this search, I've burned up numerous plants by over exposing them to too much sun while testing their light tolerance, but never once found a begonia that would not grow in full shade. Meanwhile, in the house, I contented myself with growing a wide range of begonia varieties in terrariums, mostly under natural lighting from north and east windows. Finally, my fluorescent light setups have been reserved for use in the shade houses for plants preparing for show or for rooting recent cuttings or seedlings.

This past winter and spring, due to overcrowding, I moved some of my terrarium plants into the garage and set up lights for them. This resulted in a couple of surprises that I will now describe.

B. staudtii

In November of 2007, I moved two large plants of *B. staudtii* from their 12 inch terrariums into four inch pots and placed the pots into a large plastic box containing wet perlite in the bottom.

These were then placed under a florescent light fixture with two 40 watt bulbs about midway between the middle and the end of the bulbs and one foot below the tubes. (My estimate is that the light intensity was about 300 foot-candles of light, but more on that later.) My intention was to have the lights on for 12 to 14 hours per day, but because of a faulty timer, it ended up being on for 24 hours per day. After a week or so, I deliberately made the decision not to correct the situation, just to see what would happen if plants were denied any darkness. After about four months, I stopped the experiment and found the *B. staudtii* leaf blades were twisted and distorted and the leaf petioles remained very small, about four inches in length. The plants were very unusual looking; very unattractive and no blooms what-so-ever. Several other rhizomatous plants under the same conditions didn't show any adverse effects except that their growth was clearly stunted. In early March, I moved the two *B. staudtii* in their "humidity box" to my little shade house where they then received natural light, and in particular, about 10-12 hours of darkness. To my amazement, the plants suddenly sent out numerous inflorescence which by early April had resulted in a cascade of yellow flowers. The plants, once released from continuous light, had immediately responded with intense blooming.

B. quadrialata var. *quadrialata*.

I have grown the plant *B. quadrialata* for about four years as a terrarium plant in my house in a north window. In all this time, it has never bloomed, but did grow fairly well. The only problem seemed to be a "bleaching" of the leaves. Many times the leaves appeared to be almost white, not the desired light green which I had hoped to have with this plant. In the

process of preparing for a re-carpeting of the home this spring, I put my terrariums in the garage, but this time I deliberately did not turn on any light (See!, I do learn, although very slowly). The only light was from a small garage window about 10 feet away from the plants. **In about one month I was again rewarded with a profusion of blooms from a four year old plant that had never bloomed, ever.** Farther, to my surprise, the seedpod of *B. quadrialata* turned out to be yellow/orange in color, almost a peach color. This was a real surprise for other African species that I am familiar with (*B. staudtii*, *microsperma*, and *prismatocarpa*) have green seedpods along with their yellow tepals.

Reflecting on these two events, I conclude that **I have been growing these two plants, and maybe more, under too much light.** These are truly low light plants and just don't respond well to elevated lighting conditions.

I did a quick search on artificial lighting on the web and found an article from the University of Missouri, 2002, which gave light intensity as a function of position under a typical florescent two-tube setup with a reflector. This data is similar to that published by **Jack Golding** as "Light Gardening Basics, pages 53-60 in the" *Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record, Gardening Under Lights*, Vol. 36 No. 5, Nov. 1980". The lighting levels from the MU article were as follows:

	Distance below tubes, ft.				
	0.5	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0
Foot-candles, middle of tubes	700	400	160	100	60
Foot-candles, end of tubes	---	260	150	90	---

The MU article considered a low light plant needing 50 to 250 foot-candles (fc) of light, and a medium light plant 250

to 1000 fc but favoring the higher end of the scale. Begonias in general were considered requiring medium light, and the paper recommended 14 to 18 hours per day. This generalization might be fine for some begonia varieties, but not the two examined here, i.e., *B. staudtii* and *quadrialata*. These two are clearly in the low light class. The good news is that this need for low light really works to the growers advantage. These two plants, and probably many more, can grow almost anywhere in a home with little or no consideration about special lighting at the location.

Note: After this article was finished, I found the following information in the April 1974 *Begonian* "Round Robin Notes" as edited by Mae Blanton. "Margaret Duval, California, finally had blooms on her *B. ficicola* after putting its bowl in her daughters bedroom where the light was very dim. ...". From this, I think we can add *B. microsperma* (formerly called *B. ficicola*) to our list of very low light plants.

Research Report by Jack Golding

In the Conservation Comments Bill Claybaugh noted that his *Begonia staudtii* and *Begonia quadrialata* var *quadrialata* both started to bloom when they were moved to new locations in low natural light. He concluded that this was a result of moving the plants to a low light condition.

I agree with Bill, that *Begonia* growing in too intense light for long periods will be stunted and ugly, but those grown only in low light conditions will be sparse and elongated.

It is actually the changes in the length of the uninterrupted periods of dark-

ness that control the bloom time

I had published the results of my Research Report "Begonia are not Indeterminate" in the *Begonian* 36:126-7. 1969, that discussed "Photoperiodism, the response of plants to the relative length of the periods of light and darkness". I had conducted in my light gardens a series of tests growing Begonia in four separated areas, each with different and changing periods of light and darkness. Some of these schedules reflected the change of the periods of darkness that occur in the seasons of natural light.

I determined that changing the darkness from long nights (as in the winter) to shorter nights (as in the Spring), that my rhizomatous type of Begonia would flower. Other cane-like and shrubs flowered best with even shorter nights (as in Summer).

With indoor light gardens you can experiment to duplicate the original habitat of your Begonia by controlling their growing environment of temperature, light, watering, humidity, etc. to grow beautiful plants.

Note: A copy of the article "Begonia are not Indeterminate" in the *Begonian* 36:126-7. 1969." is in the second *Begonian* DVD 1959-1971, available from the www.Begonias.org shop.

Membership Report

We have gained 122 members over the summer. Branch members gained: Astro - 12; Buxton - 2; Dallas - 1; Delaware Valley - 1; Houston - 6; Mae Blanton - 1; Palm Beaches - 6; Rhode Island - 1; Riverside - 2; San Jacinto - 1; SFO - 2; Tampa Bay - 1; Westchester - 1; and Whittier - 1. Members across our great country who have not reported belonging to a branch: AR-3; AZ-1; CA-14; CO-1; CT-1; FL-7; GA-3; IA-1; IL-1; KS-2; LA-2; Louisiana Fern & Tropical Plant Society; MD-1; ME-1; MI- 6; MN-1; MO-4; MS-1; NC-3; Orchid Conservatory/NC; NY-3; OH-1; OR-2; PA-4; SC-2; TX-7; and VA-2.

Members around the world: Australia-1; Canada-1; France-2; Germany-1; Japan-1; United Kingdom-1; and Sweden-1.

We currently send the *Begonian* to 1,046 mailboxes.

Robert and I have finally moved into our new home on the prairie. Not a tree on the 20 acres that creates shade, we have have taken time to plant four so far. Our address is: 204163 W 2650 DR., Bartlesville, OK 74006-0555. Please use my cell 918-440-1325 or my [same] email address.

Take care and happy begonia growing,

**Donna Marsheck,
Membership Chair**



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Terrarium Questions

by Johann Zinn

I have algae on the inside of the terrarium near the bottom against the moss—is this a problem? Should I just leave it?

When my terrarium glass gets coated with algae, I take a dry paper towel and push down along the edge of the glass. I push all the way to the bottom if I can. When I pull the paper towel up, I use a clean spot on the towel to clean the next section of glass or continue cleaning the same spot. You might need to finish the cleaning with a damp paper towel. If it has been about a year since you replaced the moss and drainage material, you should put the plant in fresh growing medium in a clean terrarium.

How do you deal with mildew on the top of the green moss? Also, I have B 'Short Change' in a bowl as suggested to me. I planted it in dirt since it is uncovered and I thought the moss would dry out too fast. Is that the best treatment for that plant?

Is the growth on the top of the moss green or grey? I am assuming that you are using the light brown long-fibered sphagnum moss. If the moss is turning green at the top of each individual strand, the moss may be growing. Algae can also grow on the moss. You can remove the green areas by pulling or cutting them out, and replace the old moss with fresh moss. Try to pull off the green areas without going too deep so you will not disturb the roots in the moss. If the plant has been in the same moss for more than a year, it would be a good idea to put the plant in a clean

terrarium with fresh drainage material and moss.

If the growth is grey, pull it off and replace it with fresh moss. If the plant looks happy, you don't need to change anything. If the plant doesn't look happy, try keeping the terrarium a little bit drier.

If your plant of *B. 'Small Change'* is happy, don't change anything. Yes, if it is uncovered, it will dry out much more rapidly than a plant that is in a covered terrarium. Some people grow very successfully in soil. You will need to be careful when you water it. Terrariums generally do not have any drainage holes in them, and soil really holds onto moisture. Algae can grow on the top of soil in a high moisture environment. You can scratch the algae into the soil, or put a thin layer of chopped sphagnum moss on top of the soil to keep the soil from growing a green crust.

Let me know more about the growth on your moss if I haven't answered your questions. Good growing!

Remember, Johanna will answer all your questions about growing begonias in terrariums. Just write, or email her at 4407 Jensen Place, Fairfax, VA 22032, Ph: 703-323-7513; jazinn@cox.net

**The cofers are empty
for the January/February
issue: send your photos
and/or articles
to the editor
by November 1!**

Begonia longipetiolata - Description, Identification, and Culture.

by Bill Claybaugh and Tom Keepin

Plant description:

Begonia longipetiolata Gilg is a rather unusual and interesting African species. Unusual in that the plant is epiphytic, has creeping stems (trailing), unusual flowers, and a very wide variation in leaf sizes and shapes. The mature leaf shapes varies from very narrow (lanceolate) to almost round (elliptic-ovate), width from approximately 1 inch to 5 inches, and length from 2 inches to 9 inches. This has created considerable confusion in the literature and the plant has been identified under at least five other names: *B. macrura* Gilg, *gracilipetiolata* De Wild, *crassipes* Gilg ex Engler, *bipindensis* Gilg ex Engler, and *squamulosa* Hooker f.. To add to the confusion, the plant has a fairly wide geographic distribution both north and south of the equator in western Africa (Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo and Angola). The plant is now in active circulation in the U.S. under the names of *B. longipetiolata* and *crassipes*.

The male flowers of this plant occur on a short peduncle (1 to 9 cm long), are numerous (over 5), and tightly clustered together. The tepals are flattened, elliptic-obovate, white and dark pink and usually variegated. The female inflorescence is usually one-flowered (rarely up to three) and almost sessile (almost no peduncle, the flower attached directly to the stem node). The tepals are the same color pattern as the male flowers. The seed pod on this plant (ovary) has no wings, only one seed chamber, and the seeds are distributed around the middle of the pod near the bottom (axially), but around the periphery

(parietal) in the upper portion. This is a fairly unique combination of properties that help to identify this species.

A unique inflorescence:

In preparing this article, Tom Keepin asked **Malcolm McCorquodale** to photograph his plant, two pictures of which accompany this article. In examining the photos of the male inflorescence, a very unique and interesting growth pattern was revealed. If one studies the photos carefully, you can see one male flower at the beginning of the inflorescence (at the end of the peduncle) as is common where the first branching occurs. There is then one more branching (each division with its central male flower) to give a total of four arms. From there on, there are no other divisions of the inflorescent arms. The arms just continue to extend outward, putting on new flowers near the terminal end and leaving small "dimples" where a flower falls off. Every begonia species that I have ever examined puts on only one flower per terminal arm, not the multitude this species does. Checking de Wilde's book page 145, noted below, he shows an inflorescence with seven (maybe eight) arms with the same dimples and terminal flowers. How unique!

Identification:

Dr J. J. F. E. de Wilde in 2002 gave a very comprehensive description of this species and two others (*B. squamulosa* Hooker f. and *elaeagnifolia* Hooker f.) with which it is easily confused; *Studies in*



Malcolm McCorquodale captures the lovely, glistening flowers of Begonia longipetiolata and the growth habit of the entire plant below.



Begoniaceae VII, Wageningen University Papers, 2001-2. This is an expensive book and not in broad circulation, so we will highlight a few of the differences in these begonias so that our readers can correctly identify their own plants.

The general growth habit of *B. longipetiolata* is described by De Wild as "Monoecious, juicy, epiphytic plants, sometimes growing on rocks, with creeping stems, rooting at the nodes...Stems usually up to 40 cm ...straight or slightly to distinctly zigzag, occasionally branching ...". The blades are described as "2-15 cm long, pale green to dull dark red ...almost symmetrical to slightly asymmetrical, lanceolate, narrowly elliptic to ovate-elliptic ...".

The other two species are very similar in description. It is only when we look at the flowers that we can differentiate these species. First, all three species have distinctly male or female inflorescence (unisexual), the male usually developing before the female. Differentiating characters are as follows: (a) the male inflorescence for *B. longipetiolata* typically had five or more flowers whereas *squamulosa* can have ten to sixty. *B. elaeagnifolia* is limited to two or three, very rarely four or five. (b) The male flower for *B. longipetiolata* is flat, lax initially (hangs down) and slowly becomes erect as it matures. *B. squamulosa* male flowers are globose (spherical) and always erect. (c) *B. longipetiolata* tepals are four in number, elliptic-obovate, white and dark pink, usually variegated, rarely pure white. *B. squamulosa* tepals are four in number, white to dark pink and variegated, obovate, thick fleshy, spoon-shaped, adaxially concave. *B. elaeagnifolia* tepals four in number, dark pink (rarely white).

There are several more physical characteristic that differentiate these plants, but the most important ones are

those above. De Wild wrote the following on the subject; "*B. longipetiolata* is likely to be confused with *B. elaeagnifolia* and with *B. squamulosa*. In *B. squamulosa*, the likewise many-flowered male inflorescence is compact and the axes of the first and higher orders are reduced in length. In *B. elaeagnifolia* the male inflorescence as a rule is less than 5-flowered. In *squamulosa* the male flower buds are erect and more or less globose; at anthesis (maturity) the fresh perianth segments (tepals) are thick and succulent."

Plant culture:

Light:

B. longipetiolata likes to grow in full to partial shade and enjoys morning sun any time of the year.

Temperature:

B. longipetiolata enjoys a temperature range of 65 degrees to 85-90 degrees growing best in a greenhouse or large terrarium and appreciates a humidity level 60% or higher with good air circulation.

Water and Fertilizer:

B. longipetiolata likes to be moist but not wet. Should the soil get quite dry, *B. longipetiolata* is forgiving. *B. longipetiolata* responds well to frequent fertilizer applications of Peters 20-20-20, 20-10-20 or an organic like fish emulsion. Frequent fertilization is best at 1/4 to half strength. *B. longipetiolata* also responds well to being misted in the morning and mid to late afternoon.

Growing Medium:

B. longipetiolata does well when mounted on a piece of cork, this simulates its natural growing preference, which is growing on the trunks of trees.. When this is not possible, a good soil-less mix that retains some moisture but has good drainage. *B. longipetiolata* does well in either clay or plastic pots and does well in

Continued on page 236.



Charles Henthorne's photo of Begonia 'It' is above. Below are the photos of three Brazil thick-stem species, Begonia jocelenoi at left, unidentified species from Maranguape, right, and Begonia gardneri below. All are still small, immature plants and look a little worse for Gustav and Ike in these photos by **F. Holley**. Read about these three on page 218.



Begonia 'It'

By Charles Henthorne

When I speak to clubs and individuals about begonias, one of the first questions that arises is, "What is the hardest begonia you have grown"?

The answer has to be *Begonia* "It". This little beauty is another of **Leslie Woodriff's** hybrids. Not too many people are able to grow this plant, and I can see why. Our little beginning plant was just a leaf from the FWBG two years ago. I since have learned that they have lost their plant, so I will try to reintroduce it into the FWBG Collection soon. It is one that is very difficult to grow, and I have yet to decide if I have learned the secret to its growing success. Could I recommend it to others? I think not, as one can see by the picture within this article, this plant is very small. Remember it is over two years old. We have almost lost it ourselves numerous times, but we are always able to keep it going until we can get new plants from it.

Millie Thompson has a wonderful picture of a fully mature plant on p. 22 of her pictorial section, in her book, *Begonias*. If the reader has a copy, I encourage them to look at a magnificent plant. It is a cross between *B. (Rex) 'President Carnot'* x *B. socotrana*. It is rhizomatous, with distinctive foliage, unusual surface and/or unusual coloring, and is medium-leaved.

'It' is supposed to be able to withstand 50 to 60% humidity. I tend to disagree, as we have tried it under that requirement, and that is when we started to have problems with the plant. We now keep it in an enclosed container, with 90-100% humidity, and right now it seems to be thriving. We have not had a bloom on it since we got the cutting over 2 years ago.

It is one of the few begonias I would say is for the advanced grower/collector, due to the difficulty of giving it the right conditions to thrive.

Millie Thompson has it listed as a miniature and dwarf rhizomatous begonia. We have found that it likes semi-shady conditions, so we have it on a shelf that does not get direct artificial light, but more subdued reflected light. I believe that is why it is thriving now, as we used to have it directly in line with full indirect lighting with a cool/warm light hitting it approx. 8 hours a day. Though it is supposed to live outside of a terrarium environment, if the grower does not have a greenhouse, I would highly suggest it be placed in a terrarium.

It does have creeping growth with lots of roots forming along the exposed branches above the ground. It also does not like being trimmed or having cuttings taken from it. That is one reason why it is so rare in cultivation. We have tried to pass it along to many people, and only a very few have had success, and even fewer have had long range success in growing it.

We are presently awaiting indication that it will bloom as this is the largest we have been able to grow it. **Millie Thompson** has listed its blooms as fragrant, deep pink, everblooming, and profuse. The word "impatient" does not describe our feelings about seeing the blooms on this. When we sit back and evaluate the whole plant, we wonder if we will ever see a bloom in our terrarium environment.

We hope so! Until then all we can do is wait, and watch. This plant has been the biggest challenge to grow, and though we have had it for awhile without it blooming, we anticipate seeing blooms in

the near future. If anyone is up to a great challenge and a big possibility of failure, we would be glad to send them a leaf. Who knows? Maybe somewhere there is a grower who might have the magic touch, and would be able to grow this successfully. Until we find that person, we are going to continue to try to grow this one. It indeed is a very difficult subject, but we always look for good things to happen when we get a plant such as this. How about it? Want to give it a try?

Go ahead. You may be the one.

Continued from page 233.

a hanging basket.

Propagation:

B. longipetiolata can be propagated by seed, stem or leaf cuttings.

Pinching and Pruning:

B. longipetiolata does not need to be pinched or pruned in order to get it to grow as a full plant.

Convention 2009

Plans are going forward for the convention. **Dale Sena** tell us that the Tampa Bay Branch has some great plans in the making for the Hospitality Room at the upcoming May 2009 convention. Be prepared to enjoy a Mexican theme night, a Hawaiian luau night, and back by popular demand -- the Pajama Party! Great fun, prizes, drinks, snacks and good company guarantee you will experience enjoyable evenings.

Make your plans to attend now.

Florida in 2009!

Member Notes

Here is a note from Irene Nuss's son to Donna Marsheck: I'd bet she would appreciate a note from everyone.

Hi Donna,

My name is **Kent Nuss** and my mother is Irene Nuss. She has recently had to move out of her home and is living with me in the Sacramento area of California. She is 89 years old but still doing well. I have changed all her mail and correspondence to my home. Can you please change her mailing address.

Old Address: 8329 Regis Way

New Address: 8039 Indian Creek Drive,
Orangevale, CA 95662 Phone (916)
726-5086

Thank you.

Kent B. Nuss, CPA
knusscpa@surewest.net

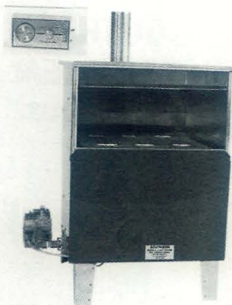
Joy Blair

Just as we were completing this issue we have learned that Joy Blair of California has passed away. Her services were held on September 27. I am sure we will receive an In Memory for Joy for the next issue. Our deepest regrets. She will be greatly missed in ABS.

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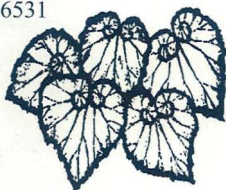
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COMING EVENTS

October 4-5, 2008, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.

The San Diego County branches of The American Begonia Society will hold a Plant Show and Sale on Saturday and Sunday. The show will be in Room 101 of Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Spectacular foliage and blossoms of the begonias will be on display. There will be many beautiful begonia plants for sale. Begonia experts will be available to answer questions. For more information call Marla Keith 760-753-3977 or email nandmkeith@atatt.net.

April 29-May 3, 2009, Palm Beach, Florida, 2009 ABS Convention. More exciting info to come!

Australia 2011

New Editor Needed!

Next issue closing date: November 1, 2008
Note New Address for Membership Chair Below

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The Begonian

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Save Our Species Coordinator....Rekha Morris, 318 Woodland Cir., Pendleton, SC 19670; shivavana@juno.com

Seed Fund.....Dean Turney, 467 Fulvia Street, Encinitas, CA 92024, Ph. dean@deansmail.us

Slide Library.....Charles Jaros, 106 Pine Valley Ct. DeBary, FL. 32713, Ph: 407-687-5621; CJAROS@cfl.rr.com

Begonia "Tuti Siregar"
(Begonia listada x
Begonia acetosa)
KR Bali

