THE BEGONIAN

January/February 2017

B. sutherlandii
Winner of Division K – Hanging Container or Wall Pockets at the Begonia Magic convention. Exhibited by Dennis Wheeler. Photo by Dinesh Sembukuttiarachchi

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The Begonian

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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Back cover: Floriferous begonias for sale in Villeneuve sur Yonne, France. The French seem to make extensive use of begonias in their public plantings, which are often breathtaking. Photo taken in August 2016 by William Goodridge

President's Message

A happy and prosperous New Year to you and your loved ones. The 2017 year marks our American Begonia Society's 85th anniversary. Celebrate this year with enthusiasm knowing you're part of a fruitful organization that provides its members with opportunities for friendship and learning.

Reading through some of my past issues of *The Begonian,* I can see that we have a treasure trove of history that we should rightfully celebrate and honor. A history of people with a constructive passion for begonias that encourages camaraderie, understanding, and good practice in nurturing these plants, while demonstrating a willingness to share knowledge and enthusiasm with each other. Never doubt that if we continue to match the commitment and responsibility of our past members, we will continue to strengthen our Society and keep it growing. I look forward to another year.

In Friendly Contact,
Martin E. Delgado, President

Friends from around the world were united by an interest in begonias at the ABS Begonia Magic Convention in Los Angeles.
Back: Don Miller (Dallas), Jean-Francois (France), Antoon Hoefnagels (Netherlands)
Front: Mike Kartuz (California), Cheryl Lenert (Houston), Dominique Permingeat (France), Tom Keepin (Houston), Dinesh Sembukuttiarachchi (Australia)
Photo by Dinesh Sembukuttiarachchi

1

2016 American Begonia Society Convention
Begonia Magic

Hawthorne, California September 6 – 11, 2016

165 Entries
31 Exhibitors

Best Of Show

B. bogneri
Exhibitor – Dean Turney

Sweepstakes

Candace Nakanishi
9 Blue Ribbons

Ed & Millie Thompson Showing Is Sharing Award

Candace Nakanishi
28 entries

Scottish Begonia Society Quaich

Candace Nakanishi
28 entries

Wanda & Richard Mcnair Award For Best Terrarium

B. bogneri
Exhibitor – Dean Turney

DIVISION AWARDS

Division A – Cane-Like, Superba

B. 'Nokomis'
Exhibitor – Candace Nakanishi

Division AA – Cane-Like, All Others

B. 'Looking Glass'
Exhibitor – Arlene Hoskins

Division B – Shrub-Like

B. 'Withlacoochee'
Exhibitor – Candace Nakanishi

Division C – Thick-Stemmed

B. 'Bill Byron'
Exhibitor – Dennis Wheeler

Division D – Semperflorens

Unknown Semperflorens
Exhibitor – Randy Montes Kerr

continued on page 6

Convention winners (Fig 1).
Photo by Larry Farley

Division E – Rhizomatous

B. 'Erythrophylla Bunchii'

Exhibitor – Martin Delgado

Division EE – Rhizomatous, Distinctive Foliage

B. masoniana

Exhibitor – Arlene Hoskins

Division F – Rex Cultorum

Unknown Rex Cultorum

Exhibitor – Arlene Hoskins

Division G – Tuberous

B. dregei

Exhibitor – Carol Knight

Division GG – Tuberous (Tuberhybrida)

B. 'Nell Gwynn'

Exhibitor – Paul Carlisle

Division GGG – Tuberous (Tuberhybrida) Hanging Basket

B. 'Firedance'

Exhibitor – Paul Carlisle

Division I – Species

B. venosa

Exhibitor – Sol Schaffer

Division K – Hanging Container or Wall Pockets

B. sutherlandii

Exhibitor – Dennis Wheeler

Division L – Terrariums (Single Begonia)

B. bogneri

Exhibitor – Dean Turney

Division M – Heritage Begonias (over 50 years in cultivation)

B. 'Erythrophylla'

Exhibitor – Martin Delgado

Division N – Novel Container

B. 'Tweedle Dandy'

Exhibitor – Nels Christianson

B. 'Nell Gwynn' - Division Award for Division GG - Tuberous (Tuberhybrida) (Fig 2) Exhibitor Paul Carlisle.
B. 'Bill Byron' - Division C - Thick-Stemmed winner (Fig 3).
Photos by Charles Jaros

Division NN – Novel Grown
B. 'Santa Cruz'
Exhibitor – Mike Flaherty

Division P – Seedlings
Unknown Semperflorens
Exhibitor – Randy Montes Kerr

Division U – Collections
Mixed Planting *B.* 'Red Fred'/ Rex Cultorum (Unlimited number of begonias in the same container)
Exhibitor – Mike Flaherty

Division V – Artistic Photographs of Begonias
B. 'Shauns's Fantasy'
Exhibitor – Charles Henthorne

Division W – Arts & Crafts
Tuberous Flower (Oil Painting)
Tomoko Ghzrardi

Division WW – Display
Tuberous Display
Exhibitor – Paul Carlisle & Mike Flaherty

CULTURAL CERTIFICATES

Exhibitor – Dean Turney
B. bogneri – 99 points

Exhibitor – Lynne Horne
B. velloziana – 95 points

Exhibitor – Virgil Griffith
B. cinnabarina – 95.3 points

Exhibitor – Randy Montes Kerr
Unknown Semperflorens – 95.5 points

Exhibitor – Sol Schaffer
Unknown Semperflorens – 95.5 points

Exhibitor – Martin Delgado
B. 'Erythrophylla Bunchii' – 98 points
B. 'Erythrophylla' – 97 points

Exhibitor – Dennis Wheeler
B. 'Bill Bryon' – 97.5 points
B. sutherlandii – 96.6 points

Exhibitor – Chris Hogan
B. 'Sophie Cecile' – 97 points
B. 'Medora' – 96 points

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On the show table for the Division for Various - Rhizome jointed at or below soil with erect stems (Fig 4).
Photo by Larry Farley

A containter planted with *B*. 'Red Fred', *B*. 'Golden Glow', *Cuphea hyssopifoilia*, *Heuchera* 'Petticoats' and a *B*. *rex* won the Division U – Collections, which is a mixed planting (unlimited number of begonias in the same container). Exhibitor: Mike Flaherty
Photo by Dinesh Sembukuttiarachchi

Begonia Magic Show Winners ...continued

Exhibitor – Carol Knight
B. 'Pink Sabers' – 97.5 points
B. 'Avalanche' – 95.3 points

Exhibitor – Mike Flaherty
B. 'Santa Cruz' – 96 points
B. 'Red Fred'/Rex Cultorum (Collection) – 95 points

Exhibitor – Arlene Hoskins
B. 'Looking Glass' – 99.7 points
B. *masoniana* – 98 points
Unknown Rex Cultorum – 98 points

Exhibitor – Paul Carlisle
B. 'Nell Gwynn' – 98 points
B. 'Sugar Candy' – 97.5 points
B. 'Sugar Candy' – 97.2 points
B. #75 – 96 points
B. #85 – 96 points
B. 'Firedance' – 95 points

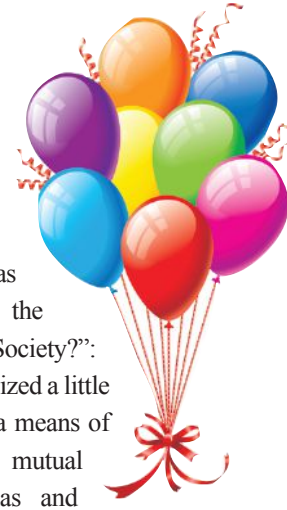
Exhibitor – Candace Nakanishi
B. 'Withlacoochee' – 98 points
B. 'Splish Splash' – 97.5 points
B. 'Nokomis' – 97.2 points
B. 'Teen Angel' – 97 points
B. 'Boomer' – 97 points
B. *scabrida* – 96.6 points
B. *masoniana* – 96 points
B. 'Brown Eyes' – 95 points
B. U083 – 95 points
B. 'Night Eyes' – 95 points

Got an idea for a *The Begonian* article?

Send your ideas: begoniaskc@yahoo.com

Happy 85th Birthday ABS

By Norman Nakanishi, Anaheim, CA



January 2017 marks the 85th birthday of the ABS with festivities planned at the Long Beach Parent Chapter. Not so long ago a gentleman by the name of Herbert Dyckman of Long Beach California set in motion the plans for ABS in 1932. His love of begonias began three years earlier when two friends gave him some small plants and cuttings of begonias. Mr. Dyckman and his friends would exhibit begonias at several of the Dahlia Society Flower Shows in Long Beach. As his interest in begonias kept growing, Mr. Dyckman thought it would be nice to form a group to study and exchange begonia plants. On December 11, 1931, he invited several people to his home to discuss this idea. These enthusiastic people met again at the home of one of its members, Clayton Kelly, in Long Beach, to discuss the formation of a group once more. At this meeting the ABS came into existence with Mr. Dyckman as president. The group was first named the California Begonia Society but as correspondence grew around the country regarding begonias the name was changed to the American Begonia Society.

In 1932, the ABS started with 32 members and by 1937 it had grown to 380 members. In 1934, the first bulletin was issued with J. Paul Walker as its editor. It was a mimeographed monthly bulletin that would later be changed to its current format, *The Begonian,* in 1938. Meetings were held at members' homes and nurseries. Dues were set at $1. In January 1934, Mr. Fred Riedman was elected President and J. Paul Walker as Vice President. There were also three committees established: 1. Classification, 2. Flower Show and 3. Publicity. At the April meeting, it was decided that each member receive a copy of the bulletin. In the July 1934 Bulletin an explanation was given as to "What is the American Begonia Society?": "This society was organized a little over two years ago as a means of increasing interest and mutual knowledge of begonias and kindred plants. Membership is open to anyone interested. Dues are $1 per annum. Meetings are held as a rule, on the first Wednesday night of the month during the winter; and visits are made to interesting begonia gardens on one or more Sunday afternoons each month during the summer. Visitors are always welcome…."

On July 26–28, 1936, the first Begonia Show was held at the Agricultural Center in Long Beach. Ribbons were awarded for the best specimen plant, best exhibit in various classes and sweepstakes. The first Branch of the ABS was established in Ventura, California in 1937. A financial statement for that year revealed that the ABS had a treasury of $681.

Even though membership in ABS has fluctuated over the years, today we have 724 members with many foreign memberships. The original parent chapter, which meets at the Weingart Senior Center in Lakewood, California, currently has 40 members. It meets on the third Monday of the month with its current president, Charles Meyer. Since this will mark the 85th birthday of the ABS, the parent chapter is planning a big birthday party and all branches are welcome to attend. We will have a keynote speaker yet to be determined.

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ABS Award Winners

From Cheryl Lenert, ABS Awards Chairperson


3

Congratulations to the 2016 winners of the American Begonia Society Awards.

Doug Byrom (Fig 1) was presented with the Herbert P. Dyckman Award, which is presented to a member who has rendered long-term or very outstanding service for the American Begonia Society above and beyond the normal duties of a member or an officer. Photo by Ken Fuchs

The Marge Lee Award recognizes a member who contributes something of a spiritual value toward cementing goodwill and harmony among members. The ABS Marge Lee Award recipient for 2016 was Stephanie Rose (Fig 2, left). Carol Knight (right) earned the prestigious Gene Salisbury Award for Horticultural Excellence. Photo by Malcolm McCorquodale

Samuel and Elizabeth Kennedy (Fig 3) of Scotland were this year's recipients of the Eva Gray Kenworthy. This award honors members who contribute original material toward helping the rank and file members further their study of begonias. Photo by Malcolm McCorquodale

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Begonia 'Bobbie Price' won the Alfred D. Robinson Medal of Honor, which recognizes an outstanding hybrid or cultivar that is registered with the ABS Nomenclature Department. Bobbie Price (Fig 4), with her namesake hybrid. Photo by Julien and Lambert Photography.

The Rudolf Ziesenhenne Award acknowledges an Editor who collects and edits the works of others for a publication either U.S. or International, and a) who encourages a broad array of writers both scientific and practical to write and contribute articles and, b) who issues a publication on begonias that is both excellent in design and content, and which contributes to our knowledge and appreciation of begonias. The award this year went to Wendy Corby (Fig 5).

2017 National ABS Convention

& Southwest Region Get Together

Begonias our Mission

May 3, 2017 – May 7, 2017
Hilton San Antonio Airport
611 NW Loop 410
San Antonio Texas, 78216

Hotel reservations phone:
1-888-728-3031 or fax 210-377-4695
Room rate is $99 for any room
(Say you're with the ABS/SW Region Get-together)

ABS Branches and Members Benefit from Work of Begonia Researchers

– Please Support their Expeditions!

Sally Savelle, Chair, Conservation & Research Committee

ABS members and branches are encouraged to contribute financial support for begonia expeditions by two very important begonia researchers: Dr. Mark Tebbitt and Jacky Duruisseau.

Dr. Tebbitt recently submitted a grant to ABS for a 16-day expedition to Argentina, January 2017. Part of his field work will include photographing begonias of northern Argentina in their

Please enjoy these photographs from our intrepid begonia researchers on previous expeditions. *B.aspleniifolia* (Fig 1). Photo by Jacky Duruisseau
Dr. Mark Tebbitt holding *B. clarkei* (Fig 2)
Jacky Duruisseau in Gabon (Fig 3)

natural habitat. Dr. Tebbitt will write botanical descriptions and collect material of four poorly known begonias: *B. sleumeri, B. tafiensis, B. rubricaulis* variety *volcanensis,* and *B. boliviensis* variety *volcanensis* - none of which are in cultivation. As always, his purpose is to further research on begonia species and expects that the work of this expedition will contribute not only to publications in *The Begonian* and presentations at ABS events, but also to an eventual publication of a book on tuberous begonia species.


2

Jacky Duruisseau's grant request is for an expedition to Gabon, June 2017, for a period of three weeks. He expects to focus on species of Loasibegonia, Scutobegonia, and Filicibegonia sections (*B. dewildei, B. wilksii, B. aspleniifolia, B. sosefiana,* and *B. lopensis*). ABS members will enjoy his publications in *The Begonian* and especially his wonderful photographs of the begonias.


3

The ABS Board has approved financial support for each of these grants with funds from the ABS Conservation and Research Fund; neither grant, however, can be fully funded as this fund has finite resources. ABS branches and members are encouraged to support both Mark and Jacky's expeditions and/or the Conservation and Research Fund.

Contributions should be sent to the ABS Treasurer, Carol Notaras, at 2567 Green Street, San Francisco, CA 94123. Donors may indicate on the memo line of the check if the contribution is to support Dr. Tebbitt and/or Jacky Duruisseau or the unrestricted support of any future Conservation and Research Grant Awards. Donations made out to the ABS and sent through Carol Notaras, ABS Treasurer, are tax deductible.

Feel free to contact me for more information or if you have any questions.

Your support is appreciated!

Send your tax-deductible donations to support begonia exploration to:

ABS Treasurer, Carol Notaras, 2567 Green Street, San Francisco, CA 94123

B. staudtii in lighted terrarium built and photographed by Gary Hunt

Stained Glass Terrarium

By Gary Hunt, Santa Barbara, CA

My interest in stained glass began back in 2003. I'm basically self-taught and the only instruction I ever received was from the owner of a glass shop who showed me how to score and cut glass. It was a quick five minute lesson and I was off and running. Over the years I have made several stained glass terrariums and stained glass lamps, all of them were my own designs. ABS members who have attended national conventions in California over the past ten years may have seen my work that I entered into the shows. The stained glass terrarium pictured is my first terrarium designed with a light in the lid. The light really makes the plants shine! I like how the lid has clear panes of glass that allow for viewing the plant from above.

This terrarium is made from a combination of stained glass, clear beveled glass and fused glass. The fused glass is the white glass that has green and blue diamond shapes. I made these in my kiln by heating the glass to a temperature of 1310° which fused the blue and green diamond shapes into the white glass. The construction is the copper foil method made famous by Louis Comfort Tiffany. The edges of each piece of glass are wrapped in copper foil tape and then they are soldered together. The tricky part is soldering the pieces of the lid together while maintaining the correct shape of the lid. This is where I need my third hand! After all of the pieces are soldered together I put a copper patina on the solder.

It took a lot of hours to make this terrarium and I am very happy with the end result.

Contained Atmosphere

The September 2016 convention in Southern California was a wonderful experience. The tours, seminars, and show were excellent. Thank you to all the organizers, speakers, Show Chairman, judges, clerks, placement team, and exhibitors.

Congratulations to Kay Anders who recently passed her judging test. Kay was a student at the Judging School at the Southern California 2016 Convention.

In this column, we will answer questions about showing and judging terrariums.

Q. Do we take points off when leaves or flowers are touching the top or sides of the terrarium?

A. If only a few leaf tips or tepals from blooms touch the sides or top of the terrarium, points do not need to be deducted. If many stems, leaves, or flowers touch the sides or top, points should be deducted. Also, if stems, leaves, or blooms are distorted or shaped by the terrarium container, points should be deducted. Points would be deducted under the last category, Suitable Container, Size and Design.

Q. Is anything other than the plant and the planting medium allowed in the terrarium?

A. Natural materials such as stone, moss, driftwood, or tree fern bark are allowed. Remember, in an ABS show, plants must be grown in the planting medium in the terrarium. A pot containing the plant cannot be placed in a terrarium and entered in a show.

Q. If a plant in the terrarium does not generally need terrarium care, should points be deducted?

A. No. Individual growing conditions vary greatly. Judge the plant as presented.

Q. Are plastic terrariums as suitable as glass containers?

A. Both are appropriate. However, plastic lettuce containers or Chinese food takeout containers are not appropriate in a traditional terrarium class. They would be more appropriate for a recycled container class. Both glass and plastic containers should be a clear, neutral color, clean, and free from stains, cracks and scratches. The container should not obstruct or distort the view of the plant.

Q. Does a terrarium need to be covered?

A. Yes. For show purposes, containers need to be covered. The lid may be slightly open to allow moisture to evaporate. Recently, during the entry process, we

While a leaf tip of the *B. versicolor* (Fig 1) is touching the side of a terrarium, that would not merit a deduction. This photo (Fig 2) shows leaves that are pressing against the terrarium. Two examples of the appropriate use of approved material, other than planting medium, in terrariums growing *Begonia montiselephantis* (Fig 3) and *Begonia maurandia*e (Fig 4).
Photos by Johanna Zinn

have asked exhibitors for permission to wipe out excess moisture on their terrariums right before judging.

Q. Can plants in terrariums be placed in any division or class in the show?

A. No, terrariums must be entered in terrarium classes or divisions. Terrarium classes are suitable in a general terrarium division as well as in the Novice, Traveling, Novel Container, and Commercial divisions.

Q. What is the minimum number of terrarium classes or divisions required on a show schedule?

A. There is no minimum number of classes or divisions. Terrarium classes or divisions may be tailored to fit the type and number of terrariums grown by branch members and show participants. Terrarium entries may be divided by container size, horticultural classification/ habit of growth, color or surface of the leaf. If a large number of terrarium entries are expected, consider adding divisions or classes. If few entries are expected, they could be placed in one division.

Q. Please explain the new terrarium point scoring sheet.

A. The new Contained Atmosphere point scoring sheet allots twenty-five points for a container suitable in size and design. The previous point scoring sheet allotted the same twenty-five points and additional points under cultural perfection for the container. We have removed the category, suitable container [size, design], from the Cultural Perfection section since it duplicates the last section of the point scoring sheet. Since a suitable container still counts for up to twenty-five points, exhibitors should choose their containers carefully. Also, the Quantity and Quality of Flowers sections have been combined making the section more user-friendly. If it is not the blooming season for the plant, award all 20 points.

I'm certain that we have not answered every question about exhibiting or judging terrariums. Please contact us with any questions, concerns, or comments. We can send examples of show schedules that list varying numbers of terrarium classes and divisions to those who are interested.

ABS Judging Co-Chairs:
Charles Jaros - cjbegonia@yahoo.com
Johanna Zinn - jazinn@cox.net


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A Word with You: Picotee

By Claudia Goodridge, New Haven, CT

What's in a name? Some identification for starters. *Picotee* immediately suggested "edging," to me. Having years of experience with picot edgings in crochet and having just learned to make them in bead weaving, I was struck with the notable similarity to *picotee* and wondered how that term related to begonias.

Picot, per Mr. Webster, "is any of a number of small threadlike loops forming an ornamental edging on lace, ribbon, etc." He defines *picotee,* from French *picoté*, as "characterized by having the dark color only on the edge of the petals…the petals are slightly serrated or fringed at the edge." Voilà! *Picotee* doesn't refer to a specific begonia but rather defines a type of flower petal edge.

I didn't find *picotee* in my usual begonia reference materials, but it was quite evident on the internet, and stunning images abound, hundreds actually, coupled with copious numbers of tubers for sale. One finds Calypso, Flamenco, Sunburst, and numerous *picotee* collections.

Like trim on draperies or cushions, picot edges add a 'je ne sais quoi' finishing touch. So it is with *picotee* begonia flowers. That darker, picot petal edge is charming, dainty, elegant, even lacey, namely *picotee.*

Tuberous picotee begonias (top) grown by Paul and Laurel Carlisle adorn the Ayres Hotel foyer at the Begonia Magic Convention.
Photo by Malcolm McCorquodale

Crochet picot edging (bottom, see arrow) created by author. Photo by William Goodridge

1

The *Begonia* of Bosque de Protección Alto Mayo, Peru - Part 2

Article and photos by Peter Moonlight, Edinburgh UK

Following on from our great first day collecting *Begonia* by the roadsides of Bosque de Protección Alto Mayo in northern Peru (see part 1) myself and my colleagues Aniceto Daza and Josh Richards were itching to collect deeper inside the park. We knew the area was hiding a probable new species and where it lived. The specimen referred to one of the best-protected environmental sites in Peru, the type locality of the "kovachii orchid", *Phragmipedium kovachii* (a synonym of *P. peruvianum*) the highly-valuable largest slipper orchid in the world. Poached living plants have sold in the USA for almost $100,000 and the park authorities rightly guard their treasures jealously. Armed guards continually guard the trail to the site, and visitors (including botanists!) can only visit with a special permit from the park headquarters.

Armed with an even more special permit allowing us to collect *Begonias* within the park, we left the visitor centre at sunrise. Immediately we could see we were in pristine cloud forest, by far the best I have seen in Peru (Fig. 1). Most accessible forest in Peru is devoid of large mammals. Anything valuable is poached for the pet trade (tourists are regularly offered everything from pet armadillos to parrots at roadside markets) while anything edible is eaten. Within minutes of entering the forest though, something bounded along the track in front of me and bounded into the lower branches of a tree.

Aniceto Daza talking to an armed guard in the pristine cloud forest of Bosque de Protección Alto Mayo (Fig 1).

continued on next page

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An ocelot (Fig. 2)! Something not even Daza, who has been collecting in Peruvian forests for over 50 years, had seen before! Our cameras full of photos, we carried on.

It was immediately clear that this was *Begonia* habitat as well as ocelot habitat. Our first find was a delicate, spotted species in the scandent section *Gobenia* and a new one on me (Fig. 3). Beautiful, but not what we were after. A little later we came across one of my favourite species (Fig. 4-5). *Begonia urticae* is common from central Peru to Costa Rica, but I had only seen it once previously growing in the leaf litter of a cave mouth. Here, it was growing as an epiphyte on moss-covered tree trunks. *Begonia urticae* is a member of the unusual northern Andean section *Casparya*, characterised by its horned fruits. I noticed the mature fruits were splitting along the back of the horn and the seeds were germinating within the seed pod, something I do not think has previously been documented.

After a few more hours walking,

An ocelot (Fig 2). A rare sight in Peru.
The delicately spotted leaves of a species of *Begonia* in the scandent section *Gobenia* Fig 3).
A vivid red male flowers of *Begonia urticae* (Fig 4).
A close up of the horn-like fruits of *Begonia urticae* Fig 5), which are characteristic of section *Casparya*.
A close up of the female flowers of a new species of section *Cyathocnemis* (Fig 6).

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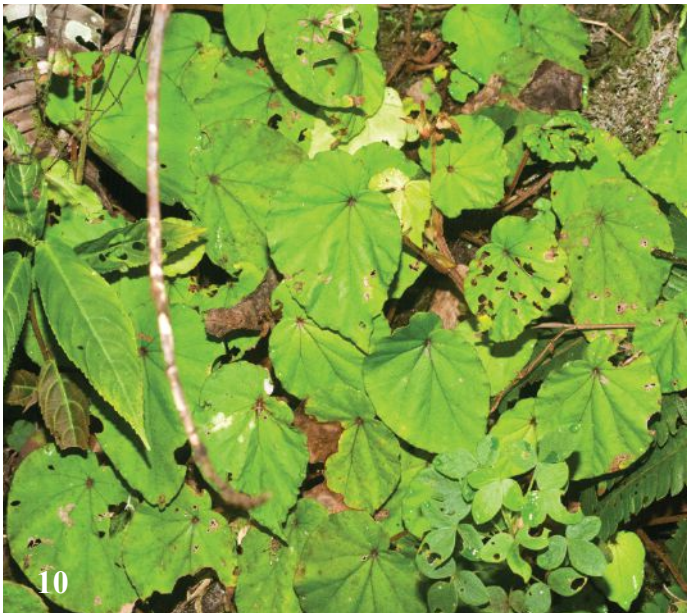
during which we came across more specimens of the first new species encountered in part 1 (Fig. 6), we came across a rocky jungle river and followed it for a few kilometres through the cloud forest. Suddenly, the vegetation by the river changed. Where we had been surrounded by epiphyte-covered trees, the bank and the cliff above it were suddenly covered in long grasses and the huge, pink flowers of the kovachii orchid (Fig. 7). They really were massive, reaching perhaps 9 inches across. The reason for the vegetation change was immediately obvious. This was a limestone outcrop, and at the bottom was deeply shaded by riverside trees. This, I knew, was where I was likely to find my new species of *Begonia*.

Entering the shade, I immediately spotted a *Begonia* and wow, what a *Begonia*! It was growing up through the shaded moss and liverworts at the base of the cliff, rooting at the nodes with deep green leaves flushed deeper green to almost black around the veins. Underneath, it was a vivid rich purple. This *Begonia* undoubtedly had the most beautiful vegetation of any I had ever seen in the wild (Fig. 8). Not only that, but I could not identify it. Its growth form matched nothing known from Peru and I knew I had found another new species! However, it was not the target species I knew to grow at this site and, search as I might, I was unable to find it. Having walked for five hours, we had to turn around which we did with a combination of elation and slight disappointment.

A few hours later we were back at the park visitor centre and at the car. We set off down the main road but suddenly, just five minutes later, something made me stop. A patch of vegetation by the road reminded me of the kovachii orchid site. It was another limestone outcrop. We jumped out the car and immediately spotted a *Begonia* (Fig. 9; see also front

cover). It was the new species I had failed to find earlier in the day. It was a tuberous species with olive green leaves with lax inflorescences covered with delicate, white flowers. Perhaps I had failed to find it at the kovachii site because its tubers were dormant but here it was growing vigorously. I now had all the material I needed to describe this species with my colleague Mark Tebbitt, and we have since described it in the Edinburgh Journal of Botany as *Begonia speculum* Moonlight & Tebbitt. Not only that, but as I set about collecting the new species, Josh drew my attention to a slightly larger species with paler green leaves growing in the soil around the outcrop (Fig. 10). This species had a dark red petiolar insertion and red veins, delicate spreading flowers, and fruits tinged pink. It also matched nothing else from Peru or the surrounding countries. It was another new species, two in five minutes!

From just two days of collecting in Alto Mayo, we had amassed an impressive five new species despite exploring only a tiny proportion of the park. Many more species of *Begonia* may remain undiscovered in Alto Mayo and similar cloud forest areas in Peru.



Phragmipedium peruvianum (Fig 7). The largest slipper orchid in the world and one of the most expensive plants in existence.
A new species of Begonia (Fig 8), and perhaps the one with most beautiful foliage I have seen.
Flowering and fruiting plants of the newly described *Begonia speculum* (Fig 9) growing on a limestone substrate.
A new species of Begonia (Fig 10) perhaps most closely related to *Begonia microcarpa*.

New Registration: *Begonia* 'Tall Paul'

From Priscilla Purinton, Hybrid Registrar

Official International Registration #1018

Begonia 'Tall Paul'

Seed parent: *B.* 'Kentwood'
Pollen parent: *B.* 'Dumbo'

Hybridized by Walter Dworkin, 8 Rugby Rd., Westbury, NY.

Developed in 1991 and first distributed in 1993. Mentioned on page 23 in the 2013 publication Begonia Hybridizing: By the Hybridizers. Registration applied for September 13, 2016 and approved October 30, 2016.

Begonia 'Tall Paul' is a Superba type cane-like plant that can grow up to 30" tall. The ovate, dark green leaves have small silver spots, a red sinus and can grow to 5" by 15" long. With a smooth, softly glossy surface and a single main vein the leaves have a margin that is slightly undulated and indented.

This plant is a summer bloomer. The tepals and ovaries vary in color with cultural conditions, from a bright hot pink to carmine to almost red. Both male and female tepals (two large and two very small) are oval. Male flowers are 1.75" in diameter and the females flowers are 2". The 7" flower clusters are held on on 4" peduncles that are stiffly pendulous, holding the flowers well out from the foliage.

The green petioles are hairless and 2" long. The apple green stipules are 1.75" x 1".

B. 'Tall Paul' has the Superba strength and vigor of *B.* 'Kentwood' and the darker leaves and reddish blooms of *B.* 'Dumbo'. This cultivar was tested by the late Virginia Ketler of Houston, Texas, who donated it to the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden collection many years ago. Currently, Greg Sytch of New Port Richey, FL is working on building up enough plants to offer them for sale.

Cuneate or Foveolate?

Take a look at the leaf blade of this *Begonia hongkongensis.*
Is it cuneate or foveolate?
Photo by Shui Yu-Min, Ph. D.

Watch for the answer in your next *The Begonian* brought to you by A Word With You!

Last month's answer to Picture Quiz

2016 November/December, page 229

Moniliform or Rugose?

ANSWER: **Moniliform, a rhizome resembling beads on a necklace.**

See *The Begonian,* Vol. 82, November/December 2015, p. 214.

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In Search of Ecuador's Climbing Begonias – Part 2

Article and photos by Dr. Mark C. Tebbitt, California University of Pennsylvania, PA

Thursday May 26 - After breakfast my Ecuadorian guide, David, and I set out from the mountain town of Piñas to find a begonia that several years ago a botanist sent me photographs of. It has beautiful vivid reddish-pink flowers, very hairy leaves and is new to science. I could tell that this plant was going to be difficult to relocate so I did a lot of research using Google maps before I left. Now I know exactly how to reach the small road where the plant was photographed. Unfortunately, once we get to this road, we find it full of heavy machinery and in the process of being widened and paved. All the vegetation along its sides has been cleared (Figure 1). What's more, the roadsides are now too steep to be able to safely access the remaining forest patches on foot. It's obvious that the site where the begonia grew was destroyed a few weeks ago. We decide to push on and explore the area to see if we can find any unpaved side roads. We find one that gives access to the forest but it dead ends at a phone tower after a couple of miles and still no new begonia. All we find are plants of *B. acerifolia*, which is a sun loving species that has probably benefitted from the recent forest clearance. We drive on towards the original locality of a climbing species - *B. tropaeolifolia* variety *puberula* - that I also want to find. This plant has not been collected since 1943. Unfortunately I discover that all of the forest where it was collected has

long ago been cut and converted to cattle grazing. We keep driving and eventually start to find patches of roadside forest that the road clearing crews have yet to reach. We stop and search every patch of forest we come across, but all we find are begonia species we have seen elsewhere. Further down the road there's a cow field surrounded by forest. In the field are huge boulders that look like promising begonia habitat. Our luck has changed - every boulder has plants of the new species growing on it (Figures 2 and 3). I have waited ten years to study this plant. Now I have lots of material and can finally publish it as a new species. As I'm photographing the specimens I collected, I realize that one of them is different. I look more closely and realize it is *B. bifurcata*, a very rare species that has only been collected a couple of times previously in Ecuador. I run back into the field to take more photographs (and also to take one last look at the fascinating tiny poison dart frogs that abound in this field (Figure 4)). Since we have found our plant we decide to continue along the road to the coastal city of Machala. There we will register our herbarium collections at the local ministry of the environment office prior to taking them back to Quito.

The site of a rare begonia recently destroyed by road construction (Fig 1).

A new species of begonia (Fig 2) from southern Ecuador.

Close up of male (above) and female (below) flowers (Fig 3) of an unnamed begonia.

This species of poison dart frog (Fig 4) was common in the field where the new begonia species grew.

Friday – Much of today is spent driving. We travel from the coast to Riobamba in the mountains - 200 miles in all. Ecuador fortunately has an excellent network of paved roads, which makes this possible. For the first two hours of the drive we see nothing except banana plantations, then for the next two hours we pass endless cacao plantations. Surprisingly, despite the vast fields of cacao none of the gas stations in this area sell any kind of chocolate – all of it is for export. When eventually we reach the mountains, I see the havoc that this year's El Niño rains have caused. Everywhere mudslides are obvious. Luckily for us, they occurred in this region two months ago and all the debris has since been cleared from the roads. In one village the main bridge was swept away by floods and a new temporary bridge erected. We have to line up to cross it, one car at a time. I remember crossing the old bridge two years ago. It's hard to image the volume of water that must have rushed through the valley to do that much damage. We make good time – stopping just a few times to collect *B. octopetala* and *B. acerifolia* specimens for study. The rain that has been falling all along the coast this morning makes way to sun and upon reaching our destination high on the Andean plateau we are treated to amazing views of the snow-capped volcanoes surrounding the city of Riobamba (Figure 5). Never before have I seen the high mountains of Ecuador as clearly as this - usually their summits are hidden in the clouds.

continued on next page

Chimborazo volcano (Fig 5) viewed from the city of Riobamba.

Lush montane rainforest at Sangay National Park (Fig 6).

Saturday – Today we visit Sangay National Park (Figure 6). We are exploring this wonderful, pristine mountain forest for a climbing begonia that my herbarium work has shown is new to science. Since it is raining heavily I'm drenched as I explore the forest on foot. I find lots of the climbing begonia but none in flower. I suspect that like many of the other members of *Begonia* section *Gobenia* it rarely flowers - it has only been collected twice. Growing next to every stream is the beautiful scarlet-flowered *B. tetrandra*. Sangay National Park must rank as one of the best Andean forests I have ever visited. I just wish it would stop raining.

Sunday – We spend the morning catching up on laundry, and getting the permit paperwork ready so that we can process it at the ministry of the environment offices tomorrow. In the afternoon we decide to visit Chimborazo National Park - a high altitude reserve set up to preserve the 20,564 foot tall volcano of Chimborazo (Figure 5). This volcano was long thought to be the highest mountain on earth and in fact is the highest point from the center of the earth since the earth bulges at the equator. From the visitor center parking lot we hike for two hours up a snow-covered trail and reach 16,730 feet, the highest altitude that I have hiked to in my life. At this altitude there is little oxygen available and every step requires considerable effort. I cannot imagine how people can reach the summit of a huge mountain like this. When we return to the hotel I develop the classic symptoms of altitude sickness. For three hours I feel like I have the flu crossed with a terrible hangover. David brings me a pot of cinnamon tea followed by medicine from a local hospital and slowly I begin to feel better. Eventually the pounding in my head stops and I sleep.

Monday – My altitude sickness is completely gone. Today we visit the ministry of the environment offices in Riobamba and then drive 250 mile northeast, arriving in Baeza on the margin of the Amazon basin in the early evening.

Tuesday – Today we are visiting Antisana

Ecological Reserve (Figure 7). I can tell that David is relieved to be on foot exploring the forest after yesterday's six-hour drive. It's also obvious that very few people have recently visited the part of the reserve we are in - the only footprints we see along the trail are those of birds. I suspect that the ongoing heavy El Niño rains have kept people away. The result is abundant wildlife. Birds are everywhere and at one point an endangered mountain tapir runs directly across our path! A short time later we see a metallic green snake. It's almost five feet long and moving much faster than I thought a snake could travel. I'm fascinated and a little stunned to learn that snakes can move faster than I can run… We are here to study a climbing begonia with white spotted leaves. Jacky Duruisseau illustrated it on the back cover of the May/ June 2013 edition of The Begonian. The species grows all along the eastern Andes of Ecuador and Peru but has never been collected in flower. Without having seen its flowers I am unable to identify this species. I have found it at various places on this trip but it is particularly abundant here so I can now properly study it. After much work I conclude that it's a juvenile form of *B. hitchcockii*, a species that lacks spots at maturity. I'm happy to finally have this mystery solved. After a few hours of hiking we backtrack and drive up to a higher elevation and then again set out to explore on foot. Literally as we step into the forest I find a new, unnamed species of climbing begonia growing up a tree. And then three more plants a little further in. Surprisingly these four plants are the only individuals of this species that we find all day even though we explore the rain-drenched forest for another two hours. An unnamed species of *Begonia* section *Semibegoniella* (Figure 8) also grows here. It is common but apparently restricted to this one mountain range. At the end of the day, we drive down to the small town of San Francisco de Borja where we have a wonderful dinner of trout and rice. We seek out a hostel that I have stayed in before. Unfortunately the gentleman working at the front desk doesn't know if there are any rooms available and doesn't particularly seem to care. So after a frustrating 20 minutes we leave to look for somewhere else to stay. As we walk back to our car the man's wife jumps out of a taxi and runs towards us. She is clearly in charge and within five minutes we were booked into the hostel. By chance I'm given the same room that I had stayed in two years earlier.

Antisana Ecological Reserve (Fig 7) looking towards the cloud covered Antisana Volcano.

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An unnamed species of *Begonia* section *Semibegoniella* (Fig 8) growing at Antisana Ecological Reserve.

Using a pole pruner to collect a flowering sample of *B. sodiroi* (Fig 9).

Wednesday June 1 - After breakfast we drive to a site along the Río Borja that I have visited before. I know that *B. hitchcockii* is common here and I hope to find it in flower. Along the way the road is lined by wet pastureland full of the weedy *B. fischeri*. It's easy to see why this species is invasive in Florida. Once we reach the first forest patches *B. hitchcockii* is scrambling out of almost every tree and what's more it is flowering! After days of seeing hundreds of these climbing begonias without sign of a flower it is wonderful to find so many plants in flower. What's more the sun is out – what a difference that makes. Once I have enough plants to write a botanical description of *B. hitchcockii* we set off for the town of Papallacta located high in the mountains directly above Quito. We search for *B. maurandiae* but again only find non-flowering plants. I'm curious to see that this begonia is growing on a limestone cliff. Throughout this trip I have been testing the soil pH at each begonia site. Up until now all have been growing in slightly acidic soil (pH 5.5). Here in stark contrast the soil is extremely alkaline. We spend the night in Papallacta. We are just an hour away from Quito but both David and I would rather not be back in the busy city. Papallacta is 10,800 feet above sea level and as a result it is bone-chillingly cold in our rooms. Our hotel looks like it has seen better days but we both like it since it has great character and a wonderful volcanically heated pool. I'm deeply impressed by the handful of elderly patrons who have braved the cold air to go out and sit in the hot, mineral-rich waters of the pool. I have no plans to take off my three layers of clothing or my coat let alone walk outside in just swimming trunks.

Thursday – I spend the day working in the herbarium at Quito and making plans to visit

one more nature reserve over the weekend with Álvaro, an Ecuadorian botanist with whom I am collaborating. I also say goodbye to David my guide since it's his son's birthday tomorrow and he has a party to go to. I have enjoyed his company these last few weeks and after spending so much time together it's sad to say our goodbyes.

Friday – Álvaro and I have special permission to visit Mashpi Reserve this weekend. This private reserve has it's own five star hotel and spa located in the center of 2500 acres of pristine forest. Just a three-hour drive from Quito this reserve turns out to be the highlight of the trip. After signing in at the main gate we drive slowly through the forest. As soon as we enter the forest we see lots of *B. tropaeolifolia* hanging from the trees all along the road. Here for the first time this species is in full flower and we are able to make lots of collections (Figure 9). We drive to a lower elevation and abruptly this species is replaced by another climber, *B. hederacea* (Figure 10). Again there are many plants in flower. The flowers on these plants are odd - the males are orange and much larger than the drab green female flowers. I'm curious to know how these plants are pollinated, and Álvaro and I discuss having an undergraduate student answer this question for their thesis. A 30 minute drive further and we find a third climbing species in flower – this one is a new unnamed variety of *B. segregata* and totally unexpected (Figure 11). Some of the plants are afflicted with an interesting strawberry-shaped gall in which a tiny insect larva is developing (Figure 12). In the same area Álvaro collects what he thinks might be a new species from the legume family. He has previously described a new magnolia species from this same forest. Mashpi really is an exciting place to explore. Then we pass a series of shallow rivers that we wade so that we can look for *B. harlingii*. Álvaro has collected this species here before and has brought me to this reserve especially to see it. It's a species that I have not been able to find before and one that has never been adequately described. I'm thrilled to be shown a stream bank covered with this plant. We eventually arrive at the

Begonia hederacea (Fig 10) showing its very different male and female flowers. Flowers of a new climbing species of begonia (Fig 11).

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hotel and visit the manager to let him know that we have arrived. Then, since it's 5 pm, we walk down to the hotel's kitchen and sample the five star dinners being prepared for the hotel's guests. Wow - Fantastic! An hour later and it's getting dark so we reluctantly leave the hotel and drive to the rather rustic guesthouse where we will be staying. Here we work on our plant collections late into the night.

Saturday - The alarm wakes us at 7 am. We throw on clothes, brush our teeth, and 15 minutes later step out into the forest. We walk some of the trails for a few hours but find no new begonias. In the early afternoon we head back to the hotel kitchens for more of the excellent food and to the main office to say our good byes. We take the old unpaved road back towards Quito driving at walking pace so that we can scan the forest for begonias. There is lots more *B. hederacea* in flower, but interestingly, now that we are outside of Mashpi Reserve we do not see any *B. segregata*. It appears that it is restricted to the heavily shaded pristine forest. These selectively logged forests do though contain an interesting begonia. In many places huge plants of *B. glabra* are climbing up the trees. Some of the plants have the usual white flowers of this species but most of them have bright red flowers (Figure 13). Neither Álvaro nor I have seen this flower color before in this widespread species. The plants are really beautiful and make me notice this ubiquitous species, which I have so often passed by in other forests. As we reach the main paved road it begins to get dark so we drive straight back to Quito both of us very happy with the weekend's collecting.

Sunday through Friday – Now having completed my fieldwork I sit in my hotel room in Quito and make a list of what we have found: 34 begonia species, including six that are new to science and 14 that I had not seen before. It has been a productive and enjoyable trip. Most importantly, I now have a much better understanding of the climbing begonias that I came here to study. All that is left is five days more of working in the two main herbaria in Quito. I will use the herbarium material to add to the descriptions that I have been writing in the field and I'll also work with Álvaro on the scientific papers that we will jointly publish. And then back home.

Acknowledgement:

This expedition was made possible by the generous financial support of the American Begonia Society, as well as several ABS members. I am especially grateful to Lulu Leonard whose contribution made this expedition possible. I also wish to thank Dr. Álvaro Pérez of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador and David Gutierrez both of whom were also essential to the success of this expedition.

New variety of *B. segregata* (Fig 12) afflicted by a bight red gall.

Samples of both white- and red-flowered *B. glabra* (Fig 13).

What do you think of this freak male flower? It seems to have pollen and female parts without an ovary! Notice the extra petals.
This is my hybrid, *B.*"Veins on Fire". This picture shows the plant bearing a female flower with an undersized ovary.
From Joe Romeo, Prospect, South Australia

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Authors

Individuals

Begonias

Species

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March/April 2017
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