the
GLOXINIAN
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Drymonia pulchra

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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Second Quarter ..... January 10
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Drymonia pulchra —
One of three color forms found in Ecuador on the 1998 GRF Study Trip.
(Photo by Alain Chautems)

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Color photo on page 32 sponsored by the Greater New York Chapter in lieu of speaker's fee to Ben Paternoster.

Color photo on page 45 sponsored by the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter in lieu of speaker's fees to chapter members.

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Color photo on page 17 (bottom) sponsored by Maryjane and John Evans with appreciation to the Smithsonian Institution for contributions to the Seed Fund.

Color photo on page 20 sponsored by Jeanne Katzenstein in recognition of the Gesneriad Research Foundation Study Trips.

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President's Message

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One of the more fascinating aspects of collecting and growing gesneriads is the continuing enjoyment we receive from watching the introduction of new species and hybrids. Having grown gesneriads for over twenty-five years, I've witnessed the changing patterns of the ebb and flow of new material. In the late 70's the offerings of species were about a quarter of what are available today. Although new species were being introduced in those days, the emphasis was on hybridization to increase the variety of plant material. What we saw in most of the popular genera was a pattern where a small group of species was used to breed countless generations of seedlings in an effort to create the very best hybrids. Over the years, with the ever-increasing variety of new material, the interest in species has grown.

It is no coincidence that we are currently enjoying such a plethora of available plants within the gesneriad family. AGGS has been the instrument that has made it possible. In other plant families without the benefit of a specialist society there has not been the same increase of new material. While it is true that throughout the rest of the plant world new species and cultivars are continually being introduced; at the same time other varieties disappear from cultivation. Thus, the net gain has been gradual. In the gesneriad family we have benefitted from the unique cooperation of botanists such as Hans Wiehler and the Gesneriad Research Foundation, Laurence Skog and the staff at the Smithsonian, Alain Chautems, Mauro Pexioto, and Martin Kunhardt (to name just a few) who have discovered and brought new species into cultivation while commercial growers as well as the members of AGGS propagate and distribute these plants. Acting as the glue that has brought this process together has been AGGS and, in particular, the AGGS Seed Fund. No other plant society in the world has such a comprehensive specialist list.

We are indebted to Maryjane Evans for putting together, maintaining, and furnishing seeds for our list. In the years since she had taken on this task, the list has quadrupled in size while demand for seed has grown at an even greater pace. As the list grows, her work has increased as well. Now with the addition of credit card sales, worldwide demand from our international membership has taken on a new dimension.

Meanwhile, the AGGS Research Fund continues its long standing role in supporting scientists studying the botany, taxonomy, and pharmacology of gesneriads, while our membership through cultivation, propagation, and distribution continues the never-ending program of keeping our ever-increasing stock in cultivation.

So as we in AGGS count down to our fiftieth anniversary, we can proudly say that today the society is more active, more dynamic, and more involved with every aspect of this fascinating plant family than ever before.

Coming Events

August 16-17 — California — Grow & Study Chapter annual judged show and sale at the Huntington Mall, Huntington Beach. Open during regular mall hours. Contact Dee Probert (714-548-4713).

September 19 — Massachusetts — New England Chapter AGGS and American Begonia Society annual co-sponsored show and sale at Waltham Field Station, 240 Beaver Street, Waltham. Saturday 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. Free admission; handicapped accessible. Contact Alice Courage (508-640-1516).

September 26-27 — Missouri — Heart of America Gesneriad Society annual show and plant sale at Loose Park Garden Center, 5200 Pennsylvania Ave., Kansas City. Saturday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.; Sunday 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Contact Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Dr., Olathe, KS <patter257@aol.com>.

October 3 — Washington — Tacoma Saintpaulia Society plant sale: all the newest varieties and the old favorites; also episcias and other related gesneriads. Poole's Nursery and Garden Center, 6th and Union, in the Proctor District. Saturday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Contact Marilyn Stone (253-572-1661).

October 4 — New Jersey — Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society annual show and plant sale at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morristown. Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Free admission and parking. Contact Clarence Eich (973-361-3287).

October 9-11 — Florida — African Violet Council of Florida show and sale "Caribbean Violets" at Coral Ridge Mall, Oakland Park Blvd and Federal Highway US#1, Fort Lauderdale. Sale on Friday and Saturday 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; show on Saturday 12:00 noon to 9:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Contact Janice Stencel (954-472-4475) <jsten47262@aol.com>.

October 17-18 — Missouri — Gateway West Gesneriad Society show "Galaxy of Gesneriads" at the Missouri Botanical Garden Ridgway Center, 4344 Shaw Blvd, St. Louis. Saturday and Sunday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact Pat Dunlap (314-789-3604).

Seed Fund

Maryjane Evans <pollin8r>
194 Morris Turnpike, Randolph, NJ 07869

We extend thanks to Clay Anderson, Marlene Beam, Marcia Belisle, Carol Ann Bonner, Mary Bozoian, Karen Cichocki, Gussie Farrice, Katherine Henwood, Jeanne Katzenstein, Alan LaVergne, Marilynne Mellander, Toshijiro Okuto, Carolyn Ripps, Jeff Smith, Frederick Stryker, Yumiko Sugiyama, and Ruth Zavitz for their generous contributions to the Fund. Special thanks go to Laura Johnson and John Boggan for their multiple contributions.

PLEASE NOTE:

1) *Drymonia* sp. SI94-156 is now *D. brochidodroma* USBRG94-156.
2) *Besleria* sp. SI95-164 is now *B. barclayi* USBRG95-164.
3) The seed listed as *Saintpaulia orbicularis* has been identified as *S. shumensis.*
4) The chirita seed listed as sp. #2, sp. #3, and sp. #12 has been identified as *C. fimbrisepala*. There is variation in these different collections, so they are listed as *C. fimbrisepala* with their accession numbers.
5) *Chirita walkeri* is now spelled *C. walkerae.*
6) *Paradrymonia* sp. aff. *fuquaiana* is *P. fuquaiana.*
7) The designation used by the Smithsonian Institution for plant accessions has been changed from SI to USBRG.

Seed Packets — $1.50 each

Please

- Make checks payable to the AGGS Seed Fund in U.S. funds
- To pay by credit card, send your credit card number, expiration date, and signature, and indicate if the card is Mastercard or Visa ($6.00 minimum)
- Remember to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope
- List alternate choices
- Include your membership number (first number on your mailing label)

Achimenes (D)
admirabilis (B)
cettoana (B)
dulcis (B)
erecta (B)
erecta 'Tiny Red' (F, L)
grandiflora 'Robert Dressler' (B)
longiflora (B)
longiflora alba (B)
misera USBRG, 88-039 (B)
skinneri W1897 (L)
'Carmencita' (L)
hybrid mix (B, L)

Aeschynanthus (B)
albidus
angustifolius
boschianus
• *buxifolius* 913296
chrysanthus
cordifolius
evrardii
fecundus
garrettii
gracilis
hartleyi
hildebrandii USBRG94-214
hildebrandii USBRG94-254

hosseusii
lanceolatus
longicaulis
longicaulis 'Kew'
longiflorus
micranthus
mimetes
obconicus
parasiticus
parvifolius
parvifolius 'Bali Beauty'
pulcher
radicans
tricolor
• sp. (Vietnam) 921622
sp. MSBG87-162

Alloplectus
bolivianus USBRG95-140 (M)
cristatus
panamensis GRF9517 (M)
sp. aff. *schultzii* GRF97103
sp. aff. *panamensis* GRF9781 (orange)
sp. GRF9776 (yellow)
sp. GRF9788 (pinkish/yellow above)
sp. GRF97153 (peach/orange)
sp. GRF97166
sp. nov. (*plicatissimus* ined.) (salmon calyx) GRF9521
sp. nov. (*plicatissimus* ined.) (green calyx) GRF9556

Alsobia (B)
dianthiflora
• *dianthiflora* 'Costa Rica'
punctata

Anodiscus
xanthophyllus (M)
xanthophyllus (Ecuador) GRF97109

Besleria
barclayi USBRG95-164
formicaria LS7560 (M)
laxifolia GRF9675 (M)
princeps GRF9479 (LM)
• *triflora* GRF9432 (LM)
sp. GRF9558 (LM)
sp. GRF9783 (orange w/yellow base)
sp. GRF97108 (orange)
sp. GRF97141 (orange)
sp. USBRG 95-143

Boea
• *hemsleyana* (F, R)
hygroscopica (F, R)

Briggsia (A, R)
aurantiaca
muscicola

Capanea
grandiflora GRF9480 (M)

Chirita
caliginosa (LM)
elphinstonia (F,L)
• *fimbrisepala* (R)
• *fimbrisepala* #2 (R)
• *fimbrisepala* #12 (R)
flavimaculata USBRG94-085
heterotricha USBRG94-088 (F, R)
involucrata (F, L)
lavandulacea (LM)
• *longgangensis* USBRG94-081 (R)
micromusa (F, L)
• *moonii* (LM)
pumila (F, L)
• *sericea* (LM)
sinensis latifolia (F, R)
sinensis latifolia (dwarf) (F, R)
• *spadiciformis* USBRG94-087
subrhomboidea (F, R)
• *tribracteata* (R)
walkerae (LM)
sp. 'New York' USBRG85-022 (R)
• 'Hisako' × self (F, R)

Chrysothemis (F, LM)
friedrichsthaliana
friedrichsthaliana GRF9764
villosa
hybrid mix

Cobananthus
calochlamys (LM)

Codonanthe (B)
calcarata 'Puyo'
caribaea
• *carnosa*
cordifolia AC1201
corniculata
crassifolia
• *crassifolia* (red lvs) USBRG85-112
crassifolia 'Cranberry'
digna
digna 'Moonlight'
elegans
erubescens
gracilis
• *gracilis* USBRG86-148
• *gracilis* 'Kautsky' AC266
paula
serrulata AC1313
• *venosa* GRF91175

Codonanthopsis (S)
peruviana (B, L)
ulei (B, L)

Columnea (B)
• *argentea* (L)
arguta
• *dodsonii*
erythrophaea
filipendula
glicensteinii
gloriosa
gloriosa 'Superba'

hirta
hirta GRF9493
hirta 'Dark Prince'
hispida
lepidocaula GRF9468
linearis 'Purple Robe'
maculata
nicaraguensis CR92F16
oerstediana GRF9423 (B)
oxyphylla
proctori W3573
purpusii
• *querceti* (L)
raymondii (LM)
scandens var. *tulae* (yellow)
schiedeana
tomentulosa
• *urbanii* (L)
verecunda MBG2204-60 (L)
zebranella GRF1595

Conandron (A, R)
ramondioides
ramondioides/Awaji Island

Corytoplectus
capitatus (LM)
capitatus G291
congestus GRF93259 (LM)
cutucuensis (L)
cutucuensis GRF9794
riceanus GRF9654 (M)
• *speciosus* (L)
sp. GRF9656 (M)

Dalbergaria (M)
asteroloma
asteroloma GRF9758
asteroloma GRF97169 (white)
• *cruenta*
eburnea
medicinalis GRF9507
ornata GRF2665
perpulchra
polyantha
sanguinea
sanguinea 'Orange King' GRF9492
species GRF93191
species GRF9797 (yellow)
species GRF97160

Diastema (D, F, P)
• *latiflorum* GRF9668 (green leaf)
• *latiflorum* GRF9669A (white veins)
racemiferum
racemiferum GRF9757 (wine reverse)
vexans

Didissandra
frutescens (M)

Drymonia
alloplectoides USBRG96-347 (B)
brochidodroma USBRG95-156 (B)
• *coccinea*
conchocalyx (B)
conchocalyx 'Silver Lance' × self (M)
doratostyla GRF9674 (B)
ecuadorensis 'Red Elegance' (LM)
macrophylla (M)
rhodoloma (B)
semicordata G2191
serrulata (B)
serrulata GRF9752
strigosa (B)
strigosa GRF1912
turrialvae GRF9419 (LM)
urceolata GRF93146 (LM)
urceolata GRF97124 (red) (LM)
sp. nov. (*umecta* ined.) (B)

Episcia (H, L, B, F)
xantha
cupreata hybrids mix
hybrid mix

Eucodonia (D, F, P)
andrieuxii
verticillata 'Ehrenberg'
hybrid mix

Gasteranthus (H)
corallinus GRF95120 (LM)
• *wendlandianus* GRF97154
wendlandianus GRF97163 (LM)
• sp. GRF97118

Gesneria (H, F, L)
acaulis
christii
cuneifolia
cuneifolia 'Esperanza'
cuneifolia 'Quebradillas'
cuneifolia 'Tom Talpey'
humilis
pumila
reticulata
reticulata 'El Yunque'
ventricosa (M)
'Flashdance'

Gloxinia (D)
gymnostoma (LM)
lindeniana (F, L)
nematanthodes (L)
perennis (LM)
perennis 'Insignis' (L)
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racemosa (L)
sylvatica (LM)
sylvatica (Bolivia) USBRG94-002
'Medea' × self (F, L)
'Medusa' × self (F, L)

Haberlea (A, R)
ferdinandi-coburgii
rhodopensis
Hemiboea (D)
henryi (L)
Heppiella (D)
• *ulmifolia* GRF95141 (L)
Koellikeria (D, F, P)
erinoides
• *erinoides* 'Polo Polo'
erinoides 'Red Satin'
Kohleria (D)
hirsuta (F, L)
hirsuta USBRG96-163
hondensis (LM)
• *rugata* (LM)
spicata (M)
• *warszewiczii* (LM)
'Bermuda Red' × self (L)
hybrid mix
Lysionotus (LM)
ikadae
montanus
pauciflorus
serratus
warleyense
species
Mitraria
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Monophyllaea (H, LM)
elongata
horsfieldii
Monopyle
macrocarpa GRF94123 (LM)
Moussonia
deppeana (M)
elegans (M)
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• *macrostoma* (F, P)
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Nematanthus
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brasiliensis (MT)
corticola (B)
crassifolius (B)
fissus (L)
fluminensis (B)
fornix (B)
fritschii (B)
gregarius (B)
hirtellus (B)
jolyanus (Sao Paulo) (B)
cf. *lanceolatus* AC2009
cf. *lanceolatus* AC2010
maculatus (B)
serpens (B)
strigillosus AC1434 (B)
wettsteinii (B)
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sp. GRF3555 (B)
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nummularia (B)
Opithandra (A, R)
primuloides
Ornithoboea
wildeana (L)
Paliavana (S, T)
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prasinata GRF732
prasinata GRF91126
tenuiflora
Paraboea
• species (Malaysia)
Paradrymonia
cilosa (L)
decurrens (L)
flava (F, L)
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sp. nov. (*costaricana* ined.) (L)
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sp. nov. (red) (L)
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byrsina (B)
crassicaulis (B)
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orientandina (LM)
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Petrocosmea (R)
flaccida (F, P)
parryorum (F, P)
Phinaea (D, F, P)
albolineata
divaricata
• *ecuadorana* GRF8852
multiflora
multiflora 'Tracery'

Ramonda (A, R)
myconi —
alba
lavender
purple
rosea
myconi (upright rosette)
nathaliae
serbica
Rhabdothamnus
• *solandri*
***Rhynchoglossum* (H, L)**
gardneri
obliquum
Rhytidophyllum (G, H, S, T)
auriculatum
exsertum AC1583
leucomallon
tomentosum
villosulum
Saintpaulia (F, R)
grandifolia
intermedia
ionantha
pendula kizarae
shumensis
hybrid mix
Sinningia (D)
aggregata (M)
aggregata 'Pendulina' (B, L)
aggregata AC1461
• *aghensis* (T)
allagophylla (MT)
barbata (LM)
brasiliensis (M)
brasiliensis 'Verde'
brasiliensis AC1314
bulbosa (T)
calcaria MP891 (F, L)
canescens (F, L)
carangolensis (M)
cardinalis (F, LM)
cardinalis (compact) (F, L)
cardinalis 'Innocent'
cardinalis (pink)
• *cochlearis* AC2005 (LM)
conspicua (F, L)
conspicua (fragrant selection)
cooperi (LM)
cooperi AC1522
curtiflora (T)
• *defoliata* (L)
douglasii GRF91188 (LM)
douglasii (pink form) (M)
elatior AC1409 (M)
eumorpha (lavender) (F, L)
eumorpha (pink)
eumorpha (white)
• *gigantifolia* (LM)
harleyi MP482 (F, L)
• *hatschbachii* (L)
hirsuta (F, L)
iarae (F, L)
insularis (LM)
leopoldii (F, L)
leucotricha (F, L)
lindleyi AC1501 (L)
lineata (LM)
lineata (highly spotted)
macropoda (M)
macropoda (dwarf form) (L)
macrorrhiza (T)
macrostachya (LM)
magnifica GRF91121 (pink) (LM)
magnifica GRF91134 (red)
mauroana (LM)
micans MP892 (LM)
nivalis AC1460 (L)
pusilla (F, P)
pusilla 'White Sprite' (F, P)
reitzii (M)
rupicola AC1511 (F, L)
sceptrum (T)
schiffneri (LM)
sellovii (MT)
sellovii 'Purple Rain'
speciosa 'Cabo Frio' MP178 (F, L)
speciosa 'Lavender Queen'
speciosa 'Regina'
speciosa 'Regina' AC1562
speciosa (Chiltern Seed Co)
speciosa AC1503
sulcata (LM)
tuberosa (F, L)
tubiflora (S, MT)
valsuganensis MP619 (LM)
villosa (F, L)
warmingii (T)
sp. aff. *warmingii* from Ilhabela MP631
sp. 'Lanata' MP622 (L)
cardinalis 'Innocent' × *iarae* (LM)
iarae × 'Bewitched' (F, L)
speciosa AC1503 × *specioa* 'Regina' (R)
eumorpha hybrids mix (F, R)
'Anna W.' × self (F, P)
'Anne Crowley' (F, L)
'Apricot Bouquet' × self (LM)
'Apricot Down' × self (L)
'April Starr' × self (F, P)
• 'Barbara Jean' × self (F, P)
'Bewitched' × self (F, L)
• 'Cherry Blush' × self (F, P)
'Diego' (red) (F, L)
'Diego' (pink)

'Diego' (purple)
'Dollbaby' (F, P)
- 'Foxfire' × self (F, P)

'Good Pink' × self (F, L)
'High Voltage' × self (F, P)
'Jubilee' × self (F, L)
'Krishna' × self (F, P)
'Leo B.' × self (F, P)
'Little Imp' (F, P)
- 'Mark Twain' × self (F, P)
- 'Mother of Pearl' × self (F, P)

'Mothers Day' × self (F, L)
'Pale Beauty' × self (L)
- 'Patty Ann' × self (F, P)

'Peaches' × self (F, P)
'Pink Ice' (F, P)
'Pink Imp' (F, P)
- 'Pink Petite' (F, P)

'Pure Pink' × self (F, P)
'Purple Crest' × self (F, P)
'Rosebells' × self (F, L)
'Ruby Red' × self (F, P)
- 'Saylor's Snowcap' × self (F, P)

'Scarlet Red' (F, P)
'Scarlet Sunset' (F, P)
'Star Eyes' (F, P)
'Sun Blaze' × self (L)
'Super Orange' (F, P)
'Super Red' × self (F, P)
'Tampa Bay Beauty' (L)
'Virgil' × self (L, M)
'Whimsey' × self (F, P)
'Angora Love' × 'Margaret' (L)
'Cherry Chips' hybrids mix (F, P)
'Georgia Sunset' hybrids mix (F, P)
- Marcia Belisle miniature hybrid mix (F, P)
- Al Wojcik miniature hybrid mix (F, P)

hybrid miniature mix (F, P)
pink hybrid miniature mix (F, P)

Sinningia speciosa (F, R)
blue mix
"Double Brocade" mix
mini lavender
pink
purple
rose
white
orchid/purple mix
pink mix
pink/white mix
red mix
white w/red spots
Charles Lawn hybrid mix
hybrid mix
blue slipper
lavender slipper
pink slipper
purple slipper
mixed slipper
pink dwarf
red and white dwarf
Small's dwarf mix
white dwarf slipper

Smithiantha (D)
aurantiaca (F, L)
canarina GRF9105 (M)
cinnabarina (F, L)
laui GRF9117 (F, L)
multiflora GRF9121
multiflora GRF9122
zebrina GRF9104 (M)
'Little One' (F, L)
'Sunset' × self (F, L)
hybrid (yellow) (F, L)
hybrid mix (F, L)

Solenophora
- *tuxtlensis* (H, T)

Streptocarpus
baudertii (F, R)
bolusii (U)
buchananii (B)
caeruleus (R)
candidus (F, R)
caulescens (F, LM)
compressus (U)
confusus (U)
confusus ssp. *confusus* (U)
cooksonii (U)
cooksonii (dark purple)
cooperi (U)
cyanandrus (F, P)
cyaneus (blue) (R)
cyaneus (blue/long corolla)
cyaneus (blue/short corolla)
cyaneus (lilac)
daviesii (F, U)
denticulatus (U)
dunnii (U)
eylesii (U)
fanniniae (R)
fasciatus (R)
fenestra-dei (R)
floribundus (R)
- *formosus* (R)

gardenii (F, L)
glandulosissimus (B)
goetzei (U)
grandis (U)
grandis (blue form)
haygarthii (F, U)
holstii (LM)
johannis (F, R)
kentaniensis (R)
kentaniensis (N. Kei River)
kentaniensis (S. Kei River)
kirkii (F, LM)
meyeri (F, R)
michelmorei (U)
modestus (R)

molweniensis (U)
molweniensis subsp. *eschowicus*
muscosus (L)
nobilis (M)
pallidiflorus (F, LM)
parviflorus (R)
parviflorus (mauve)
parviflorus (white/mauve)
pentherianus (F, L)
pole-evansii (R)
polyanthus (F, L)
polyanthus subsp. *comptonii*
polyanthus subsp. *polyanthus*
polyanthus subsp. *polyanthus*/lg fl
polyanthus subsp. *verecundus*
porphyrostachys (U)
primulifolius (F, R)
prolixus (F, U)
pumilus (F, P)
rexii (F, L, R)
rexii (blue)
rexii (white)
rexii (pale blue/long corolla)
rexii (white/blue mix)
rimicola (F, P)
roseoalbus (R)
saundersii (U)
saxorum (B)
silvaticus (R)
stomandrus (F, L)
thompsonii (B, L)
thysanotus (B, L)
trabeculatus (U)
vandeleurii (U)
variabilis (F, R)
wendlandii (U)
wilmsii (U)
'Athena' × self (R)
'Black Panther' × self (R)
'Blue Angel' (B)

- 'Cape Beauties' (F, P)
  'Cherry Red' × self (R)
- 'Georgette' × self (R)
  'Karen' × self (R)
- 'Kitten Face' × self (R)
  'Midnight Flame' × self (R)
- 'Network' × self (R)
  'Pegasus' × self (R)
  'Royal' (red) (R)
  'Royal' (white/pink stripes) (R)
- 'Sandra' × self (R)
  'Strawberry Crush' × self (R)
  'Suzie' × self (R)
  'Wild Grape' × self (R)
  'Black Panther' hybrid mix (R)
  Martin Kunhardt hybrid mix
  New Zealand hybrid mix (F, R)
  rexii hybrids (F, R)
  Wiesmoor hybrids (F, R)
  hybrid mix (F, R)
  hybrid, lt blue/dk blue lines (R)
- *streptocarpella* hybrids (B)

Titanotrichum
oldhamii (propagules)
Trichantha
ambigua (B)
brenneri (LM)
citrina (B)
dodsonii GRF90158 (LM)
kucyniakii GRF93166 (MT)
minutiflora GRF9552 (LM)
purpureovittata (L, B)
Vanhouttea (S, T)
calcarata GRF3026
Mixed gesneriads

- denotes LIMITED quantities

Seed capsules of
Sinningia aghensis

(A)	Alpine or cool greenhouse.	(L)	Low growing; not more than 12 inches.
(B)	Suitable for hanging basket.	(LM)	Low to medium height.
(C)	Cool temperature necessary for bloom.	(M)	Medium height; 1 to 2 feet.
(D)	Has dormant period, forming tubers or rhizomes.	(MT)	Medium to tall.
(F)	Blooms readily under fluorescent light.	(P)	Petite or miniature; not more than 6 inches tall.
(G)	Recommended for greenhouses; requires space.	(R)	Rosette in form.
(H)	Requires humidity and warmth.	(S)	Requires sun to bloom.
		(T)	Tall plants; generally over 3 feet.
		(U)	Unifoliate or single leaf.

Round Robin News

Suzie Larouche <suzielaro@sympatico.ca>
949, ave. des. Érables, app. 4
Québec (Québec) G1R 2M6, Canada

Round robins have been back for more than a year now and we are having fun, too. There are those who think that such a forum no longer has a place in this age of electronic, instant communication. But then there are others who still appreciate the expectancy they feel around the time the robin should reach them. Those people like to look at their plants in a relaxed way and think long and hard about what news they will share. Some even enjoy the feeling of pen and paper. Whatever their reasons, an increasing number of AGGS members have welcomed the rebirth of round robins and more are joining every month.

Right now, we have two robins on General Gesneriad Growing, plus one each on Episcias and Gesneriads Grown for Foliage, Rare and Lesser Known Gesneriads, and a brand new one on Streptocarpus. There is even more good news. None of them are crowded enough that they can't be expanded.

Suggestions have been made for a robin on miniature sinningias, tiny gesneriads, and commercial growing. More participants are needed before any of these can take flight, so write now. The faster a mailing list grows, the sooner a robin can take flight.

Our gesneriad pen pals have growing conditions that range from a greenhouse to a terminally humidity-deficient apartment. They live everywhere—from all over the U.S. to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Africa. Some type their letters on state-of-the-art computers while others write in longhand. But they all share a love of gesneriads and want to discuss their growing experiences with one another. So why don't you join the fun? Write or email me to have your name added to a robin. I'll reply as soon as I can.

TG Advertisers

Dale Martens, Advertising Manager <martens@wt.net>
2728 Masters Drive, League City, TX 77573-4403

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our long-time advertisers. Sometimes we forget that behind the name of the company there's a plant-loving grower who is putting tremendous time and effort into providing plant material and supplies for us. Each is quite knowledgeable concerning the growing of various gesneriads and other tropicals, and they make every effort to update their catalogs and have stock on hand that's exciting and new. Even though they are listed in our directory, I'd like to acknowledge with sincere gratitude the following loyal advertisers:

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Palm Hammock Orchid Estate, Inc.
Peter Paul's Nurseries
Tiki Nursery
Weiss' Gesneriads

It was a pleasure getting to know each of them as I began my new position last fall as the Advertising Manager for THE GLOXINIAN. If you haven't contacted them in a while, please do so. Many offer brochures or catalogs. In my view we have a mutual support system in that we need them as much as they need us.

I'm excited to announce that we have four new advertisers in this issue. Greg Sytch is offering a variety of tropicals from Florida. In addition, we welcome the opportunity to acquire Caribbean plants as well as gesneriads from Finca La Vista Tropicals in Puerto Rico with Richard Weaver and Rene Duval as proprietors. We welcome Country Road Violets 'N Things owned by Ed and Lois Holst from Georgia who have a great variety of supplies to offer. Last but not least, we welcome Pat's Pets which is owned by Pat and Gary Dunlap from Missouri. You'll remember that Gary won Best in Show with *Chrysothemis pulchella* at the AGGS Convention in 1997.

Schultz is not advertising in magazines now that they have a strong television ad campaign. We thank them for their long-time support and wish them well in the future. The annual fall advertising campaign is approaching for me. I'm making every effort to obtain new advertisers and would welcome suggestions from you along with addresses and perhaps catalogs of prospective companies.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

More Fragrant Gesneriads

John Boggan <boggan.john@nmnh.si.edu>
Dept. of Botany, NHB 166, Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, DC 20560

Since writing my article "Fragrant Flowers in Gesneriaceae" (1996, TG 46(3): 17-27) I have discovered several more fragrant species. The original text of the article, along with the additions, can be found on Ron Myhr's "Gesneriad Reference Web" at http://home.pathcom.com/rmyhr/. The online article contains links to color images of most of the species discussed in the article.

Chiritopsis is a genus of about ten species, all restricted to southern China. Only one species is in cultivation in North America. *Chiritopsis repanda* has only recently been discovered to have fragrant flowers, although it has been in cultivation for several years. This is probably because it also has fragrant foliage which obscures the scent of the small white flowers. According to Monte Watler, "The blossoms as well as the foliage are highly scented and at night pervade the plant room with a very strong odour which some people may find unpleasant. I find it rather pleasant and normally I have an aversion to strong-smelling plants such as the hyacinth and lily of the valley." ("*Chiritopsis repanda* var. *guilinensis*", 1997, THE GLOXINIAN, 47(4): 32.)

Napeanthus jelskyi may be fragrant, but the flowers are so tiny it's hard to tell!

Nautilocalyx punctatus, a much larger species than *N. pemphidius,* has purple-speckled pale yellow flowers with a faint sweet scent.

Paradrymonia: Smithsonian collection 94-220, collected in Ecuador by Rick Dunn and distributed through the AGGS Seed Fund as "*Paradrymonia* sp. aff. *fuquaiana*", has also been identified as *P. fuquaiana,* but has a much stronger scent than other collections. It has a pungent spicy or medicinal fragrance.

Smithiantha canarina has a slight lemony scent, appropriately enough for its bright lemon-yellow flowers.

Smithiantha canarina
grown by Maryjane Evans; photo by Jeanne Katzenstein

Paradrymonia fuquaiana
grown at the Smithsonian Greenhouses; photo by John Boggan

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Report on the 13th GRF Expedition

Dr. Hans Wiehler <hwiehler@aol.com>
1873 Oak Street, Sarasota, FL 34236

Our 7th trip to the gesneriad-rich, small country of Ecuador lasted fourteen days (April 16-30). The thirteen participants were Carol Ann Bonner (TN), Dr. Alain Chautems (Switzerland), Jewell Doering (WA), Maryjane Evans (NJ), Gussie Farrice (NY), Lee Hennings (FL), Michael Horton (NY), Jeanne Katzenstein (NJ), Melissa McDowell (FL), Carolyn Ripps (NY), Peggy Robbins (FL), Vivean Scheans (OR), and Hans Wiehler (FL). Our Ecuadorian naturalist guide for the Cuyabeno area was Pancho Enriques; our bus driver for the rest of the trip was Nico Molina, our same driver as last year.

1998 GRF Study Group

This fine, energetic group helped to change the big picture of the family Gesneriaceae in Ecuador. In the northeast corner of Ecuador, a region our GRF group has not been to before, we traversed 675 kilometers by local plane, motorized canoe, rented bus, and by foot. On this expedition we saw lots of primary and secondary rainforest. We photographed, observed and collected about 117 species of gesneriads in 17 genera, found an astounding 34 new, unnamed species, made over 300 herbarium collections, prepared 158 live collections in cups, pickled 92 floral, fruit and leaf specimens in plastic bottles with alcohol for further examination, and collected seed for the AGGS Seed Fund.

The seed processing was done by Maryjane, the record keeper was Melissa, the pressers were Carol Ann, Alain, Jeanne, and Peggy, the live-plant processors were Carolyn and Jewell, the pickler was Vivian, the alcohol dispenser for dried specimens was Gussie, the crisis manager was Mike.

We developed into a fine team. The gesneriad enthusiasm even spread to our bus driver Nico and to our guide Pancho. Often there were 15 pairs of eyes looking for these rare plants in the Ecuadorian flora.

Gesneriad growing can be fun, but gesneriad hunting is, too!

Drymonia coccinea
growing alongside the Rio Cuyabeno

Ecuador Study Trip photographs courtesy of Alain Chautems, Carol Ann Bonner, Jeanne Katzenstein, and Carolyn Ripps.

Ecuador, at Last!

Alain Chautems <Chautems@cjb.unige.ch>
4 Chemin du Paquier, CH-1231 Conches/GE, Switzerland

After many years of impressive gesneriad harvests reported by GRF trip participants to Ecuador, here comes an opportunity for me to visit this country. Over the past fifteen years I have explored several nice places in Brazil, but I have never visited the Amazonian forest or the Andes. The itinerary of this year's GRF trip focuses on parts of these two fascinating ecosystems, and I become very excited at the thought of seeing and feeling the reality of the extraordinarily rich animal and plant life of this small country.

As our plane lands at the Quito airport on the evening of April 16th, it is dark and rainy. I am happy to be on the ground and grateful to our pilot who had to restart the approach process after an aborted first try. The comfortable rooms at the Hotel Sebastian please everyone, but my sleep is not as quiet as usual, a probable effect of the 2800m high elevation of the city.

The next morning after a good breakfast with tropical juices and fruits, cereals, and "Swiss quality" yogurt, we all head back to the airport for a thirty-minute flight to Lago Agrio, capital of the Province of Sucumbios, in the northeastern lowlands of Ecuador. The local travel agency has organized this expedition and provided a young naturalist guide for the four days we will spend in this area. He introduces himself as Pancho and speaks fluent English. As soon as I get out of the plane and breathe the warm, thick and humid air, my whole body experiences what equatorial climate means. I have the impression of discerning a green smell, just from looking at the surrounding vegetation. No more dense forest is left along the road we follow for some three hours—there are now groves of coffee, cacao, yucca, palm, and papaya or grasslands with scattered cattle and some trees, remnants of the once-existing forest. Oil fields have been discovered in Ecuador in the last few decades, and pipelines, drilling platforms or pumping stations are the main elements of the recent "development" of the area.

We are glad to step down from the bus at the guard station of the "Reserva de Produccion Faunistica" around the Cuyabeno River. A long dugout canoe accommodates the thirteen people in our group plus Pancho as well as a member of the staff of the Cuyabeno River Lodge and two indigenous pilots—one in front to look for hidden treetrunks in the water or for cutting branches or lianas with a machete, the other at the rear manning the engine. We immediately penetrate the green vault formed by the dense vegetation of the river banks. All kind of trees, bushes, lianas, epiphytes all over and caramel-colored water—that is my first impression. The river flows erratically and the light is poor. I notice some vining stems with dark-colored bracts and yellow flowers at 3-4 meters above our heads and recognize *Drymonia coccinea*, a species I have seen in eastern Brazil. Other leaves, arranged in a fan and with some red on the underside, are probably some kind of *Dalbergaria*, my first sight in the wild. An incredible diversity of Araceae, many ferns and a few orchids and bromeliads cover most of the trees.

After traveling twenty minutes upstream, we arrive at a clearing. Wood boards form high steps giving access to a large platform, partly covered by a woven palm roof. This is the main lobby and dining room, with a kitchen in

the back. From there, alongside the river, an elevated footbridge runs in two directions and gives access to scattered native-styled huts on wood pilings with walls made of boards and topped by palm roofs. Each hut has a double room and a bath. It is very rustic, but pleasant looking. Our luggage and food follow soon in a second canoe, and we make ourselves comfortable in these unique accommodations.

As we visit each other's huts walking carefully along the somewhat unsteady footbridge, several familiar-looking plants are seen on the neighboring trees: *Drymonia serrulata, D. macrocalyx, Codonanthe crassifolia* with blood-red berries, and a sterile *Paradrymonia* aff. *ciliosa.* On a branch overlooking the river, I spot pendant stems touching the river surface. Through my binoculars I can distinguish white flowers and purple berries; it may be *Codonanthe uleana.* The next day, swimming energetically against the current, a lodge employee brings back some pieces of it. In return, he receives plenty of ants on his head which confirms the first identification.

The river lodge accommodations

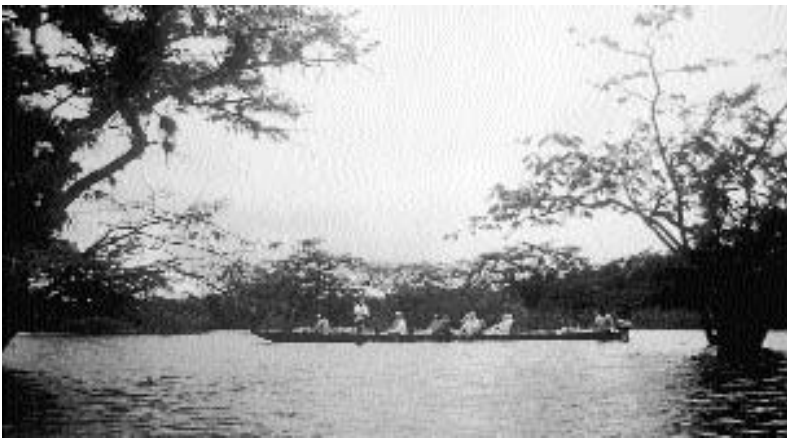
After a walk on some trails surrounding the huts, it is time for supper. A delicious soup and pasta with tasty sauce are served. The next meals reveal the excellence of our cook, Zulema. The night is dark, millions of insects and hidden frogs tune their sounds in a relaxing concert—time to go to bed under the mosquito net. Surprisingly, the next morning and during the following days, very few bites are registered among us.

We spend the next three days by canoe or walking on muddy and slippery trails, amazed by the untouched forest. Pancho identifies various kinds of monkeys, parrots, orioles, and toucans. Morpho butterflies gracefully dance over the river. We observe and collect several gesneriads: three different species of *Besleria* (one with hairy leaves, orange calyces and yellow corollas, one with glabrous leaves, orange calyces and corollas, and one much smaller in habit with long hairs all over), three species of *Dalbergaria* varying in hairiness and red-spotting disposition, a *Cremosperma, Drymonia scarlatina, Monopyle macrocarpa, Nautilocalyx ecuadorensis, Parakohleria baezana* in two leaf-color forms, and *Trichantha tenensis.*

Nautilocalyx ecuadorensis

Canoe collecting
Drymonia serrulata

A visit by canoe to the vast *laguna* in the Cuyabeno Reserve offers the opportunity of discovering more of the vegetation and wildlife. The occurrence of different palm species indicates changes in the water level during the year. We stop for lunch on an island. It is difficult to believe that at the peak of the dry season, the surrounding water is replaced by a narrow river. Pancho tells us that he once reached this place after walking for several hours. In the afternoon, by canoe we explore a zone with emerging branches loaded with an incredible amount of epiphytes, especially orchids and bromeliads. We are in the middle of an inundated forest—the trunks are under the water; ants crawl all over the branches. The only gesneriad here is *Codonanthe crassifolia.*



Canoe excursion on the Laguna Grande

Trichantha sp.nov. (*molinae* ined.)

Alloplectus sp.nov. (*fimbriatus* ined.)

Drymonia urceolata

Trichantha sp. nov.

Drymonia coccinea

Besleria sp. nov.

Our stay in this fascinating area of the upper Amazon basin is over. A thirty-seat bus and Nico, our driver (well known by the participants of last year's GRF trip), await us for the rest of our exploration on the eastern side of the Andes. On the way to Lumbaqui, we stop in Lago Agrio to shop for some snacks and drinks. In a hurry, I buy a pair of rubber boots in the largest size available. They will allow me to step in muddy roadsides, streams, tall grasses and steep slopes without worrying about getting wet or being bitten by hidden creatures. The city of Lago Agrio, a boom town linked to the oil industry, is not particularly attractive. The unpaved and filthy streets are fringed with supply or foodshops and bars, all competing with maximum-level romantic or dancing music. We find a quieter environment for lunch at the outskirts of town in front of a huge gas station. The place is clean; we are offered beef or chicken.

After an hour on the road mostly through a flat landscape of recently established pastures, some hills are visible ahead. We reach the first slopes and some treeferns appear. Immediately, we all look for our favorite plants. Hans says we should soon see *Kohleria spicata,* the commonest roadside gesneriad in Ecuador. Jeanne shouts "*pare, pare*". Nico stops the bus, and I jump out with my boots on. There is a reddish thing way up the very steep road cut. I find an opening in the vegetation and reach some red leaves growing among dense shrubs. It is a *Dalbergaria.* Nearby I spot a *Besleria* similar to the one we found along the Rio Cuyabeno with orange calyces and hairy leaves. In the meantime, in a little creek next to the bus, Jeanne finds *Monopyle macrocarpa.* At a second stop a few kilometers further up the road, we discover *Drymonia pulchra, Parakohleria abunda* and more material of the previously collected *Besleria* and *Monopyle.* I am impressed by this first roadside collecting and ask Hans if each stop usually brings as many species. I will experience that this is a poor "performance" when, later on, six to ten different gesneriads will be encountered in the same location.

It is raining when we reach Lumbaqui, a small town reduced to a main road and a few lateral streets. The only accommodation available for the next three nights does not seem very attractive. It looks like a movie setting for a western film. It is a two-story building of wood construction with a bar at the entrance, a courtyard and a lower building. Next to it are a large carpentry and a small iron works. Rooms are scattered between the courtyard building and the second level of the main one. Apparently our arrival is not expected and several family members of the "hotel" manager actively start to sweep and clean the place for us. Dinner is served on the spot. Some electric fans are provided. A washing machine is made available to us, and we gladly put in our muddy and damp clothes. We spend a fairly good night, despite heavy rains. The roof in the room I share with Hans leaks in some places, but by moving our beds we manage to stay dry.

On Wednesday, we plan to follow a new road being built north towards La Bonita and the Colombian border. A delegation composed of the hotel manager, Nico, Hans and I go to request a permit from the local authorities which will allow us access to the construction area. Luckily, it is easily obtained. The project is named "interoceânica" way, and some 40 km are open so far with one stretch already paved. Several hundred workers and huge bulldozers are active along the road as this is probably the largest project of its kind presently underway in Ecuador.

We drive as far as possible—a river stops us in the middle of a dense rainforest. My altimeter measures about 700 meters. The roadside is formed by freshly bulldozed muddy soil, and it is very difficult to reach the surrounding forest edge. Taking advantage of a small river, we stop and a team of explorers ventures into the wild stepping on the river rocks. A

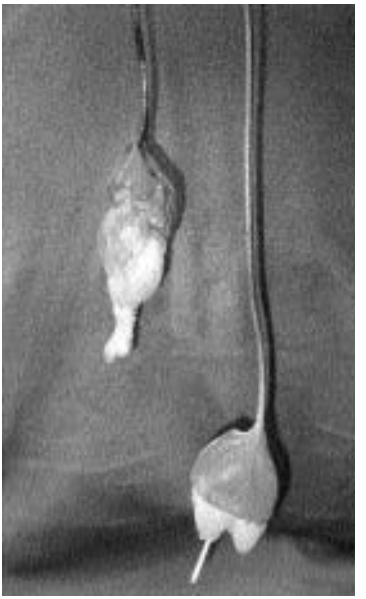
Trichantha tenensis

Dalbergaria with hairy stems and green calyx lobes with maroon tips is caught with a stick from a branch overhanging the running water. Some pieces fall in the river but are luckily fished out downstream by Mike.

It is raining again. Protected by a plastic poncho, I find a way of getting into the forest by climbing the steep river bank. A familiar-looking, large reddish corolla among the leaf litter signals the presence of a gesneriad somewhere. It takes me a good while to locate, at 4-5 meters above ground, a thick epiphytic stem with many calyces in the leaf axils. "This is us!" I start a long struggle to cut a piece. Carol Ann joins me with a telescoping stick provided with a sharp blade at one extremity, but it is too flexible. We try to attach a hook, then a small Swiss army knife blade. No success. I cannot find a sturdy wooden stick on the forest floor as the high humidity rots everything very quickly. Finally I encounter a driftwood stick in the nearby river; it seems long enough and has a fork at the top. By twisting and pulling down the stem of the plant we want to collect, we get it. Hans will identify it as *Dalbergaria inaequilatera.* Around the very same tree, I find a different species of *Paradrymonia* and an unknown terrestrial gesneriad.

Exhausted and soaked from both rain and sweat, we return to the bus. Lunchtime is over, but we quickly swallow a couple of sandwiches. The bus slowly returns to Lumbaqui, stopping at any accessible piece of forest edge. Today's harvest is quite good: Hans will identify *Dalbergaria inaequilatera* (the one which gave me a hard time), *Cremosperma* sp., *Drymonia warszewicsziana, D. hoppii,* and *D. coccinea* (the three species on the same tree!), *D. metamorphophylla, D. pulchra* (on the ground), *Alloplectus tetragonoides, Napeanthus* sp., and *Gasteranthus wendlandianus.*

Gasteranthus wendlandianus



Drymonia pendula

Pentadenia byrsina

On Thursday, after a nourishing breakfast composed of grilled liver and plantain, we head south of Lumbaqui on a recently built road which does not yet appear on our maps. It first climbs a hill, reaching about 800m and then goes downhill towards the Amazonian plain at about 400m. Near the last village, where we have to turn back, is a site for an oil-drilling platform to be built very soon. The forest looks quite well preserved, but a short walk at a stopping site reveals to us that valuable timbers have already been cut. We find a showy *Drymonia affinis* with red bracts, orange calyces spotted with red, and yellow corollas. Today's finds are a likely new Dalbergaria with hirsute stems and leaf midribs, *Dalbergaria hirsutissima, Monopyle macrocarpa,* a new *Napeanthus* and some species of *Besleria, Drymonia,* and *Paradrymonia.* On the way back, the sky clears for a couple of hours, and we can distinguish a part of the Andes even though the summits are hidden by gray clouds.

On Friday we start our ascent of the Andes, following the valleys of Rio Coca and Rio Quijos. The first *Kohleria hirsuta* appears on a roadcut, and not very far from it grows *Parakohleria baezana.* Several stops along the road at an altitude of about 1800 meters are very good spots for gesneriads. The companion plants are treeferns, gunneras, begonias, aroids. Hans does not even have time to get out of the bus. At each good collecting spot, some of us bring back a bag with several species. As soon as the plants are identified, sorted and stored in larger plastic bags, than more material is brought to him from the next spot. I would like to take close-up pictures of all the species, but it is so exciting to wander near the road and along any accessible creeks searching for more and more species, that I give up taking many photos.

Thriving along very humid and dark river banks is a spectacular plant with large leaves, dark red bracts, red calyces, and bright red corollas with yellow lobes recognized by Hans as *Drymonia urceolata.* A not-yet-seen

Parakohleria schimpfii, another *P.* aff. *hispidissima*, more *P. baezana*, *Dalbergaria* sp. nov., *Gasteranthus wendlandianus, Heppiella ulmifolia, Alloplectus tetragonoides, Pentadenia* sp., *Kohleria spicata*, and *Rhynchoglossum azureum* are among the most memorable finds.

Our schedule for tonight is a stop at an establishment booked for us by the travel agency. It is located near the San Rafael Falls, claimed to be the largest in Ecuador. The setting is beautiful, and good-looking bungalows and thoughts of comfortable beds and hot showers make everybody happy. Unfortunately, the travel agency erroneously thought we should have stopped there the day before. No food, sheets or towels have been left for us! There is no other accommodation, nor any restaurant or grocery store around. We have no choice but to stay there. Blankets are provided and luckily enough a good stock of rolls, crackers, peanut butter, carrots, tomatoes, one cucumber and some apples, along with enough drinking water and soft drinks are left from today's lunch. Everyone helps to prepare our dinner in a good mood. We then start a long session of plant processing. Bed time is very welcome.

On Saturday, about half of the group walk down a trail which goes to a breathtaking point of view in front of the top of the cascada. The running muddy waters precipitate abruptly for some 120 meters down a narrow gorge. A huge cloud of mist reascends from the bottom and hides the whole waterfall from time to time. A cross remembering the accidental death of a Canadian tourist makes us very cautious at approaching the rim of the precipice. The forest along the trail is extremely wet and mosses are growing on every available space. We collect several plastic bags of moss to be used over the next days for processing our cuttings. In this environment we find *Drymonia urceolata, Alloplectus tetragonoides*, a *Besleria* with orange flowers and berries, a sterile *Pentadenia* and *Drymonia coccinea.*

Dalbergaria sp. nov. *(katzensteinae* ined.)

Alloplectus sp. nov.

Nico with *Pentadenia strigosa*

Back on the bus, we are on our way to Baeza, passing along the volcano "El Reventador". Nico tells us that eleven years ago, a potent earthquake caused a huge landslide. Part of the road was destroyed and several houses and their inhabitants were buried during this dramatic event. In contrast with the day before, not a single gesneriad is seen in this area, and we reach Baeza at the end of the afternoon with empty collecting bags. The small city lies at around 2000 meters, and llamas are raised in the area. The temperature is pleasant. A clean and simple hotel is easily found; trout is ordered for tonight's dinner.

On Sunday, the road between Baeza and Cosanga is explored as well as a side road going to a private preserved zone called "Reserva Sierra Azul". Along the way, in mostly secondary vegetation, we find a wealth of gesneriads. Species not seen in the previous days are found and of every color—*Dalbergaria* sp. with white flowers, *D.* sp. nov. with yellow flowers (*katzensteinae* ined.), *Alloplectus* sp. nov. with yellow-green pedicels and bright red corollas, the spectacular bat-pollinated *Capanea grandiflora*, *Drymonia* sp. nov. (*cosangana* ined.), *Besleria* sp. nov. with lemon-yellow corollas, and last but not least, a *Trichantha* sp. nov. with yellow flowers found by our driver Nico. From the first day he had been looking for our favorite plants, spotting some colorful blossoms either while driving or exploring the roadsides with us.

Back on the main road south of Cosanga, another new *Trichantha* with pink corollas is discovered by Nico as well as a nice yellow *Pentadenia strigosa*. Climbing some logstairs I discover on one side of the road, I reach some dark woods and encounter a dense population of a tall *Parakohleria.* A little bit higher, some huge red calyces attract my eye. It is a terrestrial plant with large opposite leaves. It is for sure a gesneriad, but I have never seen such a spectacular plant. Hans has already seen the plant on previous trips—it is *Alloplectus* sp. nov. (*prunifer* ined.). I agree totally with the chosen epithet as the calyces are really as large as a red plum and of the same color.

Alloplectus ichthyodermus

On Monday, we continue to climb the Andes in the direction of Quito. Between 2000 and 2500 meters, we find another color form of *Pentadenia strigosa* with bright tangerine corollas. Higher up, Hans asks us to look for a species he collected some years ago along this same road. It is not long before Jeanne spots something on the roadcut. It is a tall plant with thick stems and dozens of calyces clustered in the axils. I use my well-practiced technique of the forked stick, and quickly some pieces fall in the hands of Hans. Yes, it is *Alloplectus ichthyodermus*. Some flowers are open. The corolla is hypocyrtoid, yellow with some red markings on the upper and lower sides. This will be the last gesneriad we see on this side of the Andes. We easily cross the pass at an altitude of 4100 meters. A short stop allows us to see some plants of the high plateaus, the "paramo". Many forms remind me of alpine plants, very compact shapes or rosette shapes. An unusual sight is a small *Puya*, a high altitude bromeliad. The bus then follows the road which plunges toward the Quito valley and within an hour we reach the suburbs.

After a very good night at our well-known Hotel Sebastian, a group of insatiable gesneriad hunters (Jeanne, Carol Ann, Maryjane, Carolyn, Mike, and I) try a little sample of the western slopes of the Andes. The chosen area is reached by taxi in about two hours, following a road winding round the Pichincha volcano, through the town of Nanagalito, stopping at Mindo. This is a pleasant place at the bottom of a circle of mountains with many wooden houses reminiscent of the hippies style in favor in California in the 1970's. The region is a popular weekend get-away for people from Quito. There is an ecological preserve area with primary forest and a waterfall according to information obtained from local people. Unfortunately, we have only two hours to spend. As a good sign, *Pentadenia spathulata* grows on a large bougainvillea in the main square. I ask a boy who offers his services for

guiding us around if he has observed this species in the nearby forests. He answers positively and we follow him, full of hopes. We are not disappointed—not less than five gesneriads are encountered: *Kohleria villosa*, *Dalbergaria picta*, *Alloplectus* sp. nov. (*fimbriatus* ined.), *A. dodsonii*, and another *Alloplectus* sp. Along the road on the way back to Quito, we also collect *Trichantha kucyniakii* and *Alloplectus* sp. nov. (*andinus* ined.).

The very last day of our trip is dedicated to some shopping in the weaving town of Otavalo. I admire the very delicate work of the local indians. The market is a well-known stop for any tourist in Ecuador, but this has not altered the quality of most of the woven or knitted fabrics. Our last night in Quito is spent enjoying a farewelll dinner featuring Ecuadoriian specialties and reminiscing about the trip.

The two weeks are over. My first contact with this wonderfully diverse country has been beyond my expectations. Yes, there is a Gesneriaceae paradise on earth. See you again soon, Ecuador!

Alain with a new *Dalbergaria* species

Exchanging Pollen

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I had a *Smithiantha zebrina* hybrid in full bloom with no other smithiantha pollen available. I found myself on my hands and knees looking behind plant stands through the "dust bunnies" for old, spent blossoms. Finally I asked members of the computer Gesneriphile list to save me from the dust bunnies and send me pollen if they had any. I got pollen from Marcia Belisle, Michael Kartuz, and Tsuh Yang Chen right away. Michael Riley generously offered his pollen-laden dust bunnies. Later I asked for columnea pollen and got quite a variety from Marcia. Barbara Matthews sent me pollen, blossoms & cuttings!

Recently I was asked to share how to collect, preserve, store, and ship pollen. I'm not an expert in this field, but have received and given gesneriad pollen by mail for about two years. The following is PG-rated information concerning the male sex organs of plants. The stamen is the pollen-bearing organ made up of those slender filaments and ending with the anthers or pollen sacs. (Interesting that the word "stamina" evolved from "stamens.") On a violet the pollen sacs are bright yellow, and sometimes you have to cut them open to get the fluffy pollen. You know you have thrips when you open those sacs and out jump little insects. Thrips eat pollen. The anthers are different in shape depending on the genus. Sometimes there's no pollen at all. Kohleria hybrids don't often have pollen. Examine different gesneriads to see the various types. I wait to harvest pollen until the blossom has been open for 24 hours.

The key for success is to keep as little stamen material as possible if you are going to mail or store pollen. If there is too much of the stamen attached to the anthers, the stamen's moisture will cause problems in storing the pollen. It can even cause mold. Therefore, cut off the stamen as close to the pollen sacs as possible. I leave only a tiny bit, just enough to grab with a tweezers.

It was once suggested to me that putting the pollen sacs on dark, slick paper like one would find in a magazine advertisement, would make it easier for the recipient to see. That's what I use when I mail pollen. I also use cigarette paper or the paper from beauty shops that's used for perms. Those papers absorb moisture and you have less molding problems, but seeing the pollen is more difficult. I'll use cigarette paper to reduce mold problems if the pollen will be in the mail over a week.

As for storing the pollen, after wrapping it in paper, I seal it in zip-lock baggies. I don't store it in a refrigerator, but I don't see why you couldn't if it was tightly sealed. I've used pollen successfully as much as 6 months after harvesting. I once spoke to a botanist who specialized in pollen found in ancient material. I expressed my concern about keeping pollen viable. She smiled and said, "It's hard to kill pollen. Just keep it dry." As far as shipping pollen is concerned, put it in a normal envelope and mail it to a greatful recipient, hopefully me!

Gesneriads, The Internet and You

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As I write this, you are (hopefully) preparing to attend the AGGS Convention in Chicago. We have planned an Internet Communications meeting for Wednesday afternoon during Convention. The meeting is open to everyone—I hope you attend. We will be discussing AGGS' presence on the Internet, and most importantly, asking for your suggestions for making the AGGS home on the Internet the best it can be.

So what's new on the AGGS home page? Well, for starters, you can now renew your membership online. New members can join via the online application as well. Simply fill out the form, and the AGGS Membership Chairmen will process your application. No more postage to buy, no lost mail, and just a bit less paper used! You can also purchase the entire 1998 AGGS fashion line via the Web site. Place your order online and your tee-shirts and pins will be on their way to you.

We've added many new gesneriad photographs as well. Many of you have enjoyed seeing the beautiful plants grown by Maryjane Evans at local shows and at conventions. You may have also seen the award-winning gesneriad pictures by John Evans. In March, we added more than 80 new pictures from this team. Be sure to check them out.

Interested in how AGGS operates? Need a procedural question answered? You can read the entire by-laws and standing rules of AGGS online. Visit our web site to see this document. If you want to ask your officers, directors, or committee chairpersons a question, chances are you can do it via email. For the first time in its history, all AGGS officers have email addresses. Also a majority of the board of directors and committee leaders do as well. All the addresses are listed on the AGGS Web page.

The "Gesneriad Message Corner" continues to be one of the most popular stops on the Web site. Some recent posts are reprinted below for those of you without internet access.

Forrest asked:

"I planted my free seeds in a clear plastic container my wife got at the grocery store. They sprouted nicely and seem to be doing well in my window, but it has turned cold and cloudy so I have moved them under the fluorescent light on my desk. It is a single bulb fixture, but they still get some light through the window. The main reason I moved them is that the metal window sill was cold today and I was afraid the soil temperature would get too low. My first question is should I leave the light on 24 hours a day or should I turn it off when I leave work? My second question is how far from the light should I keep them? Currently they are about 5 inches from the bulb. Any advice would be appreciated."

The first reply came from **Bernadette:**

"I'm taking a propagation class and the instructor recently commented that a fluorescent light is good for germination (approximately 1 foot above the flat), but not as good for growing on. He also indicated that 24 hours of f. light is a waste because the seedlings can't use any more than ~12 hours.

After germination, natural light and lower temps (depending on plant) are best to avoid stretch and build strong stems. I don't know what you're growing, but I hope this helps. Good luck."

And **Paul** added:

I don't know why your instructor said what he did about artificial light. I germinate tomato, pepper, marigold, cosmos and other seeds under artificial lights with great success. I keep the lights on for 16-20 hours (plants can't use more than 12 hours of light? I guess summer is a real bummer for them). I keep the flats as close as I can to the lights (4-40 watt cool white tubes) and move the plants farther away from the lights as they get taller. I also grow many types of plants, including gesneriads, under the same conditions with success. As for coolness, that depends on the plant. Unless you are providing very good natural light, some plants will not do as well as under artificial (e.g., geraniums in a south exposure wimp out during the winter, but under lights they are in full bloom)."

Connie Leifeste inquired about varieties of a popular plant:

"Other than the new variety available from Lyons, *Aeschynanthus hildebrandii* "Topaz", are there "varieties" of the red flowering type that exhibit different flower color combinations, such as red with yellow throat, or flower sizes?"

John Boggan responded:

"A new collection of *A. hildebrandii* with darker red flowers from Thailand has been distributed under the name *Aeschynanthus* "mannii". Seeds have been offered under that name in the AGGS Seed Fund."

Mildred Rosam had a question about gesneriad name changes (don't we all?):

"Have the species of the genus *Lietzia* been transferred to *Sinningia*? If so, I must have missed this info when published. Is it possible to cross them with *Sinningia*?"

Again, **John Boggan** provided the needed information:

"Only one species of *Lietzia, L. brasiliensis,* was ever published. This species has recently been transferred to *Sinningia* as *S. brasiliensis.* There are several collections of this species in cultivation, but *S. brasiliensis* is the only valid name. Plants distributed with the unpublished name "*Lietzia glandulosa*" should also be labeled as *Sinningia brasiliensis.*

"*S. brasiliensis* will cross with several other species of *Sinningia,* all rather tall species: *S. aggregata, S. incarnata, S. warmingii,* etc. These hybrids are fertile but nobody has done much work with them."

Proving the popularity of *Aeschynanthus,* this query by **Diane** brought many responses:

"I bought a (4" pot) lipstick plant last summer. Can someone tell me how long before it blooms? And do I have to trim it back?"

Susan Grose responded first:

"Lipstick plants bloom on the new growth. So after you pinch to achieve fullness, you should hold off until you get bloom or you may continue to pinch off the growth that is about to produce the bloom."

Grace provided many details:

"*Aeschynanthus* species and cultivars are sometimes called lipstick plants due to the flowers' resemblance to a lipstick. You may or may not have one of these because sometimes a good number of different plants have the same common names. You should click on the great picture gallery at this site to see if your plant looks like the ones shown. If so, you have a plant that is epiphytic in nature that comes in all sizes from small to very large at least for a house plant. I have cultivars of this plant in 4" pots that bloomed this past fall. Blooming times may vary with different cultivars, and flowers are usually shades of red to yellow with sometimes other colors like green and orange. The only reason to trim them (and it's sometimes a good one) is to keep the more exhuberant ones in bounds or to propagate new plants; they start easily from cuttings. Keeping them outside in the summer in a semi-protected spot (mine hang on low tree limbs) seems to encourage more blooms; I guess because they get more light."

Beth Bellows added her own question:

"I have both a lipstick plant and several goldfish plants that I have somehow managed not to kill. Any recommendations for fertilizer or soil. They all need to be repotted soon."

Susan Grose replied with her recommendations:

"These plants, as mentioned by Diane, are epiphytic. They grow in the crotches of trees in the wild in very loose, "humusy", well-drained soil; they should not be over-potted. Fertilize with very dilute fertilizer but not necessarily at every watering."

Connie Leifeste had a question about an unusual gesneriad:

"Is anyone growing *Monopyle flava*? I would be interested in hearing about your growing experiences. Mine looks fine, but does not seem to be growing at a good rate compared to other tropicals."

John Boggan replied:

"I have grown *Monopyle flava*, and it's a tricky one. It requires high humidity and even moisture. It is very sensitive to drying out, but I have also had it rot from being too wet! Otherwise, it requires pretty standard culture: bright indirect light (fluorescent lights are good except it generally gets too tall) and a loose, well-drained soil. Surprisingly enough, it propagates very quickly and easily from leaf cuttings. The pretty yellow flowers make it worth the challenge and I'm glad to hear others are still growing it."

Jeff Wood was concerned about some possible pests:

"While checking through my plants, I noticed that the soil of some of my plants contains little creamy white bugs, maybe 1/8 of an inch long. They seem to reside in the top layer of the soil, and can jump when touched, not wriggle away like a worm. There seems to be none on the plants, nor do they seem to have an adverse effect on the plants foliage or flowers. Since I live in the North, garden centers and nurseries are not open this time of the year. Does anyone out there have any idea what they may be, and any way of eradicating them? I thank you all in advance."

Grace offered this advice:

"Sounds as if you have springtails. They usually show up when soil mix is not sterile. I have found a solution of 4 teaspoons laundry Clorox to a gallon of water applied liberally to soil works well. Don't apply to foliage as

they live only in soil and do not seem to do much harm to the plant anyway but who wants bugs that aren't needed?"

It was just the advice **Jeff** needed:

"Thank you Grace. It worked well and all the little pests are gone."

The problem solved, **Jeff** was ready to try his hand at seeds:

"Can anyone out there tell me how long seeds from gesneriads can be kept if under ideal conditions? Or can I be directed to an URL with such information?"

Al Wojcik provided one response:

"Viability of gesneriad seed is rather variable. Kept cool and dry, seeds have been known to survive decades. There is no specific information about germination times for gesneriad seed, but if you want to know about specific genera, this is the place to ask."

Suzie Larouche provide more information:

"It seems viability varies from species to species. Last year, I planted leftover seeds obtained from the Seed Fund in 1991 and 1992. Germination rate was excellent for *Sinningia, Achimenes, Episcia* and several other genera. Seeds had not been kept in optimal conditions and had weathered all sorts of crazy extremes short of a Québec winter spent outdoors. I still have some of the seeds left and I intend to plant them a couple of years from now just to see what comes up."

Mildred Rosam asked:

"A long time ago, I had a listing of the chromosome counts for the different gesneriad genera. After moving twice, I can't find it now. Where can I find a listing (preferably on the Internet)? Any help will be appreciated."

Mike Lovell provided an answer:

"Try this URL for the Swedish Gesneriad Society: http://www.canit.se/~mia.b/ges/egestext.html. Hope this is what you are looking for!"

Carl Walker, Jr. added some interesting findings from his experience:

"The chromosome count is not an absolute. Was surprised when I found a hybrid between two with slight difference in chromosome count and when I inquired, I was told there was slight variability in chromosome count among pollen so it was possible to get a hybrid with slight difference in chromosome count."

domgood had questions about Seed Fund seeds:

"I have grown a few plants from the AGGS mixed seed packet that I can't identify. The plants are about 4 months old.

"1) Tuberous, upright, dark green leaves, about 2" long by 1" wide, velvety. Not *S. cardinalis.*

"2) Tuberous, upright, very dark green leaves with pronounced venation and rosy pink reverse. Looks like a very large achimines.

"3) Streptocarpus. Started as one giant leaf, now obviously caulescent with large leaves and new growths at the nodes. Medium green. Basal stem about 3/8" at this point.

"4) Tuberous. Rosette with pointed leaves 3" by 1". Dark green, glossy leaves with a few hairs. Suckers freely from tuber.

"Can anyone tell me about the *Sinningia speciosa* 'Chiltern Hybrids'? I got them from the AGGS Seed Fund. They don't look like any speciosa cultivars that I have grown.

"I've had great success in germinating about 50 packets of AGGS seeds, except for *Aeschynanthus* and *Petrocosmea.* Any advice? Having not grown gesneriads for about 20 years, I am pleased to see that your society is even more alive and well than it was then! Keep up the good work."

Seed Fund Chair **Maryjane Evans** provide these clues:

"It's difficult to identify plants as seedlings. Many characteristics are not evident until the plant matures. Your tuberous plants are all sinningias. The one you tentatively identify as streptocarpus may be *Chirita lavandulacea.* This is included in the Mixed Gesneriads packet.

"The listing for the Chiltern seed is "*Sinningia speciosa* (Chiltern Seed Co.)", not Chiltern hybrids. This seed is from species plants of *S. speciosa* which have been selfed."

As you can see, the topics discussed are wide ranging. But they all have one thing in common, they all relate to our favorite plants. Questions and answers are provided by new growers and experts alike. Be sure to visit the "Gesneriad Message Corner" frequently.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Chicago. If you can't make it to Convention and have suggestions or comments about AGGS on the Internet, feel free to write me at <webmaster@aggs.org>. The address for the AGGS Home page is <http://www.aggs.org>.

A Tale of Two Sinningias

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I am now reaping the benefits of having grown some species sinningias outside on my patio during the summer of 1997.

I have had *Sinningia sellovii* for probably 10 years or more. I grew it under my fluorescent lights (as close to the bulbs as possible) for years while it grew a long neck. The rosette at the end of that neck was compact. I don't fertilize my plants very much, so it was probably sacrificing lower leaves in order to put out new growth. The plant never bloomed and never went dormant. I never forced dormancy as I was afraid its tuber might never resprout, and I might lose it altogether. I kept hoping it would bloom some day. Then someone told me it needed really strong light to bloom, like that which one would get from growing outside in the direct sun.

Sinningia sellovii

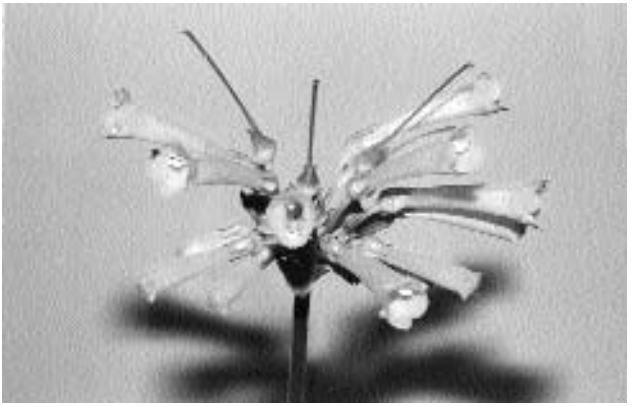
Two summers ago (1996) I put *Sinningia sellovii* on my patio which gets 3-4 hours of full, hot Kansas sun per day in the summertime and good, bright, hot Kansas shade the rest of the day in the summer. Nothing happened; except despite my careful efforts to acclimate it slowly to outside conditions, the plant divested itself of all its foliage which it had produced indoors. The tuber sprouted new foliage outside, but produced no blooms. Disappointed, I brought the plant back inside for the winter. The plant continued to grow under my lights in the basement producing foliage but no blooms.

The summer of 1997 I tried again. *Sinningia sellovii* did not go outside until after the AGGS Convention the first week in July. I more carefully acclimated it to outside conditions this time. Keeping it in a more sheltered and shady location longer before placing it in full sun and making sure it did not dry out in the hot Kansas sun. It remained outdoors on my patio until the last week in October when there was threat of a hard freeze. The foliage, several crowns by this time, was a medium deep green, but there was no sign of flower buds. When I brought the plant back inside, I put it as close as possible to the tubes of my 4-foot 2-tube fixture in my basement. After about three to four weeks I noticed some flower buds at the end of the crowns! I was so excited!

Now this plant, *Sinningia sellovii,* sent up two 8-16 inch bloom spikes (one leaned over—no attempt to straighten it helped) and I had to lower the plant to prevent it from bumping into the tubes of the fluorescent fixture. After ten years this plant finally bloomed, possibly stimulated by being outside for almost four months—early July to the end of October! The blossom spikes continued to flower for well over six to eight weeks. As of this writing (April 1998) one of the smaller side crowns has just put out a smaller blossom spike with about ten blooms on it!

Sinningia insularis I started from seed a little over two years ago, November of 1995. I put a pot of it with multiple crowns outdoors for the summer of 1997 with *S. sellovii.* It had the same exposure to sun, rain, wind and heat as *Sinningia sellovii.* No flower buds developed by the end of October when I brought it indoors after the threat of a hard freeze. It, too, showed evidence of flower buds in its leaf axils and at the tips of the crowns after about three weeks inside under my fluorescent lights! After about eight weeks inside, the blossoms opened, and it bloomed like crazy with small firecracker orange blossoms held above the whorls of leaves! This plant has

Sinningia insularis



Sinningia insularis (photo by Mauro Peixoto)

continued to bloom developing flowers in the upper leaf axils as well at the tip of the crowns. It had a longer overall continuous bloom period than *Sinningia sellovii*. I think the last blossom faded a few days ago in early April 1998.

The foliage is still going strong on both plants, and I am planning to put both plants back outside in a few weeks (late April), slowly acclimating them and watching the weather for cold snaps. By putting the plants outside earlier in the season, I am hoping the longer outdoor growing season will encourage them to bloom while they are still outdoors. I'll let you know if I am successful. Both plants tolerated temperatures into the low to mid 30's after being acclimated to fall weather fluctuations. I'm not sure that would be true during the spring acclimation. The outside temperatures for these plants ranged from at least the high 90's Fahrenheit in mid-summer to low 30's Fahrenheit in late October.

To all of you who have a place to grow some species and other large sinningias outside, try starting some from seed, and you may have plants ready for outdoor culture by next summer, and you may be able to flower those which are almost impossible to bloom under fluorescent lights. Or, if you have duplicates of some species you are already growing, try acclimating one of them to outdoor growing, and see if you can get one to bloom by the end of the summer or after you bring it inside after the threat of frost. You may be rewarded with some winter blooms in your fluorescent light garden.

A Tall Handsome Brazilian…

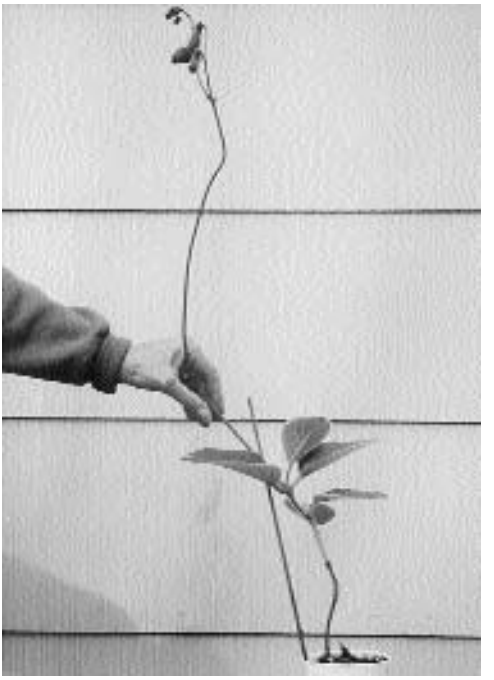
Maryjane Evans <pollin8r@aol.com>
194 Morris Turnpike, Randolph, NJ 07969

Is how I would describe *Sinningia aghensis*. This rare and interesting species is now available as seed for adventurous growers.

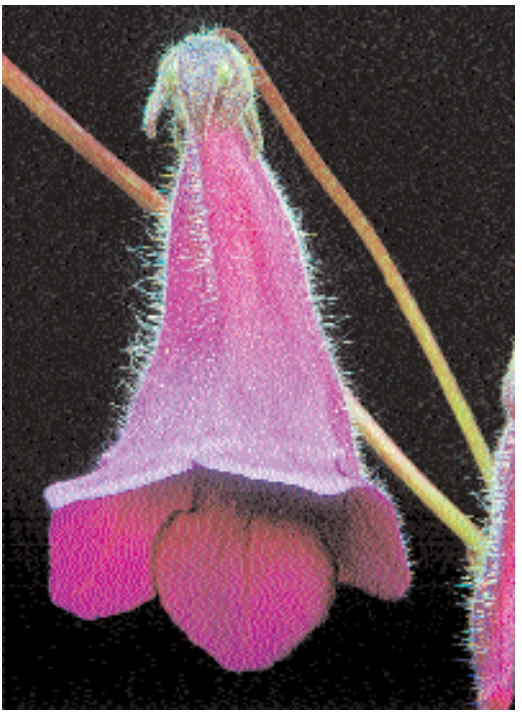
This species has some very interesting features: it belongs to Section *Sinningia* based on the floral morphology, but its growth habit, along with a long erect peduncle bearing the inflorescence, show definite similarity with species from the former *Rechsteineria* genus.

This species is endemic to the southern coast of the state of Espirito Santo, Brazil. It is known from only three sites within 120km (approximately 72 miles) of each other. It is found growing in crevices on granitic rocks along with cacti and agaves.

I received a tuber of *Sinningia aghensis* from the Gesneriad Research Foundation in 1995. It first flowered in the spring of 1996. The plant produced three pairs of leaves and grew about one foot tall. The flowering shoot grew from a leaf axil of the uppermost pair of leaves. The flowering stem was about two feet tall, giving the plant an overall height of about three feet.



Sinningia aghensis — tall



Sinningia aghensis — handsome

Buds appeared in early April, and I was afraid that I would miss the flowers when I went to Ecuador for two weeks in the latter part of April. When I returned home, however, the buds had advanced very little and the flower stem continued to lengthen. I staked the tall flower stem to prevent damage to the buds. And I waited. The buds continued to enlarge very slowly and at last, near the end of May, the first flowers opened. And they were worth the wait. The flowers were described by Alain Chautems (*Candollea* 46, 1991) as 3.5 cm long, purplish pink, but the flowers on my plant were 7 cm long (almost three inches), and the flower color appeared to be deep purple with reddish tones. The flowers made an eye-catching display when several were open at once. The tall inflorescence and the deep purple flowers looked like a slipper-sinningia-on-a-stick.

I pollinated the flowers to set seed and was rewarded with five large capsules which matured in about two months. That's the good news. On the down side, I haven't been able to get the plants to grow past the seedling stage. The germination rate is 50-70% and germination occurs in 14-21 days. After transplant, the seedlings "sit" for several weeks and then slowly decline and die. I've tried several sowings and potting mixes with no success. I hope others will have better results. Don't you want to have a tall handsome Brazilian in your home?

Chirita zeylanica

New Slide Program — The Genus *Chirita*

"You've Come a Long Way!" was Maryjane Evans' comment about chiritas in her Seed Fund column — and so they have. In 1970 when Frances Batcheller wrote her "Gesneriads One by One" article on the genus *Chirita*, there were about 90 species known and only 8 species in cultivation in the US. Now there are about 150 species known and over 30 species and hybrids in cultivation around the world. This new AGGS Slide Program features the old familiar chiritas as well as many of the new species recently introduced which you've been reading about. Also included are some of the first hybrids in the genus *Chirita.*

This new program will be available for viewing starting in July. To request the new slide program with typed commentary, send a check payable to AGGS for $20 to Marlene Beam, 1736 S. Oakland St., Aurora, CO 80012. Specify the date when the program will be shown and give as much lead time as possible. Your request will be acknowledged, and the program will arrive at least one week in advance of your date. You must return the program via Priority Mail insured for $100 within five days after your show date.

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