



VOLUME 13, NUMBER 9

NEWSLETTER

September 2019

# **NO MEETING SEPTEMBER 29**

Tour of the Begonia Species Bank at  
the Fort Worth Botanical Garden  
Sept. 18

Speaker at Fort Worth Botanic Garden  
Sept 12 6 P.M.

October 4, 5, 6, and  
October 10, 11, 12

**Zilker Botanical Garden closed  
for Austin City Limits**

Next Meeting:  
October 27

Greene Room in  
Zilker Botanical Garden  
2 P.M. – 4 P.M.



## **WISNU ARDI TO VISIT FORT WORTH AFTER THE ABS CONVENTION IN SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA**

The 2019 American Begonia Society Convention September 3-8 will have many well-known speakers. One of them is Wisnu Ardi, a horticulturist and plant systematist from Bogor Botanical Garden in Bogor, Indonesia. He revealed in "A Decade of Begonia Research and Conservation in Indonesia" his insights about research, expeditions, and discoveries in the world of Begoniaceae.

After falling in love with a red wax begonia (*B. cucullate*), he has negotiated thick jungles, rivers without bridges, and volcanic regions to discover new species in Moluccas Islands and Sulawesi, where he worked with Daniel Thomas. He has written a guidebook telling about the native begonia species.

According to Debbie Garrett, Wisnu Ardi will show his slides in the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center at 6 P.M. on September 12. His slide show program will be "A Decade of Begonia Research and Conservation in Indonesia" and "Gate Keepers for the Conservation of Indonesian Begonias."



## **AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA BRANCH TO TOUR FORT WORTH BOTANIC GARDEN SPECIES BANK SEPTEMBER 18**

Please contact Valerie Morris or  
President Vickey Cole as soon as  
possible if you plan to join the tour  
group. Valerie will leave Capitol Plaza  
at 7:30 A.M. to reach the Garden  
Center by noon.

## Begonia 'Morocco'



This Rhizomatous beauty was developed by Michael Kartuz in 1998. It can be grown by using cuttings or stem division. This plant needs excellent drainage.



### REMINDER:

The Begonia Species Bank on September 18 will have some plants for sale at \$5 each so bring some cash with you for the tour at Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

## HORTICULTURE

With many days having a heat index of 108-110 degrees that caused even trees to wilt to conserve moisture, the begonias that continued to grow well in the shaded area of the carport included the following:

- B. richmondensis*
- B. 'Lana'
- B. 'Maurice Amy'
- B. 'Bobbie Price'
- B. 'Delight'
- B. 'Oteka'
- B. 'Plum Swirl'
- B. 'Torch'
- B. 'Russian Sabers'
- B. 'Dream Lover'

Some of the plants had to be watered twice a day. For humidity the wall behind the begonias and the concrete floor below the potted plants were watered with the garden hose. Misting the begonias in the morning also helped. Never were the plants overwatered. All of this helped the plants to grow outdoors.

The terrarium inside the home also had to have some attention because some of them got too dry.



## B. 'Kit Jeans Mounger' 1995

By Bob Koehler (1948-2015)

**Bob Koehler** had a career in electronics, pest control, curator of University of South Florida Botanic Gardens, and hybridizer. He was a good friend of Kit Jeans Mounger, who promoted his work in 1995 in *The Begonian*. In "Bob's Beanstalk" Bob described his most popular crosses, B. 'Kit Jeans Mounger' (B. *thiemei* X B. 'Cowardly Lion.') This combination had Central Florida performance since it was tolerant of heat and cold. Bob was also interested in color selection and leaf types of rhizomatous begonias and B. 'Cowardly Lion' provided the results.

The leaves of B. 'Kit Jeans Mounger' range from chartreuse to yellow to orange apricot and pink and rose. The flowers are white with shading of pale pink with sparse red hairs on the backs of tepals.

To grow this begonia water regularly, but do not overwater.

**Kit Jeans Mounger** lived in New Johnsonville, Tennessee before she moved to St. Petersburg, Florida and worked as Curator of Begonia Collections at Marie Selby Botanic Gardens.

Kit did most of her hybridizing in Tennessee, where she established the Cheekwood Branch of the American Begonia Society. She wrote articles for *The Begonian* from 1978 to 2004. She also wrote a column about the ABS Round Robins for the Southwest Region's "Begonia Leaflet."

In addition to writing and owning a nursery for selling her hybrids, she was an artist of amazing skill. Nelda Moore acquired one of her prints of a pen and ink drawing of B. 'Kathlynn Calvert' 1989 signed by Kit and M. Kathlynn Calvert.



Now in Afton, Tennessee, Kit raises and sells Maine Coon cats.



Kit received the Eva Kenworthy Grey Award, the Alfred D. Robinson Medal of Honor to B. 'Cowardly Lion,' and the Kit Jeans Trophy.



Begonia 'Kit Jeans Mounger' by Koehler

Her hybrids include Rex 1979 B. 'Kits Unicorn,' 1977 B. 'Carolina Moon,' 1979 B. 'Maxine Wilson,' 1981 B. 'Excalibur Guinevere,' Rhizomatous B. 'Green Jeans,' 'High Jeans,' 'Holey Jeans,' 'Rhinestone Jeans,' 1979; B. 'Dancing Fred,' 1984; B. 'Cowardly Lion,' 1999; Shrub-like B. 'Velvet Jeans' ; Cane-Stem B. 'Robin's Red' 1995, B. 'Pink Minx,' 2002; Thick Stem B. 'Nancy Cummins,' 1984; Tuberous B. 'Sweet Susanne,' and many more including 'Kit Kat,' 'Dirty Jeans,' 'Honey Child,' 'Candyman.'

From Rick Schoellhorn's *Florida Hybridizers*

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Photograph of *B. partita*  
Show Plant by Bobbie Price



Some begonias hybridized by Kit Jeans Mounger:



B. 'Dancing Fred'



B. 'Excaliber-Guinevere'



B. 'Rhinestone Jeans'



B. 'Kit Kat'

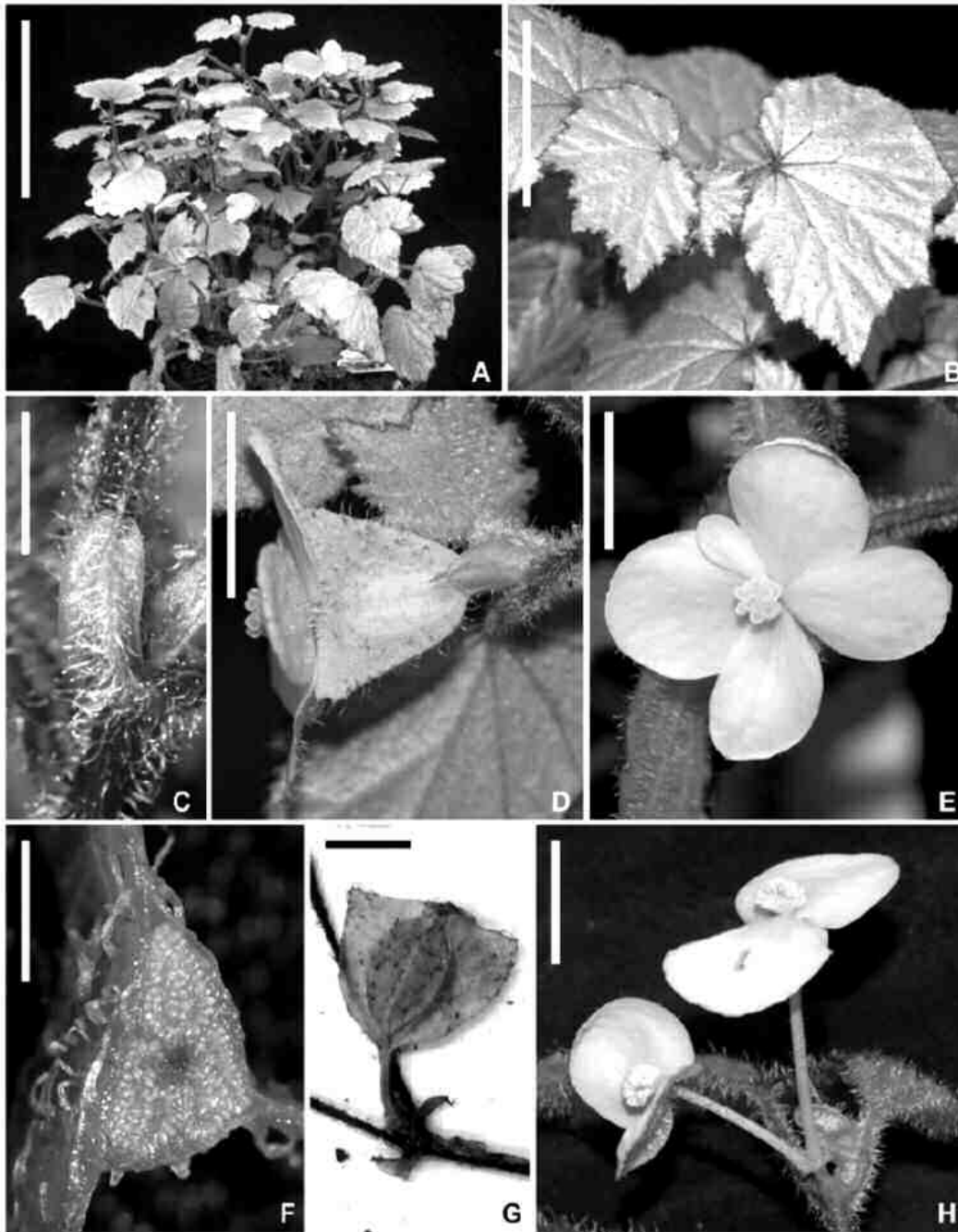


FIG. 1. *Begonia didyma* D.C.Thomas & Ardi. A, habit (scale bar = 15 cm); B, leaves (scale bar = 3 cm); C, stipule (scale bar = 6 mm); D, female flower, side view (scale bar = 12 mm); E, female flower, front view (scale bar = 10 mm); F, ovary, cross-section, three-locular with axile, bilamellate placentae (scale bar = 2 mm); G, fruit (scale bar = 5 mm); H, male inflorescence (scale bar = 10 mm). A–F, H: D.C. Thomas & W.H. Ardi 08-77; G: Mogeia et al. 6596.

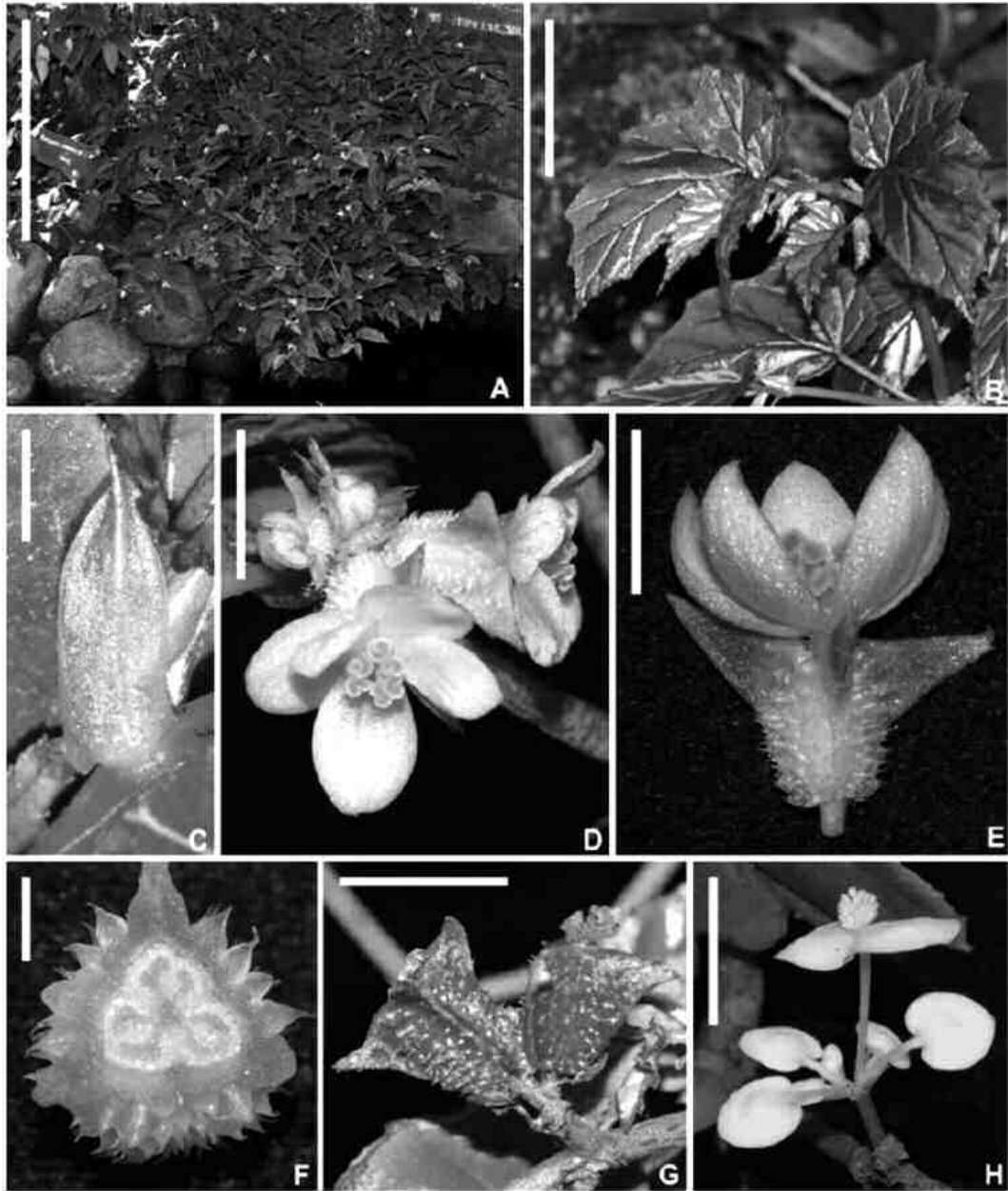


FIG. 2. *Begonia guttapila* D.C.Thomas & Ardi. A, habit (scale bar = 50 cm); B, leaves (scale bar = 5 cm); C, stipule (scale bar = 5 mm); D, female inflorescence (scale bar = 12 mm); E, female flower, side view (scale bar = 8 mm); F, ovary, cross-section, three-locular with axile, bilamellate placentae (scale bar = 2 mm); G, fruits (scale bar = 14 mm); H, male inflorescence (scale bar = 12 mm). A–H: D.C. Thomas & W.H. Ardi 08-81.