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GREEN SHEET

Southern California Horticultural Society

OCTOBER 2006 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by Susan C. Eubank

Thank you to all who brought plants to the October 2006 meeting! Everyone is encouraged to bring in plants to share with the group. Remember that you do get one free “exhibitor’s ticket” for the plant raffle if you bring in one or more plants for discussion at the forum table!

In addition to the plants discussed below, the following plants, described (or listed) in the Society’s **Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens** (2000), were shown: *Amaryllis belladonna* & hybrids, *Brighamia insignis*, *Chorisia speciosa*, *Cissus tuberosa*, *Crotalaria agatiflora*, *Epidendrum* sp., *Epilobium canum* ssp. *latifolium*, *Gladiolus callianthus*, *Leonotis leonurus*, *Lycoris aurea*, *Macleania insignis*, *Odontonema tubaeforme*, *Otacanthus caeruleus*, and *Passiflora racemosa*.

Information in this compilation was gleaned and condensed from the Plant Forum exhibit cards, numerous sources at the Arboretum Library at the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden and various internet sites.

Anigozanthus fuliginosa (Haemodoraceae) (formally *Macropidia fuliginosa*) Black Kangaroo Paw

Exhibited by Eileen Fiumara

This beautiful black and lime-green flowered plant with blue-green foliage is a native to the heath and mallee plant communities of south-west Western Australia. The strap-leaved monocot grows to 2 feet tall with flowers rising above the leaves from mid-winter to spring. Because of its spectacular flowers it is popular in the cut flower industry. It is reproduced by tissue culture, due to the difficulty of seed germination, because of the role of fire in producing both extensive flowering and germination. It would seem well adapted to our climate, because of its need for heat, good drainage and lack of overhead water during its growth period. The plants are long-lived.

Carex flagellifera (Cyperaceae)

Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani

This New Zealand sedge has very fine foliage. It is abundant in its native habitat growing from sea level to 3000 ft. The 1/16 inch wide leaves can grow up to 2 feet high, but elongate to 6 feet long. The flowers emerge on the stems as they lie on the ground. The foliage can range from red brown to coppery brown or brown. It also does best with moist, well-drained soil. Debra grows hers in coastal sun to part shade.

Carex testacea (Cyperaceae)

Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani

This is another very fine-textured New Zealand sedge and when in bloom during the summer the stalks elongate to 4 to 6 feet long and turn from iridescent olive green to copper in color. It also is abundant in New Zealand growing from sea-level to 3500 feet. In Tasmania it was used as bank stabilization vegetation and has now been declared a noxious weed there. Debra also grows this one in full sun to part shade along the coast and she gives it moderate water. It was purchased from the University of California, Berkeley, Botanical Garden. Literature suggests that it is short-lived in hot climates and prefers to not dry out.

Impatiens arguta (Balsaminaceae)

Exhibited by Dick Kohlschrieber

This lilac-blue impatiens is native to Nepal. It grows 3 to 4 feet tall with many branches. The flowers are 2 inch tubes with a flare at the end. It blooms through the summer into the fall. At South Coast Botanic Garden it is growing in partial shade and receives regular water.

Nematostylis anthophylla (Rubiaceae)

Exhibited by Bart O'Brien from a plant at the Huntington Botanical Gardens

This plant is from central Madagascar growing in *Coleochloa setifera* (Cyperaceae) tussocks. It is a somewhat succulent, 2 to 2 ½ foot shrub. The roots store water. The flowers are arranged in an umbel with yellow and red parts that are fragrant.

Salvia darcyi (Labiatae)

Exhibited by Tim Evans

This 4 foot tall by 7 foot wide shrubby salvia is native in a very limited area (Galeana, Mexico) in the eastern Sierra Madre Oriental at 9000 feet in altitude. It was collected by YuccaDo Nursery and finally described in 1994. In its native habitat it grows in rich loam among limestone rock in a stream bed. The coral-red flowers appear on stalks that are usually ½ foot to one foot long, but can reach as tall as 2 feet long. The leaves are heart-shaped, light green and aromatic. It does best in full sun and grows large through its root stolons.

Salvia reptans 'Blue Willow' (Labiatae)

Exhibited by Laura Bauer

This blue salvia is native from the Trans-Pecos (West) Texas through Mexico to Guatemala. In its native habitat it usually grows in dry washes or streambeds. The straight species was introduced into cultivation in the 1800s. It's a sprawling plant that can reach 3 feet tall with abundant stems. It blooms summer into autumn and can be cut back to prevent a woody base.

Scadoxus nutans (Amaryllidaceae)

Exhibited by the Huntington Botanical Gardens

This plant was thought to have been extinct in the wild; southwestern Ethiopia and tropical mountain Africa. It is a small, 1 foot perennial that grows from a rhizome. The flowers emerge from the base of the leaves, which are covered with red spots. The flowers are salmon and nod down. The seeds are bright orange. It is grown as a tough houseplant, but it will also grow outdoors in Southern California using the culture as for outdoor cymbidiums. It will go dormant, but can be watered year round to have the plant bloom more than once a year.

Scaphosepalum swertifolium (Orchidaceae)

Exhibited by the Huntington Botanical Gardens

This orchid is a member of the Pleurothallid group of orchids. It is native to Columbia. The over 40 species in the genus are generally epiphytic and grow in the cloud forests. The flower is distinctive in that it looks like a mustache formed by the lateral sepals with tails. The dorsal sepal has a tail as well. It blooms sequentially and some species can bloom up to a year. At the Huntington it is grown in a humid, cool greenhouse. It was purchased from Andy's Orchids.

Stenoglottis fimbriata (Orchidaceae)

Exhibited by the Huntington Botanical Gardens

This orchid is native to the forests and bush in South Africa growing from the coast up to 5400 feet. It is both terrestrial and epiphytic growing in humus or moss on rocks, rock crevices, tree trunks or fallen logs. The flowers, of which there can be as many as 50 on a raceme, are mauve with dark markings. The leaves also have dark markings. In its native habitat the rain falls in the summer, so keeping it dryish in the winter in Southern California can be a challenge. It is grown in a greenhouse at the Huntington.