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## GREEN SHEET

# Southern California Horticultural Society

**JANUARY 2008 PLANT FORUM NOTES**

*Compiled by Susan C. Eubank*

Thank you to all who brought plants to the January 2008 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 in January: *Helleborus lividus* and *Plectranthus comosus*.

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained: a basket containing various Bromeliaceae, a *Calathea* sp., an *Echeveria* sp., and an unnamed pink *Salvia leucantha* seedling.

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. For specific sources of information on the plants, please contact me at the Arboretum Library at 626-821-3213.

*Abutilon pictum* ‘Aureo-maculatum’  
(Malvaceae) – Exhibited by Kathleen Brown  
Kathleen’s small tree is 8-10 feet high, has grown through her shade cloth and is the most vigorous abutilon she owns. The species is native to Brazil and has naturalized in Central America and other parts of South America.

The cultivar leaves are hairy, with a rich green color, and heavily mixed with yellow splatters. The flowers are coral red with dark veins. (Pictured at right.)



*Echeveria coccinea* (Crassulaceae) – Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani and Wendy Gault

This is the first *Echeveria* to be named (although it was originally put in the genus *Cotyledon*). It was named from a specimen in the Madrid Botanical Garden in 1793. The plant was probably collected in Mexico in 1791. In its native habitat it grows on cliffs and rocky slopes at 3900 to 8000 foot elevation. It is widespread from Hidalgo to Chiapas. The stems can spread to 6 feet or more, the leaves can be beautifully velvety and the showy crimson flower stalk can reach over 3 feet tall. (Pictured at left.)

*Gynura aurantiaca* ‘Purple Passion’ (Compositae) – Exhibited by Robert Hemedes  
This cultivar has trailing stems that can twine together. Robert purchased his plant at Target. He grows it both inside and outside. The one inside is more purple because he has it in full sun. The species has escaped in southern Florida where most of the commercial production of the plant is done. (Pictured at right.)



*Kalanchoe synsepala* (Crassulaceae) – Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani and Wendy Gault  
This Madagascar native is the only kind of kalanchoe that reproduces from stolons. Native populations consist of the decussate rosettes in various stages of maturity with a tangle of stolons reaching out from each rosette. In its native habitat it is common and grows on quartzite, granite or sandstone in the central mountains of Madagascar. Werner Rauh in **Succulent and Xerophytic Plants of Madagascar** (Strawberry Press, 1995) shows an illustration of *K. s.* ‘Dissecta’ [sic] which has more deeply incised leaves. Rauh refers to it in his text as a variety. The **Crassulaceae** volume of the **Illustrated Handbook of Succulent Plants** (Springer, 2005) does not consider *K. s.* ‘Dissecta’ a valid name.



*Syringa* ‘Snowy’ (Oleaceae) – Exhibited by John Schoustra  
This newly introduced lilac is a hybrid between *Syringa vulgaris* ‘Lavender Lady’ and probably an eastern *S. vulgaris* cultivar. It was developed by a former propagator for the ‘old’ Armstrong Nurseries. The plant used for cuttings is in Upland against the foothills and has been there for 15 to 20 years. The white flowers are very fragrant. This plant has also been grown in Long Beach and blooms there as well. In contrast to *S. v.* ‘Lavender Lady’, the size of the plant is larger, the leaves are larger and the panicles are tighter. (Pictured at left.)

– Photographs by Paul Martin