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GREEN SHEET

Southern California Horticultural Society

JULY 2008 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by Susan C. Eubank

Thank you to all who brought plants to the July 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 Opportunity Drawing if you bring in one or more plants for discussion at the Plant 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) or previously written up for a Green Sheet, were shown in July: *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*, *Echeveria harmsii*, *Hesperaloe parviflora*, *Hibiscus syriacus*, *Pitcairnia xanthocalyx*, *Strobilanthes dyeranus*, *Tecoma stans* and *Tillandsia reichenbachii*.

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained: a crested *Aeonium* sp., a *Durante* sp., an *Echeveria* sp., a *Kalanchoe* sp. and a possible *Peperomia* sp.

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.

Aechmea caudata (Bromeliaceae) – Exhibited by Jim Jaeger

Jim says this large bromeliad is easy to grow outside. According to Robert Lee Riffle in his book **Tropical Look** (Timber Press, 1998), it is hardy in zones 10 and 11. He also states that its leaves will grow up to 3 feet long in partial or full sun with regular water.

Aloe elgonica (Liliaceae) – Exhibited by Philip Giroux

This high elevation Kenyan aloe grows on the slopes of Mt. Elgon (the largest caldera in the world rising to almost 14,000 feet) at the 6500 to 7800 foot level. Philip says it takes regular water. Its native habitat gets precipitation of about 50 inches. It is distinctive among the shrub aloes because of its very large marginal teeth. The rosette has leaves in an upright position and a group of plants can be as large as 20 feet across. It blooms May through July for Philip.
(Pictured at right.)





Begonia boliviensis (Begoniaceae)

– Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani

This Andean native grows at an altitude of 4200 to 7500 feet in Peru, Argentina and Bolivia.

According to Mark C. Tebbitt in **Begonias**, (Timber Press, 2005), it is a parent of many of the tuberous hybrids. Its pendant, bright red-orange flowers are hummingbird pollinated. Because it grows at such high elevation, it does best in cool climates and needs good drainage. Debra keeps hers in a pot, because the one she put in the ground rotted while dormant.

(Pictured at left.)

Carex trifida ‘Rekohu Sunrise’ (Cyperaceae)

– Exhibited by John Schoustra

This is an introduction of PlantHaven, Inc., a company that manages propagation licenses in the United States. The variegated carex is named for the native name of the Chatham Island where it was discovered. The species is found in Chile, the Falkland Islands and many small islands around the New Zealand North and South Islands. It is the largest New Zealand carex.

(Pictured at right.)



Cobaea scandens (Polemoniaceae) Cup and Saucer Vine – Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani

This vine has a range from central Mexico south to Bolivia. It is grown readily from seed throughout the United States as an annual in cool climates and as a perennial in the warmest zones. It will grow from seed to flower in one year with as much as 25 feet of growth. The cup and saucer are the calyx and corolla of the inflorescence. Debra, who lives near the coast, gives hers regular to low water in part to full sun.

(Pictured at left.)

Echeveria pulvinata (Crassulaceae) Plush Plant

The type locality, Tomellin Cañon, is on an old train route from Tehuacan to Oaxaca, Mexico: an 8 hour journey of 150 miles ascending and descending through valleys, gorges and mountain tops. The plant was found on a dry ledge at 3000 feet. It is desirable as an ornamental because of the white hairs on the leaves that give it a silvery appearance. The anonymous exhibitor indicated that the plant is being grown in Long Beach in possibly too much shade. It was received in the plant exchange at the December meeting. It can be propagated by division or by leaf or stem cuttings.

Philodendron bipinnatifidum (*P. selloum*) (Araceae) – Exhibited by D.E. Sute

In 1991 S.J. Mayo wrote “A revision of *Philodendron* subgenus (*Meconostigma*) (Araceae)” for Kew Bulletin, (p. 601-681). In this, he noted that *P. selloum* was probably just a morphological variation of *P. bipinnatifidum*, but then went on to describe a very complex pollination strategy for a “selloum” group. The plant is pollinated by an inch-long dynastid scarab beetle, *Erioscelis emarginata*, that is attracted to the plant at dusk, because at that time of day the plant begins emitting an attractive odor for the beetle as well as raising its flower temperature up to between 86 to 95 or even up to 114 degrees Fahrenheit. The beetles arrive, hang out around the base of the spathe, feed, possibly mate and get covered in resin. The next day they leave the bottom of the inflorescence and climb up the spathe. The resin is sticky so they get covered in grey pollen at just the right time of day to go to the next flower that has now heated up and is emitting its attractive odor. This all happens in the dryish forest of the Brazilian plateau. Further nomenclatural confusion occurred in the mid-1800s when two botanists were perhaps vying to name a valuable ornamental. The famous Brazilian landscape architect, Roberto Burle Marx, provided specimens for Mayo to make his determinations about the proper name of the plant.

Salvia muirii (Labiatae) – Exhibited by Ralph & Barbara Crane

According to my favorite South African plant website, *PlantzAfrica.com*, this plant is one of only 30 species of *Salvia* native to South Africa. It has a fairly restricted habitat in sandy fynbos along the foothills of the Langeberg mountains near Riverdale, Western Cape. It is highly desirable as an ornamental, blooming from mid-summer through autumn with its blue flowers with white throats. It is drought-resistant and according to the Cranes, it looks much like a lobelia, but can stand the sun and heat. Their plant was grown at Pearson’s Gardens & Herb Farm in Vista. (Pictured at right.)



Scadoxus × *hybridus* ‘König Albert’ or in the United States ‘King Albert’ (Amaryllidaceae) – Exhibited by Brenda Kanno

Brenda received her plant from the South Coast Botanic Garden. It blooms in June and July with large red flowers. The leaves appear after the flowers. According to J.C. David in the 2006 issue of *Hanburyana*, this is an old cultivar. It was developed in Germany in 1900 when the plants were still named *Haemanthus*. It is a cross between *Scadoxus multiflorus* ssp. *katherinae* and *S. puniceus*. *S. multiflorus* ssp. *katherinae* is native to Eastern Cape of South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal, Swaziland, Mpumalanga, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. *S. puniceus* has a wider range from South Africa’s northern provinces, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape, with its distribution extending to Tropical Africa. Brenda grows hers in the greenhouse. It could be tried outdoors here. (Pictured at left.)

Tacitus bellus ‘Superstar’ (Crassulaceae) – Exhibited by Jim Jaeger

This is International Succulent Institute introduction number 1289 from 1981. It was grown from what were originally thought to be selfed seedlings from a plant acquired at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in 1976. According to the International Crassula Network, the selection was later thought to be a hybrid with *Graptopetalum rusbyi*. It was chosen as a selection because the rosettes are larger, the leaves are greener and the flowers are a deeper red than the original plant. Jim acquired his plant from Trader Joe’s.

– Photographs by Paul Martin