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GREEN SHEET

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2008 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by Susan C. Eubank

Thank you to all who brought plants to the October 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 October: *Aloe bellatula*, *Asclepias pinifolia*, *Mandevilla* 'Moonlight Parfait', *Odontonema tubaeforma*, *Salvia chiapensis*, *S.* 'Indigo Spires', *S. mexicana* 'Limelight', *S. splendens* 'Van Houttei', *S.* 'Waverly' and *Stevia rebaudiana*.

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained: a plant purchased at the 2008 L.A. Garden Show at the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden, a miniature rose, an assortment of begonia leaves (pictured at right), a *Nerine* sp. and a *N. sarniensis* hybrid.

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.



Clerodendrum quadriloculare 'Variegata' (Labiatae)
– Exhibited by Jim Jaeger
This is a variegated version of the straight species.
(Pictured at left.)

Columnea 'Orange Sherbert' (Gesneriaceae) – Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani
The orange flowers are large compared to various species.

Columnnea schiedeana (Gesneriaceae)

– Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani

Named by Linneus in 1833 from a specimen collected by C.J.W. Schiede & F. Deppe in July 1829. According to Papavero Nelson and Sergio Ibáñez-Bernal in their 2001 article, “Contributions to a History of Mexican Dipterology,” (*Acta Zoologica Mexica*), Ferdinand Deppe and Dr. Julius Christian Wilhelm Schiede were disappointed at the prices paid for their collections on this last trip to Mexico. Ferdinand Deppe, a gardener, started his collecting career at the suggestion of those at the Zoological Museum of Berlin University where his brother worked. This last trip included his good friend Dr. Schiede the botanist. (Plant pictured at right.)



Heliotropium arborescens ‘Chatsworth’ (Boraginaceae) – Exhibited by Jane Coogan Beer

According to Masha Bennett’s *Pulmonarias and the Borage Family* (Portland, OR.: Timber Press, 2003) this Royal Horticultural Society Merit Award winner may not be truly an *H. arborescens* cultivar, but might be a hybrid with *H. corymbosum*. According to Julia Brittain in her *Plant Lover’s Companion* (Cincinnati, OH: David & Charles, 2006) the cultivar is named for an estate in Derbyshire, England with a 300 year history of gardens. The cultivar is taller and more fragrant than the straight species. It is sold in Southern California by the Huntington Botanical Gardens.

Megaskepasma erythrochlamys (Acanthaceae) Brazilian Red-Cloak – Exhibited by Jim Jaeger

Despite its common name this plant is native to Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Columbia, Surinam, Honduras and Venezuela. According to Robert Lee Raffle’s *The Tropical Look* (Portland, OR.: Timber Press, 1998) its very large, colorful bracts and the large stature of the plant (to 12 feet) make it very impressive in climate zones that don’t get below 25° Fahrenheit. It is a very popular ornamental in tropical Central and South America.

Rungia klossii (Acanthaceae) Mushroom Plant – Exhibited by Jim Jaeger

This plant is an edible green from the highlands of Papua New Guinea. Its stems and leaves can be cooked. It tastes like mushrooms. It is high in calcium and protein. Many natives of Papua New Guinea cultivate this plant along with 20-40 others in a system of subsistence agriculture. The plant is propagated from cuttings and is being considered as a possible new food crop for other parts of the tropics. Jim brought the sample from the Huntington Botanical Gardens.

Salvia coahuilensis (Labiatae) – Exhibited by Jane Coogan Beer

This plant was first collected by Edward Palmer near Saltillo, Mexico in 1898. This trip was one of his later expeditions when he was in poor health. He did, however, collect in the markets of Saltillo looking for economic and ornamental plants. According to Rogers McVaugh in his Palmer biography (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1956) he was a man who lived his life going from subscription trip to trip collecting all sorts of things (plants, insects, mammals, archeological specimens) and then selling them to the major research institutions. He had a particular interest in archaeology and often described the medicinal or economic uses of the plants he collected. Our salvia, however, appears to be purely ornamental and Betsy Clebsch (see below) states that it appears to have been introduced into the nursery trade in the late 1980s. The San Marcos Growers website states that they got theirs from Mark Bartholomew of Hi-Mark Nursery in the 1990s. Betsy cautions that this species may produce hybrid seeds if different salvias are nearby, and is best propagated by cuttings or divisions rather than seeds.

Salvia leucantha ‘Midnight’ (Labiatae) – Exhibited by Ric Dykzeul

Betsy Clebsch’s *New Book of Salvias* (Portland, OR.: Timber Press, 2003) describes the cultivar as differing from the species only by the deep violet of the flowers and calyces. She also says it has been sold in Arizona and California nurseries for several years.

Schlumbergera x reginae ‘Dick’s Choice’ (Cactaceae) – Exhibited by Dick Kohlschreiber

An attractive cactus named after our own member. He grows it in shade in San Pedro.

– Photographs by Paul Martin