



*Amaryllis belladonna* (white and deep pink, left and below) and *Rhodophiala bifida* (red, above right)

## Green Sheet October 2009

### Plant Forum Notes

Compiled by Sula and Jorge Ochoa

Photographs by Paul Martin

Thank you to all who brought plants to the October 2009 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) or previously written up for a Green Sheet were shown in October [*taxon* common name (Family)]:

- Amaryllis belladonna* belladonna lily (Amaryllidaceae)
- Bauhinia yunnanensis* (Fabaceae)
- Buddleja crispa* butterfly bush (Loganiaceae)
- Calliandra californica* Baja fairy duster (Fabaceae)
- Coprosma repens* 'Pink Splendor' creeping mirror plant (Rubiaceae)
- Cuphea llavea* bat-face cuphea (Lythraceae)
- Heuchera* ‘Peach Melba’ Dolce™ coral bells (Saxifragaceae)
- Jasminum sambac* Arabian jasmine (Oleaceae)
- Juanulloa mexicana* gold fingers (Solanaceae)
- Justicia scheidweileri* [syn: *Porphyrocoma pohliana*] carnival plant (Acanthaceae)
- Nigella damascena* love-in-a-mist (Ranunculaceae)
- Rhodophiala bifida* [syn. *Hippeastrum bifidum*], Barbados lily (Amaryllidaceae)
- Tricyrtis hirta* toad lily (Liliaceae)

The exact identity of the following plant could not be completely ascertained: *Jasminum* sp. (Oleaceae)

Information in this compilation was gleaned and condensed from the Plant Forum exhibit cards, numerous sources at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Library, and a suite of various internet sites.

*Asphodelus aestivus* white asphodel (Liliaceae) Exhibited by Dick

Kohlschreiber.

(photo at right)

This striking white perennial lily from southern Europe has grey-green leaves and a flower spike that can reach three feet in height. The flowers, opening to be more than an inch in diameter with thin brown stripes on the petals, open from the base of the spike upwards, and the inflorescence lasts several weeks.



Growing in full sun or light shade and needing little water, this plant is great as an accent plant and will do well in borders. Dick asks “is this really a weed?” indicating that it must be doing well somewhere! Available from San Marcos Growers.

*Dombeya* ‘Seminole’ tropical rose hydrangea (Malvaceae).

Exhibited by Ann and Eric Brooks.

Shrub 8-10 feet tall, fall flowering with large pink flowers in clusters, often in large numbers. The stamens are petaloid and showy, and the plant takes on an overall appearance similar to hibiscus. To make matters confusing, there are two other *Dombeya* species that are sometimes known as 'Seminole' in the literature! This particular plant will flower for a long period of time and can be readily pruned into shape and maintained as a mass planting. Available from University of California, Riverside.

*Duvernoia adhatodoides* pistol bush (Acanthaceae) Exhibited by Dick Kohlschreiber

This small tree (photograph at right) from tropical Africa can reach more than 10ft in height. Shiny dark foliage makes this plant attractive year-round. White speckled flowers are held above the foliage from February to August and pollinated by carpenter bees. Very decorative and easy to grow from seed or cuttings, perfect for moist coastal gardens. May need to be mulched and watered frequently in drier areas. Available from South Coast Botanic Garden.

***Helianthus salicifolius*** willow-leaved sunflower (Asteraceae) exhibited by John Schoustra.

This tall perennial sunflower (photo at right) is native to the central United States and can reach 8 feet tall and three feet wide. The yellow flowers can be used as cut flowers and will bloom from October to around Thanksgiving according to John, who also reports it to be drought tolerant. The long, slender and gracefully drooping leaves are approximately 8 inches long. Stems are narrow and slightly hairy. Available from Greenwood Daylily.



***Polypodium fallax*** Betty's poly (Polypodiaceae) Exhibited by Dena Mandt.

This shade-loving South American fern was featured as a new introduction from Milestone Agriculture in Greenhouse Grower magazine in January 2007. It has shiny green glabrous fronds and is notable for its lobed and crested forms. The unusual texture and circular growth form make it a recommended

species for small to medium pots. It will benefit from a rich soil and occasional liquid feed. Available from [www.ferncentral.com](http://www.ferncentral.com)



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[sglarkspur@aol.com](mailto:sglarkspur@aol.com)

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[jill@ryanmiller.com](mailto:jill@ryanmiller.com)

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[joel@growoutdoordesign.com](mailto:joel@growoutdoordesign.com)

John Schoustra, *Field Trips*  
[jschoustra@gmail.com](mailto:jschoustra@gmail.com)

Jorge Ochoa, *Greensheet*  
[ochoa.jorge@gmail.com](mailto:ochoa.jorge@gmail.com)

Lili Singer, *Book of the Month*  
[lili.singer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lili.singer@sbcglobal.net)

Robin Corwin, *Print Publicity*  
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**For general questions, call: 818-567-1496**

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