



## B. 'Homossasa'

by Francis O. Michelson

I raised *B. ulmifolia* for years. I grew it because it was a species, but I never thought it was anything outstanding. I noticed that nobody ever tried to cross it, so I tried to use it and produce a more decorative plant.

However, the little pollen available at that time was not mature enough, or the chromosome count on the crosses I tried was not compatible. Finally in 1976 I got a cross using *B. ulmifolia* as the female parent and *B. bartonea* hort. as the male parent. This produced B. 'Homossasa,' which is named for a city and springs in Florida.

Another cross I made in 1970 is B. 'Tomoka' (*B. convolvulacea* x *B. peruviana*). It is a basket type with white flowers, named for a Florida river. It is not registered.

I named a chance seedling of *B. incana* - the bees did the crossing in Miami in 1949 - after a town and river in Florida: B. 'Kissimmee.' I guess you can tell by now that I like Indian names.

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### A NOTE ON: *B. bartonea* hort.

Because of some confusion about *B. bartonea*, Nomenclature Dept. Director Carrie Karegeannes was asked about the correct designation for this begonia. Here is her reply:

*Begonia bartonea* hort., syn. 'Winter Jewel,' hasn't been scientifically published or identified. Hence the need to keep the term "hort." with it. Helen Krauss, writing in 1947 in Begonias for American Homes and Gardens, pp. 147-8, says it is an unidentified species introduced from Puerto Rico "a few years ago" and also grown as 'Winter Jewel.' Botanists would likely be hesitant about naming it without any collections from the wild in all this time; you'd expect a species to turn up again.

On the other hand, it might already have a name - actually be the same as a species found earlier - but I don't know that a good herbarium specimen has been sent to botanists to study. I have found no mention of it in the botanical literature, and Dr. Smith didn't know it when we did the species list, so it has no official standing and should keep the "hort." designation (which means "of the gardens") until scientifically determined.

If it should turn out to be a cultivar, of course, then it would take a cultivar name (B. 'Bartonea' if that was used before 'Winter Jewel') - but that would need botanical determination. And I think it best to keep the Latin name to show that it is thought to be a species, until definitely thought otherwise.

So: *Begonia bartonea* hort., syn. 'Winter Jewel.'