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 chromozone 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. ‘Homossassa,’ 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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