

The Journal for Gesneriad Growers

# Gesneriads

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*Gesneria libanensis*, a Cuban gesneriad.  
Photo: John L. Clark

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*Rhytidophyllum acunae*, a Cuban gesneriad.  
Photo: John L. Clark

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### The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

The objects of The Gesneriad Society are to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in the Gesneriad Plant Family (Gesneriaceae); to stimulate a wide-spread interest in; to gather and publish reliable information about the identification, correct nomenclature, culture, propagation, and conservation of gesneriads; and to encourage the origination, introduction, and conservation of species and cultivars.

The Gesneriad Society, Inc. is the International Registration Authority for the naming of gesneriad cultivars excepting those in *Streptocarpus* section *Saintpaulia*. Any person desiring to register a cultivar should contact Irina Nicholson, 2512 South Balsam Way, Lakewood, CO 80227 USA  
[hybridregistrar@gesneriads.org](mailto:hybridregistrar@gesneriads.org).

# A Message From The President



Come to  
Cincinnati and  
share the love.

of a plant labelled *Aeschynanthus tricolor*. Subsequently identified as *A. bians*, this plant has been my best growing member of this genus. The flowers are fairly small but most interesting, with a very red calyx and red and nearly black striped flowers. I placed multiple cuttings in a 4-inch pot on capillary matting on the top shelf of my light stand, under two T12 tubes. Plants from the cuttings grew out of the pot, spilled onto the capillary matting, and clambered down the side of the light stand all the way to the floor. Blooms were all along the hanging stems and continued to bloom even though those stems were not actually under the lights. I let it grow as long as I could, but after a few years was forced to redo that shelf and replace the capillary matting. I shared a lot of cuttings with my local club members, and potted up a new potfull. Now these plants have slowly started their climb down the side of the shelf and extend down about two feet. No blooms have begun yet, but I fully expect them when the plant is ready.

Our lovely plant family continues to surprise and delight, and I am very glad that I discovered gesneriads so many years ago. Come to Cincinnati and share the love.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie".

Julie Mavity-Hudson  
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Joelton, TN, USA

I HOPE TO SEE YOU IN CINCINNATI AT THIS YEAR'S convention. The location is within easy driving distance of my home in Tennessee and I not only look forward to visiting the city, but sharing the joy of gesneriads spending time with old and new friends, and seeing – and acquiring – interesting and beautiful plants.

As I reflect on my love affair with gesneriads, I count 56 years as a grower (thanks to my wonderful grandmother Muncy Mavity who grew achimenes and saintpaulias) and celebrate my 40-year anniversary of discovering both the Tennessee Gesneriad Society and The Gesneriad Society. I have found many dear friendships in these two groups and been introduced to many interesting plants as well.

Let me tell you about one favorite example. A number of years ago I was given cuttings



# From the Editor



CUBA! I HAVE NEVER BEEN THERE. TRAVEL TO Cuba has been difficult for Americans for most of my life. But Cuba is home to many gesneriads, so it has great botanical interest for gesneriad lovers, and it is becoming a little easier for Americans to go to Cuba.

Dr. John L. Clark led a gesneriad expedition to Cuba this past year, and in this issue we have three articles about the trip by people who participated: one by Dr. Clark, one by his student Scarlet Au, and one by Society member and gesneriad evangelist, Stephen Maciejewski. It is unusual to have three articles on the same event in one issue, but the authors each bring a unique

perspective to their report of the trip. Although we grow our beautiful gesneriads in the comfort of our homes, it is important for us to understand how these plants exist in the wild, what adaptations they have to their environment, and the possible threats they experience due to human activities. They survive – and like the accompanying photo shows, they sure don't look like show plants! Reading these articles has whetted my appetite for someday going to Cuba myself and seeing how our plants grow in the wild.

Enjoy *Gesneriads!*

*Peter*

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Seattle, WA, USA

*Gesneria depressa* photographed *in situ* in Cuba  
by John L. Clark



# Eastern Cuba Expedition: Visiting Type Localities & Interacting with Horticulturists

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<sau19@lawrenceville.org>



I WAS HONORED TO HAVE THE PRIVILEGE of travelling to Cuba with plant enthusiasts from the Gesneriad Society in mid-August, 2018. Over the 10-day expedition we hiked extensively to remote areas to observe Gesneriaceae species native to Cuba – the hike to find *Rhytidophyllum acunae* being one of the trip’s highlights. Punta de Maisí, Cuba’s easternmost town, is just under 80 kilometers away from Haiti, its neighboring country east across the Caribbean Sea. Maisí’s distinctive, white lighthouse built on the shores of the island marks the end of the road to the town. While the area was previously off-limits to foreigners due to a lack of infrastructure, Maisí

is known among botanists for being the type locality of *Rhytidophyllum acunae* – the location where the rare endemic plant was last collected by botanist Conrad Morton in 1956 during the Cuban Revolution (1953-1959). Morton made note of his *R. acunae* collection on his travels to Cuba in both the New York Botanical Garden *Brittonia* journal (1957) and the *Gloxinian* (1959).

The original collection of *Rhytidophyllum acunae* was made in July 1924 by Joseph Sylvestre Sauget (1871-1955) near the cliffs along Río Jauco, a river located on the southeastern coast of Cuba (Morton 1959). Sauget, more commonly known as Brother/Hermano León, was a French botanist and a former member of the clergy who dedicated much of his lifetime to studying the flora and fauna of Cuba. Born into a commune in eastern France, Sauget began his studies at the *Colegio de los Hermanos De La Salle* in Arbois, France, home to the famous chemist Louis Pasteur (Álvarez Conde 1958). He later moved to Paris to pursue studies in bacteriology after being recognized as the school’s top student. Sauget started his teaching career in 1889 and moved to the United States in 1904 before being appointed as a member of the clergy to establish colleges in Cuba in 1905. He resided in Havana for more than 34 years, teaching mathematics, civics and natural sciences at the *Colegio de la Salle del Vedado* (Álvarez Conde 1958). Sauget went on dozens of botanical expeditions during his time in Havana as he was a firm believer that in order to teach the natural sciences, he must also be knowledgeable about Cuban plant species (Álvarez Conde 1958). He traveled with a number of famous botanists including N.L. Britton, E.L. Ekman, J.A. Shafer, and J. Acuña Gale – the Chair of the Botany Department at the Estación Experimental Argonómica in Santiago de Las Vegas, Cuba. Morton later named *R. acunae* after Acuña as he and Diaz Barreto collected the “first truly representative material” of the plant in Montecristo in 1952 (Morton 1957). Both Sauget’s and Acuña’s travels inspired Morton and his colleague, Enrique E. Liogier (1916-2009) to revisit Montecristo and Cajobabo/Jauco – the site where the plant was first collected by Sauget in 1924 – for more plant material as Morton was in the process of verifying and recognizing *R. acunae* as a new species in 1956. Liogier, who was also a member of the clergy and known as Brother/

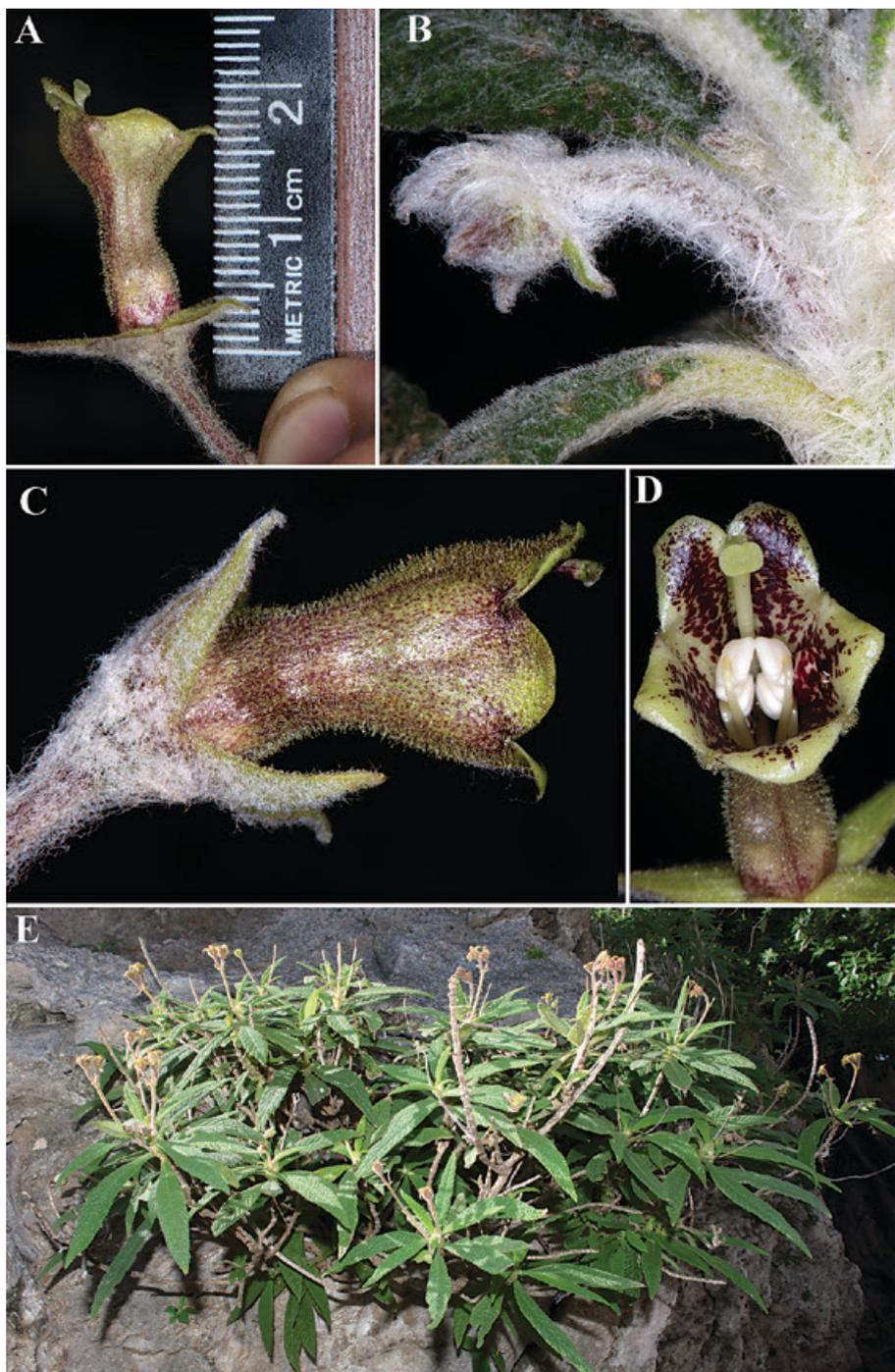


Figure 1. *Rhytidophyllum acunae*. **A.** Lateral view of flower with scale. **B.** Immature flower featuring dense tomentose pubescence. **C.** Lateral view of flower. **D.** Front view of flower. **E.** Vertical limestone with abundant population (about 60 cm tall).

Hermano Alain, has worked extensively with Sauget. Born in Chomelix, France in 1916, he studied at the *Colegio de los Hermanos* in Le Puy and in Lyon before requesting to continue his studies in Cuba in 1934 (Álvarez Conde 1958). He graduated from the University of Havana, Cuba with a thesis on Cuban flora. Upon graduation, he began his teaching career while assisting Sauget in his botanical expeditions and helping compile information for Sauget's multi-volume masterpiece titled *Flora of Cuba* (Álvarez Conde 1958). Liogier passed away in 2009 in Texas. He remained active in the botanical community until his death, making an appearance at the Latin American Botanical Congress in the Dominican Republic in 2004.

It was the seventh day of our Cuba expedition and we were more than halfway through our journey around the island's eastern circuit on August 16 when our bus pulled up to a stop in front of the Punta de Maisí lighthouse, our base for the next day and a half as we set out to retrace Morton's footsteps by visiting Cajobabo and the surrounding region in search for *Rhytidophyllum acunae* at its type locality.

We began our hike in the early hours of the morning at 5 a.m. with a ride on the back of a 1954 brown Chevrolet truck, which had been arranged in advance by our guide to take us to where we might find this species. It was dark and quiet outside as our hybrid/modified truck chugged along, winding through the little towns nearby to get to our destination. The truck stopped on the side of the road after an hour and we disembarked the vehicle and our guide began to build our trail with his machete. We took safety precautions by dressing appropriately for the hike, having been warned that there would be cacti and other plants with spines as well as hispid trichomes along the trail, and we hiked carefully down off the side of the road onto a steep slope. Within minutes, our plant taxonomist and trip leader, Dr. John L. Clark, had found the plant. Known for its white hairy tomentose flowers, this example of *Rhytidophyllum acunae* is a small shrub less than one meter tall. We waited for sunrise, sitting on a vantage point overlooking the ocean, before continuing on the trail searching for a flower of the plant.

Being able to visit the type localities and photograph all these plants in flower was a surreal experience. In another instance, we found ourselves at the seaside town of Yumurí, the type locality of *Gesneria yumuriensis*. The plant was first collected by J.A. Shafer in 1910 (Britton 1920) near Río Yumurí – the river divided the town in two and has since become a local attraction for tourists with its boat service to visit a canyon with majestic cliffs. Our search for *G. yumuriensis* began at the base of the hill next to the river. We began our ascent along an uphill road while scanning the cliffs alongside the path for the plant in flower. Although the path was mostly exposed and became extremely steep, we continued on the hike and walked farther than expected, unable to find the plant near the base of the hill due to the recent hot and dry weather. In the end, we were delighted to spot the small red flowers of *G. yumuriensis* on a rock face near the path, hidden behind shrubs.

With our fieldwork we discovered that *G. yumuriensis* is nearly identical to *G. libanensis*. Previously, a 2013 paper published in *Selbyana* (Clark et al. 2013), the Journal of the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, differentiated between *G. libanensis* and *G. yumuriensis* by the presence and absence of persistent dead leaves, respectively. However, our observations in populations from Yumurí resulted in the realization that the presence of persistent dead leaves is not a distinguishing character – both species share a character that was previously considered to be something that could tease them apart. Our discovery helped me understand the importance of fieldwork as it reinforces our understanding of taxonomic concepts. Studying plants *in situ* is an important experience in the field of botany as scientists are able to study and verify characteristics that are not preserved on museum specimens. It was also exciting to be able to retrace the footsteps of botanists who have made collections of plants in the same area. Through the field-



Figure 2. **A.** Expedition team during morning of foray to search for *Rhytidophyllum acunae* – second person from the right is our guide, Alexis Morales (Jefe de Área Protegida - Empresa Nacional para la Protección de la Flora y la Fauna). **B.** J.L. Clark, Scarlet Au, and Sara Suarez T. **C.** Cañón de Río Yumurí (type locality for *Gesneria yumuriensis*). **D.** Terraced limestone cliffs near Caleta (type locality for *Rhytidophyllum acunae*).



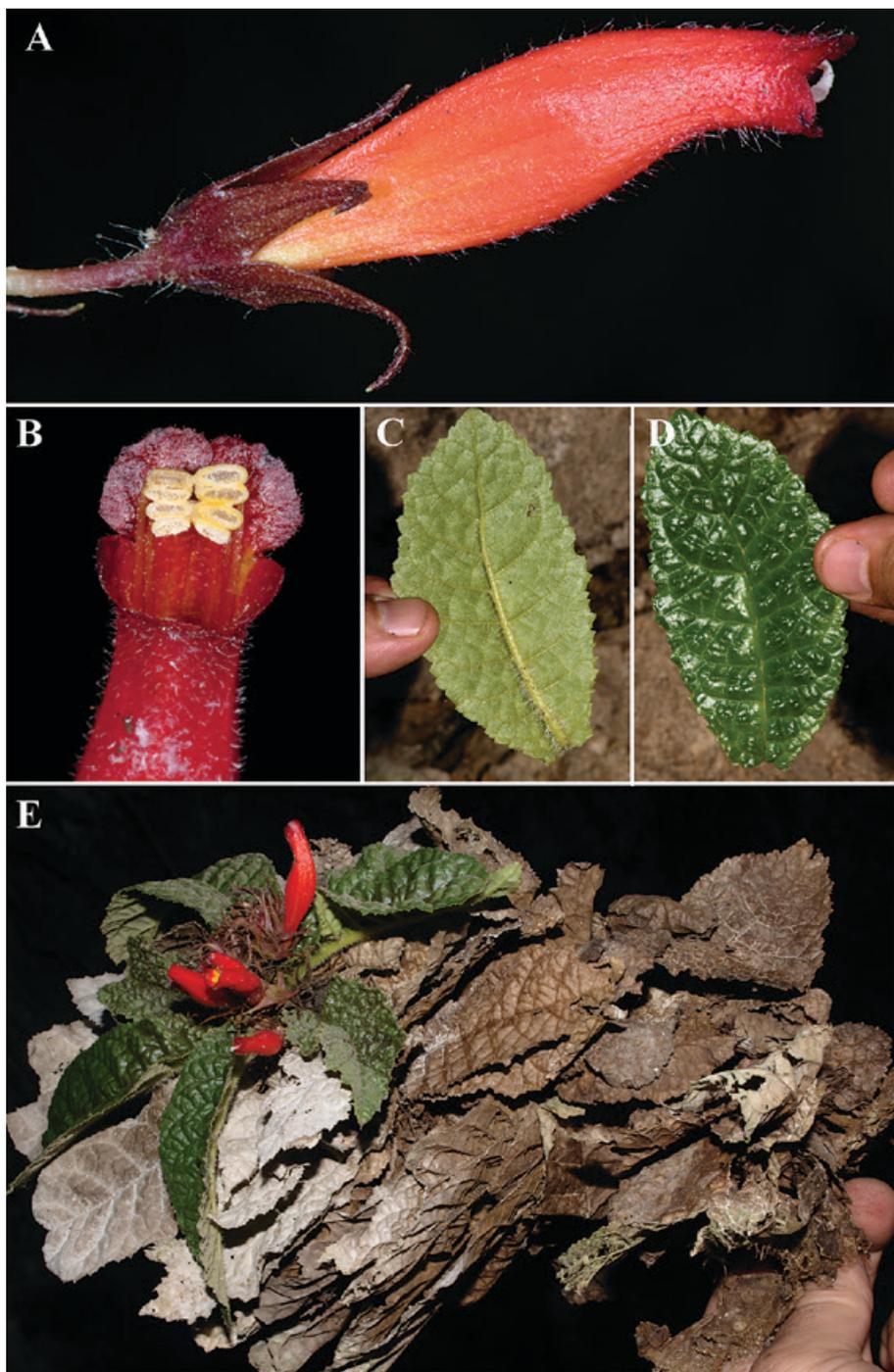


Figure 3. *Gesneria libanesensis* (= *G. yumuriensis*) **A.** Lateral view of flower. **B.** Front view of flower. **C.** & **D.** Upper and lower leaf surfaces featuring bullations. **E.** Rosette of leaves subtended by persistent dead leaves.

based work I was able to take part in, I learned about the pure excitement of working at the forefront of science with pioneers in the field: Dr. Clark, Gesneriad Society horticulturists, and our local guides.

The trip in general was filled with “firsts.” First time riding an antique, open-top vehicle. First time seeing a trail built right before my eyes with a machete. And most important of all, first time interacting with some of the most knowledgeable scientists and horticulturists of the gesneriad plant family – both from all over the world and from Cuba. I was astounded by the dedication of all the horticulturists in our group. One of the board members of The Gesneriad Society, Stephen Maciejewski, had just returned from China, having started a gesneriad conservation project in Kunming; several other members on our trip had traveled together on previous research expeditions in South America. Interacting with horticulturists from Santiago de Cuba in a meeting and visiting the Jardín de los Helechos (Santiago de Cuba’s Fern Garden) near the end of the trip was also eye-opening. It was an honor to be able to speak with local horticulturists about their expertise in botany. I was also fascinated by the exchange that occurred between Cuban horticulturists and our group, from the discussion of starting a new chapter of The Gesneriad Society, Inc. in Cuba to hearing about the stories of how community members discovered their interest in botany. I saw how good science depends on a network and a collaborative community.

I was inspired by all the members of The Gesneriad Society who traveled on the trip for their passion and love for botany and looked up to every one of them as a budding botanist and biologist who hopes to pursue this as a potential career path in the future. Traveling on this trip with scientists and horticulturists has expanded my horizons significantly and I am very appreciative of having had the opportunity to do so.

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## ❧ Seed Fund Promotional Contest ❧

To encourage donations to the Gesneriad Society’s Seed Fund, a contest began on January 1, 2019. First and second place prizes will be given to the persons making the most Seed Fund donations throughout the year. The number of individual types of seed contributed (not the number of seeds) will be tracked from January 1 through December 31, 2019. The prizes (\$25 for first and \$15 for second) will be gift certificates of the winners’ choice below:

- ❧ SEED FUND   ❧ COMMERCIAL GROWER OF WINNER’S CHOICE  
❧ GESNERIAD SOCIETY WEBSTORE   ❧ CONVENTION PLANT SALES

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# The 2018 Gesneriad Research Expedition to Cuba: Expanding the Horticultural Community in a Caribbean Biodiversity Hotspot

John L. Clark, Aldo Leopold Distinguished Teaching Chair, Science Department, The Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, NJ, USA ~ <jlclark@lawrenceville.org>



JEANNE KATZENSTEIN AND I STARTED discussions on organizing a trip to Cuba for members of our society more than a decade ago when I started working there on an academic initiative in collaboration between The University of Alabama and the Universidad de La Habana. Recent changes in the political landscape made that dream a reality and in August of 2018 we embarked on an expedition to Cuba with thirteen participants. Our expedition had a two-fold purpose: to research local plants and to promote interaction with Cuban horticulturists.

Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean and harbors some of the world's most unique plant diversity. The flowering plant family Gesneriaceae is represented by 42 species in Cuba. More than 30 are endemic (i.e., restricted to Cuba). Our expedition group spent the majority of its time in small communities and remote areas in the eastern region of Cuba where Gesneriaceae diversity is highest. For example, in one afternoon it is possible to observe ten different species of Gesneriaceae on a 10 kilometer trail to the summit of Yunque de Baracoa. There are no other places in the Caribbean where one can observe such a multitude of gesneriads in an equivalent area.

One of the goals of our expedition was to photograph and study plants for the taxonomic publication of “Gesneriaceae for the Flora of Cuba Project” (“Flora de la República de Cuba”). This project was initiated in 1992 through combined efforts of mostly Cuban and European botanists. Plant families are published annually through Koeltz Scientific Books (Königstein, Germany). The ongoing series has more than 100 authors (60+ Cubans and 40+ non-Cubans). Thus far, over 90 families have been published that include approximately 30 percent of the total Cuban flora. The Gesneriaceae manuscript has already received significant support through initiatives at The University of Alabama (Clark 2009) and funding through a Research and Exploration Grant from the National Geographic Society that supported fieldwork in Haiti and Cuba from 2014 to 2016 (Grant #9522-14 to J.L. Clark).

Our expedition included three of the five authors for the treatment. Sara Suárez T. (Fig. 8C) was our Cuban guide, and we are the primary authors of the Gesneriaceae publication. We have collaborated together since 2007 on several research expeditions and peer reviewed publications (Clark et al. 2013; Clark et al. 2011). Steve Ginzburg (Fig. 8B) also participated on the expedition and we benefited from his knowledge as Collections Manager for The University of Alabama Herbarium. Ginzburg's primary role in the Flora Project is managing the database of Cuban plant collections. Other collaborators on the Gesneriaceae publication for the “Flora of Cuba Project” include Reina Echevarria from the Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática (Havana) and Jesús

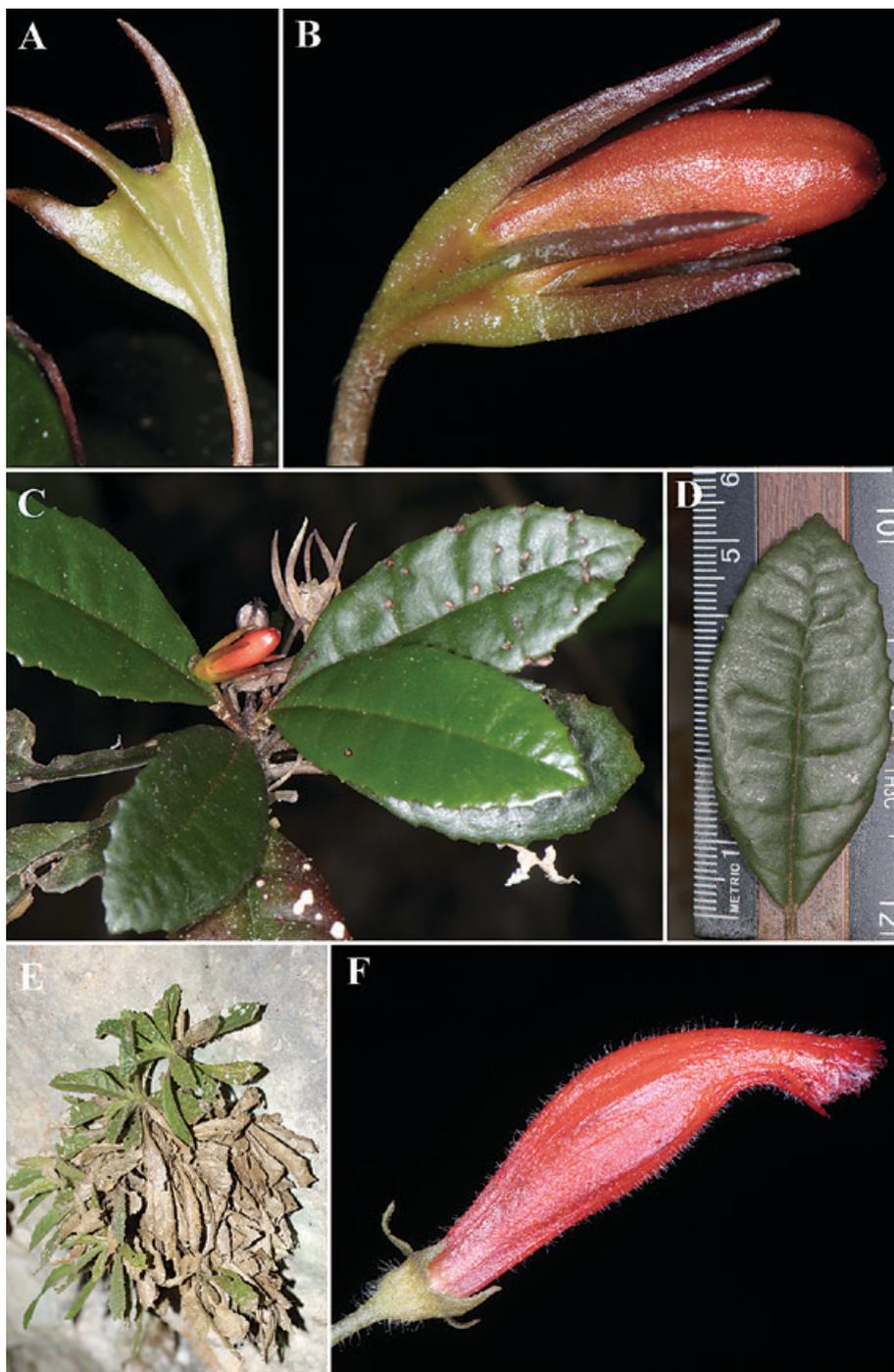


Figure 1. *Gesneria cubensis* (A-D) & *G. libanensis* (E-F). **A.** Fruit featuring lateral ridges. **B.** Immature tubular flower. **C.** Shoots with terminally clustered leaves. **D.** Upper leaf surface. **E.** Rosette of leaves with extensive persistent dead leaves. **F.** Bright red tubular flower.

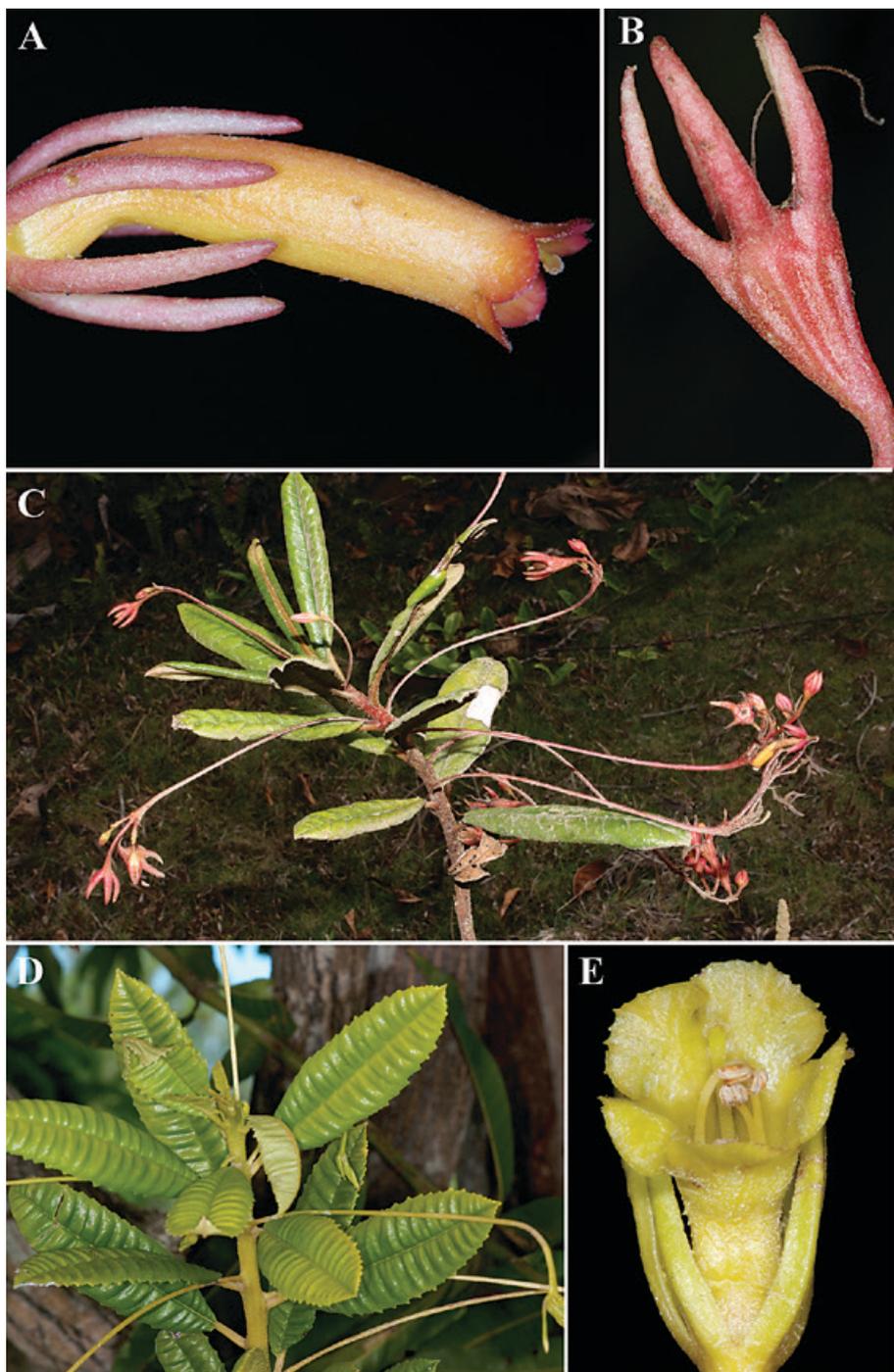


Figure 2. *Gesneria salicifolia* (A-C) & *G. bracteosa* (D-E). **A.** Lateral view of tubular flower. **B.** Immature capsule with persistent calyx lobes. **C.** Shoot with inflorescences. **D.** Shoot showing serrate leaves and inflorescences. **E.** Lower view of calyx and corolla.

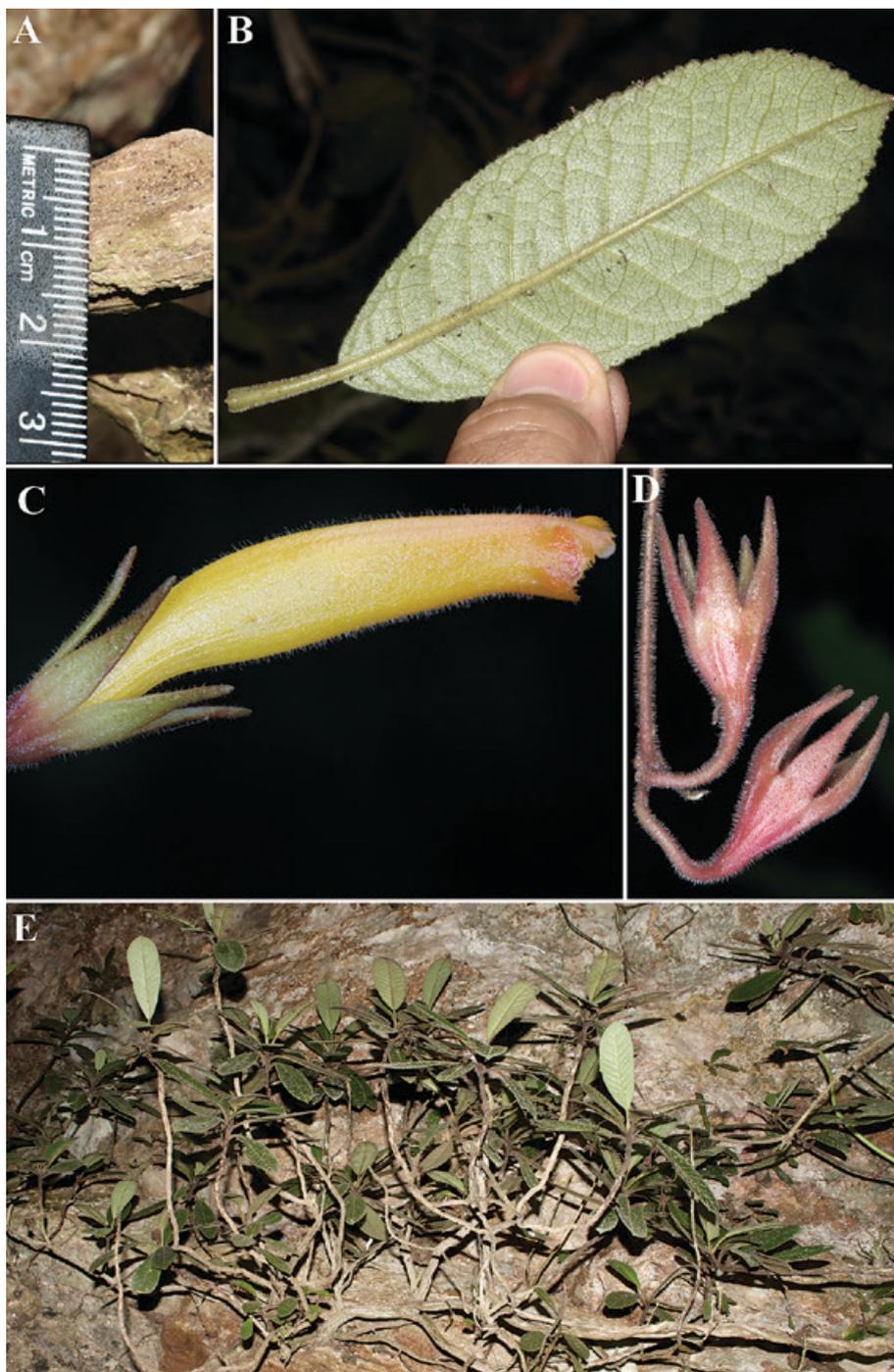


Figure 3. *Gesneria glandulosa*. **A.** Woody stems. **B.** Lower leaf surface. **C.** Lateral view of calyx and corolla. **D.** Immature fruits. **E.** Lithophytic habit.

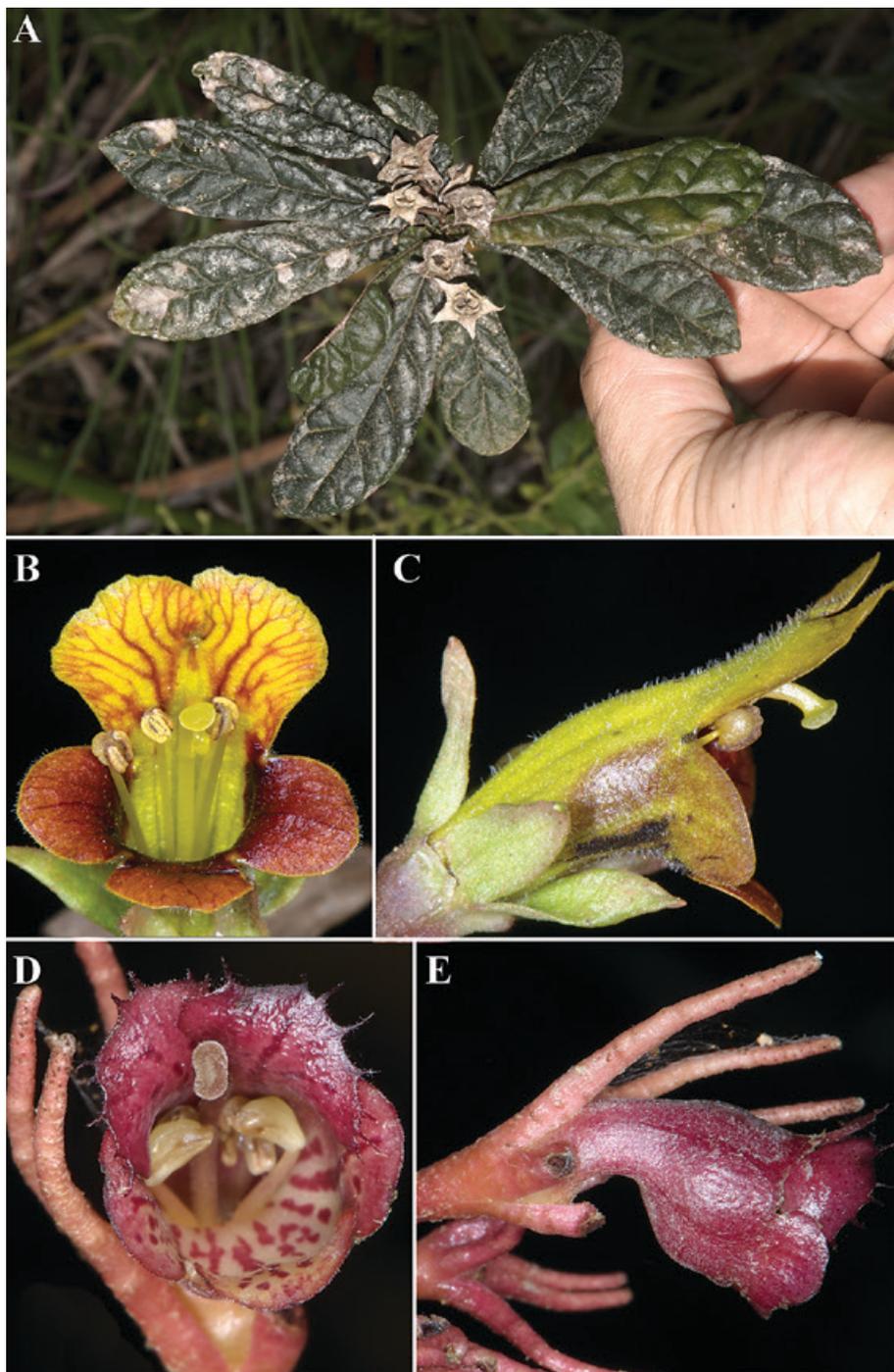


Figure 4. *Gesneria depressa* (A-C) & *G. ducharteoides* (D-F). **A.** Habit featuring basal rosette of leaves. **B.** Front view of flower. **C.** Lateral view of flower. **D.** Front view of flower featuring fimbriations on upper lobes and entire margins on lower lobes. **E.** Lateral view of flower.

Matos (Villa Clara). The manuscript is currently in editorial stage with Rosa Rankin (Jardín Botánico Nacional in La Habana) and Werner Greuter (Berlin Botanical Garden, Germany). The Gesneriaceae treatment was initiated in 2006 and we anticipate a publication date of January 2020 (i.e., 14+ years!).

Several highlights in our exploration of gesneriads are outlined below. Additional details of the expedition are included in articles written by Stephen Maciejewski and Scarlet Au in this issue of *Gesneriads*.

### **August 11th – Parque Nacional Mensura – Piloto (*Gesneria cubensis* & *G. libanensis*)**

Our primary goal on this day was to observe *Gesneria libanensis* on a limestone outcrop along the trail *Sendero La Cueva Fria* (The Cold Cave Trail). This area is located along the outskirts of the Mensura-Piloto National Park (about 15 kilometers southeast of Hotel Villa Piñares de Mayarí) in a forest dominated by pine trees (*Pinus cubensis*). We located *Gesneria libanensis* in several areas along the trail. The basal rosette of leaves is one of the characteristics of this species, but even more distinctive is the presence of persistent clustered dead leaves that subtend the photosynthetic leaves (Fig. 1E). The elongate tubular flower is bright red (Fig. 1F) and subtended by clustered bullate (e.g., looks like bubblewrap) leaves.

There has been no successful documentation for the past five decades of remnant populations of *Gesneria cubensis* in the localities we visited. Our discovery of a small population of *Gesneria cubensis* (Fig. 1A–D) on our second day of the expedition was an enormous surprise. The small erect shrub is 1.0 – 2.5 meters tall and shares the same vertical limestone habitat with *G. libanensis*. A single immature tubular red flower was observed and photographed. Hopefully, future expeditions to this region will result in better images of this seldom-documented species. Other gesneriads observed include *Gesneria nipensis* and *Rhytidophyllum exsertum*.

### **August 12th – Highway Baracoa – Moa (*Gesneria salicifolia* & *G. bracteosa*)**

The relatively undeveloped northern coastline between Moa and Baracoa has an abundance of readily accessible flora. The bucolic road is sandwiched between stretches of beaches and limestone cliffs. What makes this area particularly unique is the presence of an outcrop of serpentine soils derived from ultramafic rocks. One of the most common shrubs along the stretch of highway near Moa (especially abundant in Cayo Güin and Bahía de Taco) is *Gesneria salicifolia* (Fig. 2A–C). Another common shrub that we observed in the serpentine outcrops was *Gesneria bracteosa* (Fig. 2D&E). Other gesneriads observed include *Gesneria depressa* and *Rhytidophyllum exsertum*.

### **August 13th – El Yunque de Baracoa (*Gesneria glandulosa*)**

El Yunque has a picturesque peak that resembles an anvil — yunque in Spanish. It is located 7 kilometers west of Baracoa and the Baracoa Bay in Cuba's Guantánamo Province. Christopher Columbus mentioned El Yunque in his chronicles about the discovery of the Americas. El Yunque is situated between the banks of the rivers Duaba and Toa. It was declared a National Monument in 1979. This area was significantly altered by the Category 5 Hurricane Matthew in 2016, including the near eradication of the once abundant *Gesneria purpurascens* from the base of the mountain. We were fortunate to find several populations near the summit. We hiked to the summit of El Yunque (575 meters) on the main trail (about 10 kilometers round trip) and observed a broad range of gesneriads.

A highlight of our hike was observing the only known population of *Gesneria glandulosa* (Fig. 3). This species is differentiated from others by the erect shrubby habit, subcoriaceous leaves with glandular trichomes, exserted stamens, and elongate sepals.



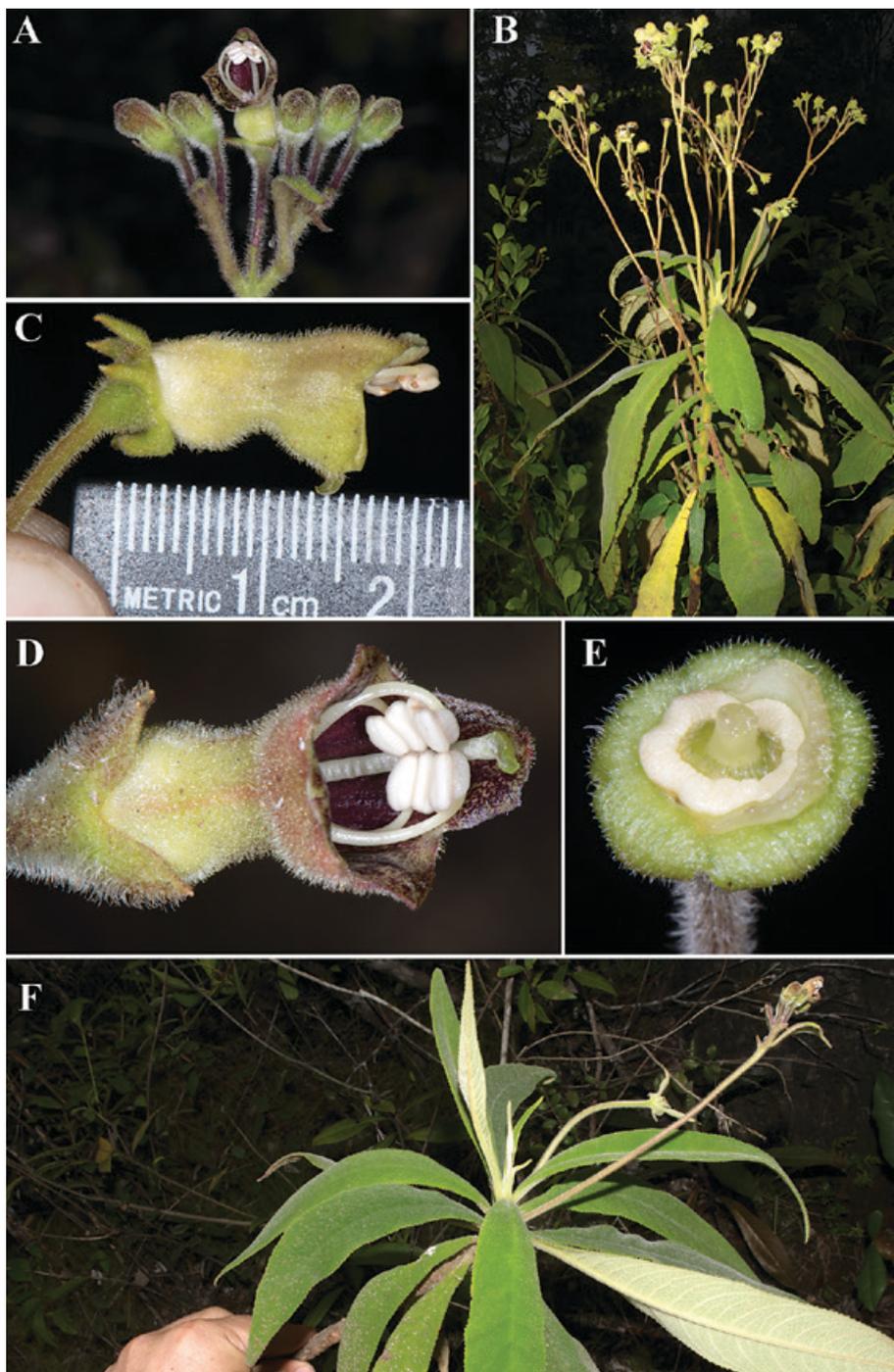


Figure 5. *Rhytidophyllum exsertum*. **A.** Front view of inflorescence with a yellow suffused with maroon flower. **B.** Erect clusters of inflorescences. **C.** Lateral view of uniformly yellow flower. **D.** Lower view of flower. **E.** Annular nectary. **F.** Erect subshrub habit.

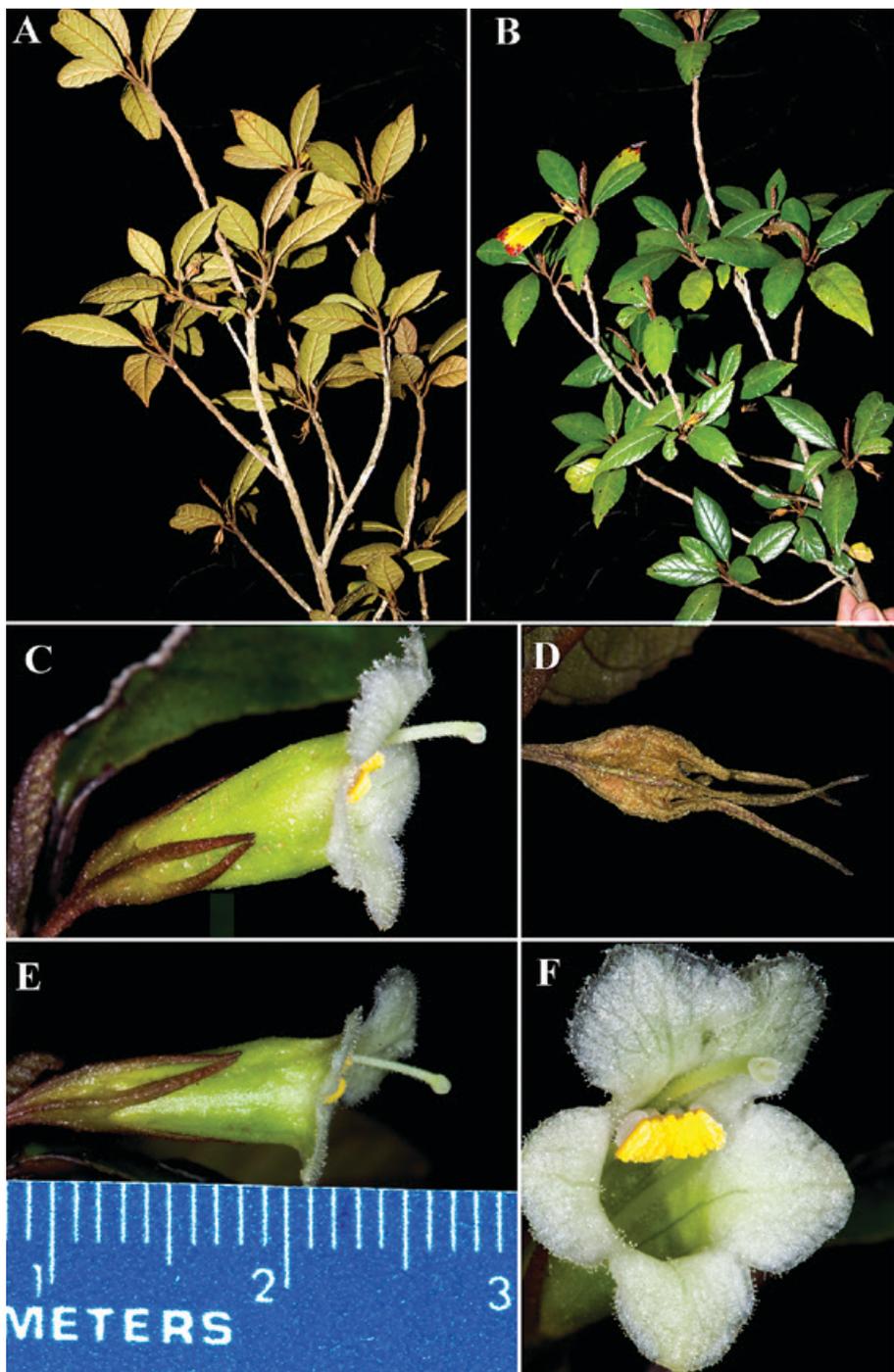


Figure 6. *Gesneria heterochroa*. **A.** Shrub habit showing lower leaf surface. **B.** Shrub habit showing upper leaf surface. **C.** Lateral view of corolla. **D.** Fruits. **E.** Lateral view of flower with scale. **F.** Front view of flower.

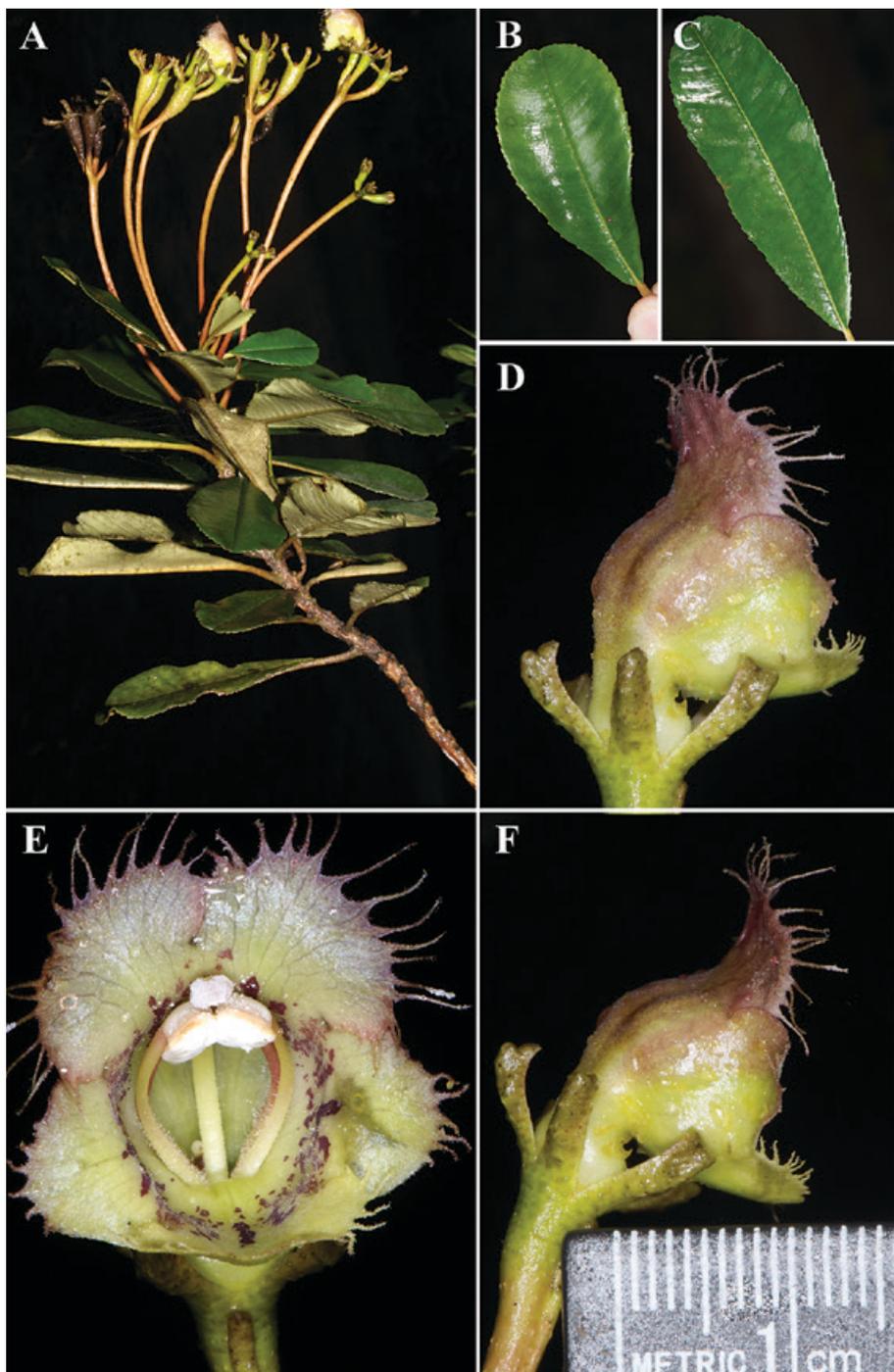


Figure 7. *Gesneria viridiflora*. **A.** Shrub habit showing terminally clustered leaves and erect inflorescences. **B.** & **C.** Variation of leaf shape. **D.** Lateral view of flower. **E.** Front view of flower showing fimbriations on all petal lobes. Lateral view of flower with scale.

There are only three known collections of this species and they are all from the type locality near the main trail, adjacent to an exposed vertical rock face below the summit. Other gesneriads observed include *Gesneria depressa*, *G. duchartreoides*, *G. reticulata*, and *Rhytidophyllum exsertum*. Also known from El Yunque de Baracoa, but not observed on this trip, are the following gesneriads: *Bellonia spinosa*, *Besleria lutea*, *Columnnea tinctoria*, and *C. sanguinea*.

### **August 14th – La Farola (*Gesneria depressa* & *G. duchartreoides*)**

One of my favorite roads in Cuba is the 60 kilometer segment between Baracoa and Cajobabo. Our journey on this day began in Baracoa, which is one of the wettest regions of Cuba. Chocolate and coffee are abundant here. The road reaches an altitude of 450+ meters as it crosses the Nipe-Sagua-Baracoa massif. It then rapidly descends to Cajobabo, an arid desert on limestone. There are several small streams that are easily accessible from the main road when traveling on the wet north side of the slopes. A common gesneriad that is easily located by waterfalls is *Gesneria depressa* (Fig. 4). This species was recently introduced into cultivation from seeds that originated from La Farola and were distributed by horticulturists. There are several synonyms for this species (e.g., *Gesneria shaferi*, *G. lindmanii*, and others). The variation that was previously used to recognize different species is considered variation within a single species by current authors (Greuter et al. 2017; Clark et al. 2013). *Gesneria depressa* is endemic to eastern Cuba and we observed it in several other localities such as El Yunque de Baracoa and the Alejandro de Humboldt National Park.

A common shrub that reaches 2 meters in height in the wet forests along La Farola is *Gesneria duchartreoides* (Fig. 4). A distinguishing characteristic of *Gesneria duchartreoides* is the presence of fimbriations along the upper petal lobes and absence of fimbriations along the margins of the lower petal lobes (Fig. 4D). A similar species that we observed during our last day in the field is *Gesneria viridiflora*. It is distinguished by the presence of fimbriations on all corolla lobes (Fig. 7D) in contrast to the entire margins on the lower lobes of *G. duchartreoides* (Figs. 4D-F). *Gesneria viridiflora* and *G. duchartreoides* are characterized by campanulate corollas that are coriaceous (thick and leathery) with a waxy appearance from resin deposits.

Another area that we explored was the arid desert along the southern coast where we studied *Pheidonocarpa corymbosa* growing on limestone cliffs along the beach. The other gesneriad observed was *Rhytidophyllum exsertum*.

### **August 15th – Cañón de Río Yumurí (*Rhytidophyllum exsertum*)**

The most common gesneriad in Cuba and a species that we observed throughout our entire expedition in abundant populations nearly every day was *Rhytidophyllum exsertum* (Fig. 5). There is a broad range of corolla colors from uniformly yellow to uniformly green to yellow suffused with maroon. They are typically shrubs from 50 centimeters to more than 2 meters tall. The leaves are terminally clustered and the inflorescences are erect. The other gesneriads observed in this area were *Gesneria libanensis* and *G. salicifolia*.

### **August 16th – Punta de Maisí (*Rhytidophyllum acunae*)**

The rediscovery of *Rhytidophyllum acunae* was a significant find for our trip. An account of this discovery is provided by Scarlet Au (article included in this journal). The other gesneriad observed nearby was *Rhytidophyllum exsertum*.

### **August 17th – Parque Nacional Gran Piedra (*Gesneria heterochroa* & *G. viridiflora*)**

Our day started with a brief visit to the limestone terraced cliffs near the beaches of Siboney. Located directly behind an urban area is the Reserva Ecológica Siboney-Juticí where we photographed *Rhytidophyllum intermedium*.

We then returned to the national park and hiked to the Gran Piedra. We observed the only currently known population of *Gesneria heterochroa* (Fig. 6). The small population of 6-10 trees is located near a path that stems from the main trail. We observed remnant fruits (Fig. 6D), but no flowers. The flowers featured here (Fig. 6C, E, F) are from a previous expedition to the same locality. The corolla is campanulate with a bright green tube and white lobes, a combination of colors that is not typical or represented in other gesneriads from the Neotropics. One of the common shrubs (about 2-3 meters tall) along the primary road near the hotel is *Gesneria viridiflora* (Fig. 7). The corolla is coriaceous (thick and leathery) and the outer surface is covered with resin deposits. The most distinctive character that distinguishes *G. viridiflora* from other closely related species is the presence of fimbriations on all petal lobes (Fig. 7). The other gesneriads observed were *Rhytidophyllum exsertum* and *R. intermedium*.

## August 18th – Santiago de Cuba and concluding remarks

A personal highlight of our trip was the interaction our group shared with several horticulturists throughout Cuba. Travel between Cuba and the USA during the last six decades has been complicated because of adversarial diplomatic relations. For a brief time period (2015 to 2017) U.S. citizens were allowed to travel to Cuba under the “People to People Category” which allowed for unregulated tourism. Unfortunately, that category was removed in June of 2017. In addition, a recent policy change bans U.S. citizens from visiting any state-run tourism in Cuba (e.g., most resorts, hotels, and restaurants). We traveled to Cuba under the “Support for the Cuban People Category.” The good news for us is that we found lodging in Cuban homes (casas particulares), ate our meals with Cubans, and had a detailed itinerary that included several visits with Cuban horticulturists.

Our trip culminated with an afternoon seminar in Santiago de Cuba where we met with more than 40 members from the Sociedad de Aficionados a la Botánica (Fig. 8A). We were welcomed by the society president Hector Eugenio Ferret Matamoros and enjoyed a presentation by Lorenzo Carmenati Medina. Several of the Cubans at the meeting were eager to learn more about gesneriads and our society. A participant from our group, Francisco Correa, offered to fund membership for our Cuban colleagues. Thus, thanks to Francisco we now have six new Cuban members of The Gesneriad Society, Inc., and they are organizing monthly meetings to promote the horticulture of Gesneriaceae. It is my understanding that Francisco is known locally as the “Padre del club de plantas Santiaguero” (“Father of the Santiago Plant Club”). Since returning to the U.S., I have received several emails with images featuring our new colleagues in Cuba sharing plant material, participating in meetings, and requesting identifications of commonly grown gesneriads. In regard to our travel “Support for the Cuban People Category” I would say **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!**

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all of the participants on the trip for their perseverance and enthusiasm for embracing biodiversity and Cuban culture. Sara Suárez T. is acknowledged for her important role in navigating logistics in Cuba. Most importantly, Sara facilitated our meetings with horticulturists. I am especially grateful to the co-director of our expedition, Jeanne Katzenstein, who selflessly dedicated significant time and energy to pre-trip logistics despite having to remove herself from the field portion for health reasons. Jeanne’s efforts in promoting research and conservation of gesneriads for more than four decades in the U.S. and in several Latin American countries are impressive. I am grateful to our Cuban guide, Yaimé Fernández Velázquez for her flexibility. Yaimé is a veteran Cuban guide who was assigned to work with us when we rented the bus from Viajes Cubanacán. We were her first clients from the



Figure 8. **A.** Collaborative meeting with the Sociedad de Aficionados a la Botánica (Santiago de Cuba). **B.** John L. Clark and Steve Ginzburg, Collections Manager from The University of Alabama Herbarium. **C.** Yaimé Fernández Velázquez (Viajes Cubanacán) and Sara Suárez T. **D.** Group picture of the 2018 Gesneriad Research Expedition to Cuba.

United States, and first group of biodiversity enthusiasts. Norvis Hernandez (Biologist – Parque Nacional Alejandro de Humboldt) helped with logistical details when visiting Baracoa and the Parque Nacional Alejandro de Humboldt. I am especially grateful to Alexis Morales (Jefe de Área Protegida) from the Empresa Nacional para la Protección de la Flora y la Fauna. His knowledge of Maisí and especially his insights in locating historic localities that are not readily found on modern maps made it possible to locate *Rhytidophyllum acunae*.

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# Gesneriad Celebration in Cincinnati, Ohio

Mel Grice, Convention Co-Chair ~ Englewood, OH, USA  
<melsgrice@gmail.com>

Paul Susi, Convention Co-Chair ~ South Huntington, NY, USA ~  
<gesneriadawards@gmail.com>

GESNERIAD ENTHUSIASTS FROM AROUND the world will be gathering for the Gesneriad Society's 63rd Annual Convention – **Cincinnati Celebrates Gesneriads** – in Cincinnati, Ohio during the first week of July, 2019. Our home will be the newly renovated Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel, a masterpiece of 1930s French art deco design, featuring rosewood paneling and ceiling murals, located in the heart of downtown Cincinnati. The flower showroom is said to have the best lighting of any convention hotel in recent memory. The hotel chef is planning delicious banquet meals for our enjoyment. Mealtime is also a great way to meet and discuss gesneriads with old friends or first-time convention attendees. Or, you can choose to eat at the Orchids at Palm Court, which will wow you with its beauty and amazing food. It has been awarded a four-star rating by the Forbes Travel Guide – only one of three in Ohio. In other words, this is not your typical convention hotel!

There will be a Judging School on Wednesday for new and experienced judges to improve their knowledge of gesneriads. If you are not already a Gesneriad Society judge but want to learn how judging teams evaluate exhibits in a show, the novice school is the one for you! Certified student judges interested in reviewing judging skills and knowledge are welcome to sit in on the intermediate-advanced school. You don't have to take the exam; but you're welcome to do so, even if you haven't completed your three-year student judge term. This is also a great way to meet and make new friends!

A highlight of the convention will occur on Wednesday evening when the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association (GHA) will meet. This meeting is open to all convention attendees. Dale Martens, the Chairperson for the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association, will be the GHA speaker this year. She will show photos of her hybridizing efforts using gesneriad species as parents. Her latest hybrid has *Sinningia brasiliensis* as a parent. Dale tries to make sure each person in the GHA audience goes home with a leaf, tuber, or rhizome of one or more new hybrids!

There will be two excellent presentations on Thursday that you won't want to miss. In the morning, Bruce Williams, a master electrician, will offer a "layman's" presentation providing some answers to your questions about LED lighting for growing gesneriads. After show entries are made, Stephen Maciejewski will describe the recent group trip to Cuba in search of new gesneriads. His presentation will show many gesneriads that you have never seen. Another convention highlight that will take place on Thursday evening



Plant Sales. Photo Stephen Maciejewski





Meals and programs. Photo Winston Goretsky

Friday morning. Sign up to clerk if you are not a judge. This is a great way to get an early view of the show and learn what judges look for in an entry. There will be some time for informal discussions about gesneriads if you are not involved with judging. The show is scheduled to open from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. for everyone to enjoy.

Saturday is a busy day with the Flower Show Judges Critique open only to this year's judges and clerks. This is another great way to learn about gesneriads. Also on Saturday morning, commercial grower B.J. Ohme will offer a practical program on maintaining a collection of plants when time is limited. He manages to grow blue-ribbon plants (mostly saintpaulias and streptocarpus) that frequently go on to win major awards. Lynne Dibley will talk about the history of streptocarpus cultivation and her UK nursery's contribution to the breeding of award-winning specimens. Lynne will share information about her expeditions into the mountains of South Africa to



Flower Show Critique. Photo Winston Goretsky

see and photograph streptocarpus plants in their natural environment. There will be a live auction after lunch. Both the silent and live auctions offer unique opportunities for acquiring rare treasures, both plant and non-plant material. The final night's activity will be a relaxing dinner cruise aboard the "Belle of Cincinnati," a restored paddle-wheel riverboat. A delicious buffet dinner will be served with a cash bar available. We have the third floor reserved for us, which is accessible by elevator. This cruise is a great way to see the lights of Cincinnati. Since it is the 4th of July weekend, there will probably be some fireworks!

Cincinnati will surprise you if you have never been there. It is set among steep hills with numerous bridges spanning the Ohio River that connect it to the equally interesting Northern Kentucky region. Pre-convention tours are also planned to the beautiful Spring Grove Arboretum, Music Hall, and Taft's Ale House located in Cincinnati's northern edge, the historic Over-the-Rhine (OTR) neighborhood boasting a spread of 19th century Italianate and Queen Anne buildings that have been restored into trendy eateries and shops. A tour of historic Rookwood Pottery Company on both Monday

is plant sales. Plant sales will offer a wide variety of gesneriad plants, tubers, rhizomes, and cuttings for purchase that cannot be found elsewhere. Entry to plant sales on Thursday night from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. is for convention registrants only and is based upon your registration number. Plant sales is open to the public on Friday and Saturday, but the best selection is available on Thursday evening.

The flower show will be judged



Flower Show. Photo Winston Goretsky

and Tuesday is being offered. Also on Tuesday we will visit Eden Park for a spectacular photographic view overlooking the Ohio River and downtown Cincinnati. Then on to Krohn Conservatory, a beautiful art deco glasshouse built in 1933. The rainforest-under-glass exhibit contains more than 5,000 plants from all over the world. There is also an internationally known “Butterfly Show” where thousands of butterflies fly freely throughout a specially themed garden. Next, we will visit the Cincinnati Art Museum, also located in Eden Park, which features a diverse collection of more than 65,000 artworks spanning 6,000 years including paintings, sculptures, decorative arts, fashion, photography, and prints.

Come join us for a family celebration of gesneriads — whether you are a family member we already know or are family members that we have not yet met!

## 2019 Convention Dates to Remember

*Register and reserve your hotel room early!*

- June 7 Hotel reservation deadline for convention room rates.  
(Note: Convention rates will not be honored after our room block is filled, which could be before this date so reserve your room early.)
- June 15 Donation deadline for Flower Show awards.
- June 17 Reservation deadline for artistic and arts entries and for commercial educational exhibits.
- June 25 Last day to order convention meals at the Hilton.

To register for convention online, go to  
[http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/  
2019-convention-Cincinnati-Ohio/](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2019-convention-Cincinnati-Ohio/)



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# Gesneriad Registrations

Irina Nicholson, Registrar ~ Lakewood, CO, USA ~  
<irina.nicholson.co@gmail.com>



**Primulina 'Venus'**, 2018, IR181424, (*P. eburnea* × *P. pungetisepala*), Le Luo, Qixiang Zhang, Fang Wen, Tangren Cheng, Huitang Pan, Xiaoyan Yao, and Yichi Zhang of Beijing, China. Cross made Mar. 2013, seeds planted May 2013, first flowered Mar. 30, 2015. Reproducible only vegetatively. Basal rosette. Green leaves with white veins, 6.5-17 cm long × 4-7 cm wide with 0.8-1.5 cm petiole, elliptic to ovate with cuneate base, entire margin, and acute tip. Calyx purple-green, 14 mm long. Pedicel 2-3 cm long with

4-12 flowers per axil. Corolla salverform, 3-4.5 cm long × 0.8-1.0 cm wide, purple to indigo, light purple tube. (The flowering period of the group lasts about 50 days, from the middle of March to late April. Abundant purple to indigo flowers on long and thick bloomstalks, red bracts, bright green leaves, strong adaptability; both drought and humidity tolerance make for excellent potted plant material.)



**Petrocodon coccineus 'Golden Phoenix'**, 2018, IR181425, (*P. coccineus* × self), Wei-Chuen Chou, Fang Wen, and Long-Fei Fu of Guangxi, China. Seed mutation. First flowered May 2, 2017. Fertile. Reproducible from seeds. Rosette habit with 3-6 cm stem, sometimes longer. Leaves pale green to green, lighter than on original species, 4.5-9.5 cm long × 2.5-5 cm wide with 5-12.5 cm petiole, elliptic to ovate with cuneate base, serrate margin, and acute tip. Calyx split, pale green, ca. 1 cm long. Pedicel 2-5 mm long with 9-18 or more flowers per axil. Corolla infundibuliform, 1.9-2.5 cm long × ca. 4 mm wide, dark yellow to orange. Blossom color is very different from the original species. (Enjoys cool

habitat, not over 29°C, bright scattered light; prefers relatively evenly moist substrate with higher concentration of calcium ions.)



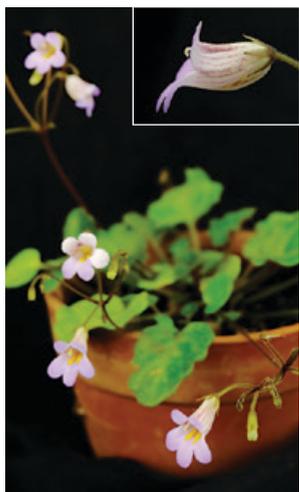
**Petrocodon coccineus 'Snow Phoenix'**, 2018, IR181426, (*P. coccineus* × self), Fang Wen, Wei-Chuen Chou, and Long-Fei Fu of Guangxi, China. Seed mutation. First flowered May 21, 2017. Fertile. Reproducible from seeds. Rosette habit with 3-6 cm stem, sometimes longer. Leaves pale green to green, lighter than on original species, 4-8 cm long × 2-4.5 cm wide with 4-11.5 cm petiole, elliptic to ovate with cuneate base, serrate margin, and acute tip. Calyx split, pale green, ca. 1 cm long. Pedicel 2-5 mm long with 9-18 or more flowers per

axil. Corolla infundibuliform, 1.5-2.1 cm long × ca. 3.8 mm wide, white to extremely light pink. Blossom color is very different from the original species and *P. coccineus* 'Golden Phoenix'. (Enjoys cool habitat, not over 29°C, bright scattered light; prefers relatively evenly moist substrate with higher concentration of calcium ions.)



***Primulina* 'GCCC's Aaron'**, 2018, IR181427, (*P. bedyotidea* × *P. longgangensis*), Fang Wen, Long-Fei Fu, and Yi-Gang Wei of Guangxi, China. Cross date unknown, leaf and stem cuttings planted Oct. 15, 2014, first flowered Oct. 29, 2016. Sterile. Reproducible only vegetatively. Erect habit, stem 12-13 cm, but can reach 60 cm and become hanging. Leaves yellowish green to green with extremely short pubescent hair on both sides of the leaf blades, 7-10

cm long × 2-2.5 cm wide with nearly none or no more than ca. 5 mm petiole, linear with cuneate base, entire margin, and acute tip, hairy. Calyx split, greenish brown, ca. 3 mm long. Pedicel 1-2 cm long with 20 or more flowers per axil. Corolla infundibuliform, 1.5-2 cm long × 0.8-1 cm wide, purple with many dark purple stripes on lobes and throat of the corolla. (Easy to grow: enjoys warmer habitat, stronger light, even direct sunlight; prefers substrate kept relatively drier with higher level of calcium ions; temperature range above 10°C and below 40°C.)



***Primulina* 'GCCC's Alfonso'**, 2018, IR181428, (*P. multifida* × *P. carinata*), Fang Wen, Zi-Bing Xin, and Yi-Gang Wei of Guangxi, China. Cross made Aug. 3, 2016, seeds planted Sep. 1, 2016, first flowered Jun. 29, 2017. Sterile. Reproducible only vegetatively. Basal rosette. Leaves green to dark green, glabrous, 2-3 cm long × 1.8-2.6 cm wide, 8-11 cm petiole, orbicular with cordate to oblique base, crenate margin, and rounded tip, smooth. Calyx split, pale brown, papillary, 4-5 mm long. Pedicel 1-3.5 cm long with 10 or more flowers per axil. Corolla infundibuliform, 1.5-2 cm long × 0.8-1 cm wide. Corolla with purple lobes with three reddish purple stripes on the adaxial lobes, two yellow stripes in throat. (Easy to grow: enjoys warmer habitat, weaker scattered light; prefers substrate kept relatively moist with higher level of calcium ions; temperature range above 10°C and below 37°C.)



***Primulina* 'GCCC's Amy'**, 2018, IR181429, (*P. 'Little Dragon'* × *P. lutea*), Fang Wen, Shu Li, and Yi-Gang Wei of Guangxi, China. Cross made Jun. 24, 2015, seeds planted Sep. 2, 2015, first flowered Jun. 21, 2016. Sterile. Reproducible only vegetatively. Basal rosette. Leaves green to lime; veins pale green to yellowish green; pubescent hair on leaf blade white; 3.5-5.5 cm long × 2-3.8 cm wide, 5-10 cm or longer petiole, orbicular

with cuneate base, entire margin, and acute tip, smooth. Calyx split, pale brown to greenish brown, ca. 5 mm long. Pedicel 3.5-4.5 cm long with 1-3 (usually 2) flowers per axil. Corolla infundibuliform, 1.5-2.1 cm long × ca. 3.8 mm wide. Corolla lobes pale yellow within, purple tinged, yellow in throat. (Easy to grow: enjoys warmer habitat, bright scattered indirect light; prefers substrate kept relatively moist with higher level of calcium ions; temperature range above 10°C and below 37°C.)



**Primulina 'GCCC's Annie'**, 2018, IR181430, (*P. bochiensis* × *P. lutea*), Fang Wen, Shu Li, and Yi-Gang Wei of Guangxi, China. Cross made May 27, 2016, seeds planted Sep. 1, 2016, first flowered Jun. 2, 2018. Sterile. Reproducible only vegetatively. Basal rosette. Leaves lime or green; extremely short pubescent hair on both sides of leaf blade; 8-12 cm long × 6-7 cm wide, 8-11 cm petiole, ovate with cuneate base, entire margin, and acute tip, hairy. Calyx split, white, ca. 8 mm long. Pedicel 2.5-3 cm long

with 8-10 flowers per axil. Corolla infundibuliform, 2-2.5 cm long × 0.8-1 cm wide, bright yellow, margin of corolla lobes bluish purple tinged. (Easy to grow: enjoys bright indirect light; prefers substrate kept relatively drier with higher level of calcium ions; temperature range above 5°C and below 35°C.)



**Primulina 'GCCC's Antonio'**, 2018, IR181431, (*P. lutvittata* × *P. purpurea*), Fang Wen, Long-Fei Fu, and Yi-Gang Wei of Guangxi, China. Cross made Jun. 15, 2016, seeds planted Sep. 22, 2016, first flowered Jul. 4, 2017.

Sterile. Reproducible only vegetatively. Basal rosette. Leaves dark green; extremely short strigose hair on adaxial surface of leaf blade; 8-15 cm long × 4-5 cm wide, nearly sessile, linear to elliptic with cuneate base, entire margin, and acute tip, hairy. Calyx split, green, ca. 8 mm long. Pedicel 2.5-3 cm long

with over 25 flowers per axil. Corolla infundibuliform, 3-4 cm long × ca. 2.5 cm wide, dark fuchsia to reddish purple, two bright yellow stripes in throat. (Large plant with abundant flowers, easy to grow, enjoys bright indirect light; prefers substrate kept relatively drier with higher level of calcium ions; temperature range above 5°C and below 35°C.)



**Primulina 'GCCC's Austin'**, 2018, IR181432, (*P. lutea* × *P. langshanica*), Fang Wen, Zi-Bing Xin, and Yi-Gang Wei of Guangxi, China. Cross made Jun. 17, 2016, seeds planted Sep. 1, 2016, first flowered Jun. 26, 2017. Sterile. Reproducible only vegetatively. Basal rosette. Leaves green; 10-15 cm long × 8-10 cm wide, 10-15 cm petiole, ovate with cuneate base, undulate margin, and acute tip, hairy. Calyx split, red with

green base, 1-1.5 cm long. Pedicel 3-5 cm long with over 20 flowers per axil. Corolla infundibuliform, 4-5 cm long × ca. 2 cm wide, yellow within, brownish-red tinged, corolla lobes with brownish stripes, color changes as the blossom ages. (Large plant with abundant flowers, easy to cultivate, enjoys bright light; prefers substrate kept relatively drier with higher level of calcium ions; temperature range above 5°C and below 35°C.)



**Columnea 'Red Dolphin'**, 2018, IR181433, (*C. 'Sun Dance'* × *C. hirta* var. *mortonii*), Timothy R. Demmin, NY. Cross made Jan. 1977, seeds planted Nov. 1977, first flowered Mar. 1980. Fertile. Reproducible only vegetatively. Trailing habit, stem over 30 cm. Leaves dark green, 2.5-3.0 cm long × 1.7 cm wide with 3-4 mm petiole, ovate with cordate base, entire margin, and acute tip. Calyx split, green, 1 cm long. Pedicel

1 cm long with 1 flower per axil. Corolla hooded, 9.2 cm long × 5.6 cm wide, Pantone Warm Red C. (Prolifically blooms in winter months and has larger flowers than most columneas in cultivation.)

# Coming Events

Ray Coyle and Karyn Cichocki <events@gesneriadsociety.org>

If you would like your event listed in *Gesneriads* and on the website, please email the information to [events@gesneriadsociety.org](mailto:events@gesneriadsociety.org). We often receive notices too late for publication in *Gesneriads*, so please send your information as early as possible. Although the event can be posted on the website at any time, there is a three-month lead time for the journal.

Kindly use the following dates as a guideline for sending your club's information so it can be forwarded to our editor:

- **January** issue deadline: **September 15**
- **April** issue deadline: **December 15**
- **July** issue deadline: **March 15**
- **October** issue deadline: **June 15**

When sending information, please include the name of the facility where the event is being held, the address, dates and times, and a contact for further information. It is extremely helpful if you can submit the information in the same format as the entries below. Thank you for your cooperation, as this will help smooth out the process and assure that your publicity will appear accurately and in time for your event.

—Ray Coyle and Karyn Cichocki

## Gesneriad Society Events

**April 13 – Christiana, DE** Delaware African Violet & Gesneriad Society Display & Plant Sale, Boscov's Department Store, Christiana Town Center, Route 273, Christiana, DE 19702. 10 am - 4 pm. Contact: Bobbie LaFashia <rlafash@comcast.net>

**April 13 – Fairport, NY** African Violet & Gesneriad Society of Rochester Display and Sale, Solstice Senior Living, 55 Ayrault Road, Fairport, NY 14450. 10 am - 4 pm. Contact: Stacey Davis <Stacey.Davis@rit.edu> or 585-426-5665

**April 13-14 – Tampa, FL** Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society sale at the USF Spring Sale at the University of South Florida Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Drive, Tampa, FL. April 13, 10 am - 4 pm; April 14, 10 am - 3 pm. Contact: Nancy Kast <jnkast@aol.com> or <http://gardens.usf.edu/data/springfestival.pdf>

**April 14 – Toronto, ON, Canada** Toronto African Violet & Gesneriad Society Annual Show & Sale, 777 Lawrence Avenue, East, Toronto, ON M3C 1P2, Canada. 9 am - 4 pm. Admission \$2. Additional information: <http://www.tavgs.ca>

**April 27 – Seattle, WA** Puget Sound Gesneriad Society and the Seattle African Violet Society Flower Show & Plant Sale, Wallingford Senior Center at the Good Shepard Center, 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N #140, Seattle, WA 98103. Free parking and admission. Show viewing: noon to 4 pm; plant sales 9:30 am to 4 pm. Contact: <mjtyler2@gmail.com>; 360-881-0072; or Jennifer Lambert, 253-495-6689

**May 4-5 – Oyster Bay, NY** Long Island Gesneriad Society Flower Show & Plant Sale, Planting Fields Arboretum Conference Center, 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay, NY 11771. Held in conjunction with the Saintpaulia Society of Long Island. Free admission to the show; per-car parking fee. May 4, 1-4 pm; May 5, 10 am - 4 pm. Additional information: Ben Paternoster, 631-549-6788 or <ben9@optonline.net>; <http://www.longislandgesneriads.org>

**May 4-5 – Cheektowaga, NY** African Violet & Gesneriad Society of Western New York Flower Show & Plant Sale, Galleria Mall, Cheektowaga, NY. May 4, noon-5 pm; May 5, 11 am to 4 pm. Contact: <judyoneil1945@gmail.com>; 716-662-9434

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# Gesneriads

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## Nominations for 2019

### Nominating Committee Report

The following members have agreed to have their names placed in nomination as Directors for a three-year term ending in 2022:

Karen Allen .....	Fredericksburg, VA USA
Laura Buckner .....	Kent, NY, USA
Brandon Erikson .....	Omaha, NE, USA
Rick Fadden .....	Stow MA, USA
Eileen McGrath .....	Carleton Place, ON, Canada
Mary Schaeffer .....	Newark, DE, USA
Kathy Spissman .....	Tucker, GA, USA

*Mary Schaeffer, Chairperson, Nominating Committee*

## The Shopping Mall

“OZARK” *Sinningias*, African Violets and other Gesneriads. Dave’s Violets, 1372 S. Kentwood Avenue, Springfield, MO 65804 (417) 887-8904 Email: <plantman@ipa.net> (no catalog). [www.davesviolets.com](http://www.davesviolets.com).

**MRS STREP STREPS** – *Streptocarpus*, Primulinas, and other Gesneriads. Email for list of available plants. Kathy Spissman, 4086 Brownlee Dr., Tucker, GA 30084. Phone (770) 939-5289. Email: <mrsstrepstreps@comcast.net>.

## Coming Events *(continued from page 30)*

### Other Events of Interest to Gesneriad Society Members

**April 5-7 – Richmond, VA** Richmond African Violet Society Judged Show & Sale, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond, VA 23228. Show: April 6, 1-5 pm; April 7, 9 am - 3 pm. Sale: April 5, 1-5 pm; April 6, 9 am - 5 pm; April 7, 9 am - 4 pm. Admission free. Additional information: Barbara Greenawalt, 804-755-7437 or <barbgreenawalt@hotmail.com>

**April 6 – Windsor, CT** Windsor African Violet Society Annual Judged Show & Sale, Grace Episcopal Church, 311 Broad Street, Windsor, CT 06095. 8:30 am - 2:30 pm. Come early for the best selection of plants for sale from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses. We always have many different gesneriads on display in our show. Additional information: Nancy Hayes 860-930-6260 or <violetnancy@comcast.net>; <http://www.windsorafricanviolets.org>

**April 6-7 – Morristown, NJ** African Violet Club of Morris County 24th annual Show & Plant Sale "Violets Through the Holidays," Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Haggerty Education Building 353 E. Hanover Ave, Morristown, NJ 07960. April 6th 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm; April 7th, 11 am - 3pm. Plant sale of African violets and gesneriads from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses as well as a great assortment of member-grown plants. Contact: Karyn Cichocki (973-579-7914); <kdc05@ptd.net>

**April 13-14 – Columbus, OH** Columbus African Violet Society 70th Annual Show & Sale "70th Anniversary and Still Growing," Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, 1777 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43203. April 13: Show noon - 5 pm; Sale 10 am - 5 pm; April 14, Show & Sale: 10 am - 5 pm. Parking and Show are free. Contact: Madelyn Sechler, Show Chairman <mjsechler@gmail.com> or Donna Vogelpohl, Co-Show Chairman <donna8452@columbus.rr.com>

**April 27 – Etobicoke, ON, Canada** Lakeshore African Violet Society Annual Show & Sale, St. Philip's Lutheran Church, 61 West Deane Park Drive, Etobicoke, ON M9B 2S1, Canada. 9 am - 4 pm. Free admission and parking. Additional information: <http://www.lakeshoreavs.com>

**April 27-28 – Cincinnati, OH** Cincinnati African Violet Society & African Violet Society of Dayton (Ohio) Annual Judged Show & Plant Sale, Eastgate Mall, Batavia, Ohio (I-275 and St. Rt. 32) 4601 Eastgate Blvd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45245. Free parking and admission. Saturday April 27, 10 am-9 pm; Sunday April 28, 10 am-6 pm. Contact: Show Chair Penny Wichman <pennywic@aol.com> or 859-240-9057; [www.cincyavs.org](http://www.cincyavs.org)



### Enchanted Gardens ~~~ Heidi Dillenbeck

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# Cuba: Painted Snails, Detroit Relics, Gesneriads by the Sea, and La Gran Piedra

Stephen Maciejewski ~ Philadelphia, PA, USA ~ <teciu1949@gmail.com>

## Ten Days in August

Do you ever think about time travel? Just 90 miles off our coast lies an island that remains frozen in time. Isolated, like from another era, Cuba awaits. Forget about using the Internet, emails, social media, or even credit cards. Cash only and Euros are better than greenbacks.

I grew up with the Cuban Revolution, the Bay of Pigs invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Cuban Blockade/ Embargo, the Cuban boat-lift exodus, Elian Gonzales' return, and Guantanamo Bay – past headlines. Now Cuba is opening up for Americans. So, when I heard that John L. Clark and Jeanne Katzenstein were organizing a trip to explore for gesneriads in eastern Cuba, even during the dog days of August, I knew I was going to go without a doubt. It would be a dream to visit the largest island in the Caribbean that has been featured so prominently in our lives and explore some of its many natural wonders.

On a map, Cuba resembles a sleeping crocodile. It is home to many unusual creatures: the smallest bird on the planet (the Bee Hummingbird), the smallest frog in the Northern Hemisphere, the Monte Iberia Eluth (*Eleutherodactylus iberia*), and the painted tree snail (*Polymita picta*) found in a riot of colors. The island also has dozens of endemic gesneriads (some not seen for ages) and over 3000 plant species that cannot be found anywhere else. Then there are those classic, vintage cars from the 1940s and '50s, plus horse-drawn buggies, warm, friendly people, delicious food, and a well-known song – Guantanamera.



Life doesn't get better than this! Ocean views and the pleasure of paradise. The author enjoys a lavish rooftop dinner with his fellow gesneriad enthusiasts.  
Photo: John L. Clark



Join the author on a journey back into time. Here's a classic 1953 Chevy on the streets of Baracoa.

All photos by author unless noted otherwise.

## The Basics

Come along with Team Cuba as we traveled to eastern Cuba. The Gesneriad Research Expedition (GRE) group included our expedition leader and botanist John L. Clark, Ph.D., (Aldo Leopold Distinguished Teaching Chair, The Lawrenceville School); Steve Ginzburg (Collections Manager, The University of Alabama Herbarium); Scarlet Au (The Lawrenceville School – student in class of 2019); first-time GRE participants Lillian Wong, Francisco Correa, and Maike Lundberg (Sweden); and previous GRE attendees Lena Klintberg (Sweden), Karyn Cichocki, Gussie Farrice, Carolyn Ripps, Mike Horton, Irina Nicholson, Michael Riley, and myself.

I knew from my previous GRE trip to Ecuador with John in 2009, that going on a Clark adventure would be an intense, total immersion experience. It's like reading in BOLD type or seeing fluorescent rocks with a black light. Everything is heightened and juiced up and every day brings new wonders. Memories of a lifetime are always made on a Clark expedition! We all gathered in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the day before the start of our adventure. After a group dinner, we shared our excitement and discussed arrangements with John. We tried to go to bed early in anticipation of the start of our expedition, but it felt too much like Christmas Eve.

### Day 1 (Friday, August 10, 2018)

This was a busy travel day as JetBlue transported us on a short flight from Florida to Eastern Cuba. After our arrival in Holguín, we gathered all of our belongings and went to the currency exchange to purchase Cuban Convertible Pesos (CUC). Then we tried the Cristal and Bucanero brands of Cuban beer, which were quite refreshing on this sweltering day. Following that, we boarded our private bus and visited the beautiful home of our guide, Sara Suárez. She's a retired biologist who runs a bed and breakfast (*casa particular*). She previously worked for the Centro Oriental de Ecosistemas y Biodiversidad (BIOECA), which is one of Cuba's essential agencies for managing wildlife conservation. We strolled around her lavish garden filled with a variety of plants, including gesneriads, begonias, palms, agaves, heliconias, chenille plants, hedychioms, pachypodiums, philodendrons, monstera, bromeliads, gingers, ferns, cycads, bananas, mangoes, and so much more. We had glasses of delicious fresh-made mango juice from her very own mango trees and enjoyed a delightful fresh fruit salad. After delivering many gifts and branding Sara with a Gesneriad Society t-shirt, we boarded the bus for a 110-kilometer ride to Villa Pinares de Mayari – a beautiful, sprawling compound guarded by peacocks and surrounded by woods with many rustic log cabins and a large dining facility. A lavish dinner capped our first evening in paradise.

### Day 2 (Saturday, August 11, 2018)

*"Buenos Dias."* We are now in the Cordillera Sierra de Nipe in the Mensura Hills, located in a protected area of the Parque Nacional Mensura-Piloto in eastern Cuba. This is a tropical pine forest area, 700 meters above sea level.

After an omelet, fruit, and coffee breakfast, we boarded our bus and met Yaimé Fernández Velázquez, our tour guide who accompanied us throughout the trip and provided historical commentary every day. We first headed to the Salto del Guayabo. There, we had great views from an overhanging deck of the two waterfalls, 85 and 127 meters tall. We then meandered along a loop trail through thick forest between the tourist cafe and the waterfall, enjoying the exuberance of nature. We were excited to find some gesneriads, including *Gesneria nipensis*, a locally common shrub, at its type locality in the area. We also found *Rhytidophyllum exsertum*, a widespread and beautiful shrub that grows along the roadsides. After a long morning walk, we had an excellent coffee at the cafe there.



Gesneriads galore. Some of the many beautiful plants we got to see in the very large, lavish, walled garden of our guide Sara Suárez.

After lunch back at the Villa, we proceeded to hike the Sendero La Cueva Fria. (For me, crossing a makeshift single- and two-log bridge on this trail brought back all the scary memories of stream crossings on another plant hunting trip in Vietnam.) The weather looked threatening, but surprisingly the storm blew over. We were rewarded with finding more gesneriads. It was amazing to see the tenacity of plants like *Gesneria cubensis*, an erect shrub growing on a vertical rock face, and the lovely rosette-forming *Gesneria libanensis*, flourishing in what appeared to be a harsh environment, clinging to the rock wall.

With Lainier, our enthusiastic and robust guide, we were able to find some individual plants growing high on the rock walls. On our way back, we all climbed to the top of a very tall, rickety, lookout tower for an incredible view. It started to sway due to the weight so we all alternated and waited for our turn to hike up the tower. I soon learned that Lainier was also a horticulturist and had a collection of begonias. Even though it was dark when we returned to the Villa, he gave me a private tour of his beautiful on-site begonia collection.

### Day 3 (Sunday, August 12, 2018)

After two nights at the Villa, we proceeded to our new destination in Baracoa. We spent the day driving and searching for gesneriads en route along the scenic northern coastal highway between Pinares de Mayarí and Baracoa. We stopped for gas, admired some classic vintage cars and had an early lunch (*sandwich de jamón y queso*) near the Taco Bay Biological Research Station. We also visited another dry habitat, which we found to be a sweltering, hot desert, and seemed particularly inhospitable, especially for gesneriads. We did find a very rare endemic with a restricted range, known as *Dracaena cubensis* or the Moa Dragon Tree. Its disjunct distribution from all other close relatives is an anomaly. Its relatives are from Africa and Asia and date back to a time when the New and Old Worlds were joined together. John gave us a brief lecture on the plants growing in the area when we were back on the bus.

Another one of our guides, Norvis Hernandez, joined us near one of the entrances to Alejandro de Humboldt Parque Nacional. This park is considered to have one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Norvis is a malacologist and has worked in the national park system for more than 20 years. We purchased some delicious, handmade snacks from the locals: one was a 4-inch circular medallion of roasted, sugar encrusted peanuts; the other, called a *cucurucho*, is another local delicacy that looks like an ice cream cone (the name is Spanish for cone or comet). Inside was a sweet mix of coconut and burnt sugar and various fruits, covered with a cone-shaped palm leaf. We would need this sugar rush for our arduous walk later in the blazing sun.

We then explored the Sendero Santa Maria. The soils here are bright red, and the trail really looked like a gaping wound cut into the verdant forest. Looking up, I saw red again, but this was the red belly of a magnificent Cuban Trogon – the national bird, with the onomatopoeic name *tocororo* in Spanish, named for its call. We were having an incredible day.

Later, like out of nowhere, John spotted the beautiful rosette-forming *Gesneria depressa*, and the weariness of hiking in the noonday tropical sun evaporated. The leaves are bullate, and its size is manageable, even for growing under lights. I thought, WOW, I could grow this plant. Even the name appeals to me.

Then we got to see *Gesneria bracteosa*, a shrub that is more than two feet tall. It was not in flower, but we took many photographs of the foliage. Later, John took measurements and additional photos for research. Finding these plants was very exciting but it also gave us an opportunity to rest for a few minutes. Then we had to move on to another stream to cross, and another step-by-step, one-foot-in-front-of-the-other,



Got it! Dr. Clark in the rain, excitedly holding a *Gesneria viridiflora* flower he found on a group of plants growing along the main road at La Gran Piedra.

are there to sell their goods, it still seemed like a miracle. As we were enjoying our fruits we also spotted a green-bodied, blue-lipped Knight Anole (*Anolis equestris*), on the trunk of a nearby tree. We weren't out of the woods yet, as there was another wide stream to ford. Shoes and socks off! John was right. Nearing the end of the long trail we were met by a lady selling shots of espresso. Another miracle!

Later, we went to the Visitors Center of Alejandro de Humboldt Parque Nacional. I have admired Alexander von Humboldt since I learned of him in the 1980s. He is often referred to as the last "Renaissance Man" and the "Father of Ecology." Another reason for me to go on this trip was just to explore this special park named in recognition of his contributions to the field. Humboldt was in Cuba in 1804. That same year he also visited my home city of Philadelphia. (Two portraits of him were painted then; one is in the Academy of Natural of Sciences of Drexel University where the Gesneriad Society Convention had its "Dining under the Dinosaurs" closing night party in 2011 ... but I have digressed.) Back at the picturesque

balancing act over a fallen tree to get to the other side. Sometimes the only momentary joy was finding another gesneriad to marvel at and be distracted from the all-consuming heat.

We were delighted to find a fruit stand on our hike, which we found miraculously in the middle of this jungle. The young man managing the stand had a machete in hand and had already sliced open a coconut for us to enjoy. There was also an assortment of mangoes, pineapples, guavas, and bananas – a feast out of nowhere. Although John later explained that the locals know who is hiking here and since hikers need nourishment, they



Climbing up to the top of El Yunque we found many amazing plants, including this *Gesneria purpurascens* with bullate leaves.





*Polymita picta* or Cuban painted tree snails in a variety of colors. Cameras cocked, clicking endlessly away, attempting to capture images of these fascinating creatures.

Visitors Center by the bay, we got to see a bust of Humboldt and saw all of the educational posters about the wildlife in the park.

On the road again, we visited a dry forest near the coastline to see *Gesneria salicifolia*, where it was abundant. Afterward, we headed back to Baracoa staying at the Hostel Mery y Luis. In the evening, we walked along the beach road to a favorite restaurant and dined facing the night ocean, cooled by the evening breeze.

#### **Day 4 (Monday, August 13, 2018)**

Our destination for our hike today was El Yunque, a distinctive 575-meter, flat table-top mountain that looked like an anvil (hence the name), located in Baracoa Bay, Guantanamo Province. Even Christopher Columbus took note of this distinctive mountain in his chronicles.

For those going all the way to the top, we started with a short but bumpy ride in an old 1940's Willys Jeep to the base of the mountain and then began the 10-kilometer hike. Some had walking sticks that helped to navigate a stream crossing and then the uphill climb. Again, socks and shoes off. We stopped many times to look at plants, especially gesneriads and begonias. Lucky for us, there was a fruit stand along the trail so we could revive our spirits and boost our energy on this hot and humid day.

We found many giant Cuban millipedes, colorful tree snails, the Cuban lesser racer snake along with several different species of anoles. We also found five different species of *Gesneria*, including *G. purpurascens* (a lithophyte with bullate leaves in a basal rosette), *G. duchartreoides* (a shrub), *G. depressa* (a lithophyte with leaves clustered in a basal rosette), *G. reticulata* (an herb with leaves in a basal rosette), and *G. glandulosa* (a small shrub growing on a cliff).

It was a long, sweaty hike and we were all glad to see the sign “Cima del Yunque 300 m” (top of the Anvil is only a 300 meter walk away). There was no rush to the top, but we all made it and we were rewarded with beautiful, picture-postcard views and some incredible plants perched at the very summit. There was a spectacular looking, but unidentifiable tree with fiery red flowers clustered along the margin of a phyllode (reduced vegetative structure) at the peak.

We finished this incredible day with a delicious home-cooked dinner served on the rooftop of the hotel. John gave another brief talk and showed us some of the digital images from our expedition on a computer.



The lure of *Gesneria libanensis* was more like a mirage. Endless climbing in the noon day sun was debilitating. The reward was immeasurable, so glad we did not give up.

## Day 5 (Tuesday, August 14, 2018)

We stopped to change some money in the morning, then headed by bus to the southern coast of Guantanamo Province, over the mountains using the “La Farola” road. This stretch of road connecting Baracoa and Playita da Cajobabo was only built and opened for public access in 1964. The terrain is steep and we traveled through the craggy peaks of the Cuchillas de Baracoa mountains, from ferns, royal palms (the national tree of Cuba), mangoes, guapen (*Artocarpus altillis* – like a breadfruit tree) to cacti, aloes and other succulents.

I never expected to be searching for gesneriads on the beach near the ocean, but here we were. First, a talk by our guide Yaimé at the Playita da Cajobabo about the memorial, dedicated to Jose Marti and Maximo Gomez. Marti was a Cuban revolutionary, poet, and journalist. Gomez was a Major-General in the war for independence from Spain. They made a landing here in 1895 in their fight for freedom. I’m sure you know and love the most famous song from Cuba: “*Guantanamera*.” The lyrics of the song are from poet Jose Marti.

Near the War of Independence memorial on limestone cliffs and on huge boulders facing the ocean, we saw *Gesneria duchartreoides*, *Rhytidophyllum exsertum*, *Gesneria depressa*, and the unbelievably tough *Pheidonocarpa corymbosa*.

After a long day of traveling on the bus and hiking on the sandy beach, we came back to another home-cooked meal, served on the rooftop overlooking the ocean. Life could not get much better than this. If that wasn’t enough, we then decided to go out for an evening stroll, visited some art galleries, viewed a series of old photos on cacao harvesting, and purchased some chocolate.

## Day 6 (Wednesday, August 15, 2018)

We began the day with another delicious, homemade fresh breakfast. Then we took a short walk, admiring the Spanish colonial era influence on the local architecture – mostly



*Rhytidophyllum acunae*, for the hirsute lover. Those who were tired and slept in missed a special opportunity to see this hairy plant at dawn. Luckily everyone got an opportunity to see this amazing plant later in the day.

two- or three-story buildings, many painted with vivid colors but others showing off the faded, weathered patina of a glorious past.

We boarded the bus again to get to our next destination and did some botanizing along the road. What a relaxing experience strolling along an empty road, sandwiched between a huge wall of massive rocks and the beautiful blue sea, looking for the plant love of your life. We found *Gesneria salicifolia* and *Rhytidophyllum exsertum*.

Then we headed off for a visit to an active cacao farm. We met a mother and daughter team, along with the husband, children, dog, cat, and Cuban parrot. Mom is referred to locally as the *Reina de Chocolate* (Queen of Chocolate). Many interesting fruit trees were in the garden, and I loved seeing the carambola trees exhibiting cauliflory, with fruits hanging right from the trunk.

There we heard and saw a hands-on presentation on cacao. The football-sized pods come in a variety of colors: green, orange, yellow, purple, maroon, and red. We got to sample the white pulp, which has a floral taste. We also tasted the seeds or beans, called nibs, raw and roasted, which have a nutty flavor with a bitter aftertaste. Afterward, we purchased various beans, powders, wooden jars of cacao butter, and candy.

It was time to head to Yumuri for more roadside botanizing. The bus couldn't go any farther on this steep road, so we had to walk. John said, "the plants were just up the road." An hour later they were still just up the road ... the very, very steep road. Our group slowed down to a crawl and split up. The heat and the climb were getting to us. Eventually we did find the incredibly gorgeous *Gesneria libanensis*, with its beautiful bullate leaves in a basal rosette. The reddish orange flowers really made the plant glow. Seeing this strikingly handsome plant in its natural habitat was undoubtedly worth the discomfort.

Then we went to a local seafood eatery, right on the coast for a cold Bucanero and dinner. There was lots of excitement there because a local rock star was about to make an



*Gesneria purpurascens* with a mesmerizing display of bullate leaves.



Satisfied faces after an engaging tour of a fern garden. Group at the Fern Garden – “Jardin de Los Helechos.” Photo taken by local staff

appearance with his enormous entourage. We had beers, cocktails, good food, and even celebrity entertainment. Eventually, we were off on another bus ride to the easternmost part of the island to spend the night in cabins at the beachside Villa Punta de Maisi. The next day when we woke up I realized that they had put us in the cabin with the Chinese flag flying over it. How did they know I lead tours to China?

### Day 7 (Thursday, August 16, 2018)

A select few decided to get up very early in the morning at around 4 am to take a long ride in the back of a pick-up truck in search of *Rhytidophyllum acunae*. This inaccessible area is the type locality for this 50-80 cm tall shrub, which has not been recorded or collected for more than 40 years. The plant is covered with white tomentose pubescence and grows on these barren limestone cliffs along with cacti. We were all surprised when John returned early and reported that they had easily found this rare plant. Regrets and disappointment set in for those who slept in, but that mood soon lifted when we later saw the plant growing in one of the limestone outcrops in an easily accessible area. (If you like hairy plants, this one's for you.)

Then, we were off to another non-tourist destination. This time to see the endemic Cuban land snails. There are six species of *Polymita picta* or the painted land snail. These snails live mostly in coastal habitats, in subtropical forest, prefer certain trees and feed on lichen, moss, and fungal biofilms. They are also exceptional travelers and can protect themselves from challenging elements by secreting a mucus seal around their opening and going dormant. Even though they were granted government protection in 1943, they are still endangered, due to over-collecting for use in making jewelry. They are hermaphroditic, having both male and female sex organs, and spear a love dart into their partner during courtship.

They are brightly colored and known for their color polymorphism (occurrence of different colors among members of a population). We found lots of them, with numerous, varied color combinations. They came in shades of yellow, orange, red, white, black, and every combination. No one knows exactly why they have these stripes and come in a variety of colors, but they certainly are captivating to look at, and everyone enjoyed taking endless photos. We were now off on another long bus ride headed to the Santiago de Cuba area. We stayed at the Hotel Isazul Gran Piedra for the night in the National Park, surrounded by nature.



Cuban Parrot, *Amazona leucocephala*. We met this adorable and inquisitive bird at an active cacao farm, where we learned everything you ever wanted to know about cacao.

## Day 8 (Friday, August 17, 2018)

We started the day with a visit to *Jardín de Los Helechos* (Fern Garden). In 1976, this fern garden was the private collection of Manuel G. Caluff. It has expanded significantly over the years and now has a large collection of Araceae, Begoniaceae, Bromeliaceae, Cycadaceae, Gesneriaceae, Orchidaceae, and an incredible number of ferns and so much more. In 1984, it was donated to the Cuban Academy of Sciences. We had a private tour, visiting all of the various habitats.

Then we rode to the Reserva Ecológica Siboney-Justici, an area of terraced limestone cliffs behind a small community adjacent to the Siboney beach. We climbed many, many stone steps through a very parched, dry forest habitat. The rocks were pitted, coarse and sharp. We finally reached a massive grotto-like area, descended the steps and found what we were looking for – the shrub *Rhytidophyllum intermedium*.

We drove to our hotel afterwards. The skies were darkening, and it looked very threatening. We just got back when the heavens opened up. Our hillside cabin faced the ocean. There was so much rain that the water

started flowing into our first floor. I quickly moved the luggage bags that Irina and I were schlepping around to the upper level. Before the storm ended, we had about two inches of water in our place. This must happen often because when I contacted the staff, they knew immediately what had occurred. In a short time, they had the water off the tile floor.

Now we had just enough time for one more adventure, and it was HUGE. Our cabins were within a short but strenuous uphill walking distance of a Guinness Book of Records Title site, right here in Cuba, right in Parque Nacional Gran Piedra. We came for gesneriads, but we were mesmerized by the rock.

How big? Imagine a single piece of stone 51 meters high, 25 meters wide, and 30 meters deep. It weighs over 63,000 tons and is at the tail end of the Sierra Maestra Mountain Range. It is the highest rock of its size above sea level and the third largest in the world. No wonder it is called La Gran Piedra or The Great Stone. Hundreds of species of plants and animals live in the area around the Great Stone, including *Gesneria viridiflora*. We walked, hiked and almost cha-cha-cha'd our way around the base of the Great Stone to get there to see this two-plus-meter shrub in a pristine environment. Near the trail we also found *Gesneria heterochroa*, a small tree 1-2 meters tall and begonias. I even got to see a tiny hummingbird's nest, more perfect than even the most elaborately decorated demitasse cup. On the way back to our cabin and dinner we saw the Emerald Hummingbird and the Loggerhead Kingbird. "*Buenas Noches.*"

## Day 9 (Saturday, August 18, 2018)

We took our bus to near the center of Santiago de Cuba to meet with the local horticultural group in a beautiful blue colonial building named *Plaza de Computación*. The room was packed. We had a charming introduction. Michael Riley spoke first, sharing an informative slideshow on The Gesneriad Society, as our guide, Yaimé Fernández Velázquez and Francisco Correa translated. Then I presented a program about the world's first center working to save gesneriads from extinction – the Gesneriad Conservation Center of China. John completed the series of presentations with his talk on "Gesneriaceae de Cuba." The audience was extremely appreciative.



Sharing gesneriad love! Stephen Maciejewski giving our guide, Sara Suárez, a Gesneriad Society tee-shirt (husband in the background), continuing his world-wide tradition of spreading the gospel of gesneriad love by covering plant lovers with gesneriad shirts. Photo: John L. Clark

Afterwards, we presented gifts for their members, including books and journals from both The Gesneriad Society and the American Begonia Society, along with additional gifts from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the Philadelphia Flower Show. We had numerous friendly talks, and many photo opportunities. Then we shared lunch with our new-found friends. It was such a warm and friendly opportunity to share our enthusiasm for the plants we all love. Afterwards, we only had two hours left to make more memories, be tourists, and pick up a few gifts in Santiago de Cuba. We rushed around viewing the magnificent architecture and enjoyed visiting a bookstore, purchasing a few books and getting

some souvenirs. Then it was a bus ride back to our hotel in Holguín, and time to get ready for our goodbye dinner. John picked out an elegant restaurant, aptly named 1910, where we were wined and dined with beautifully presented and delicious food late into the night.

## Day 10 (Sunday, August 19, 2018)

We got up early to enjoy a lavish goodbye breakfast in the courtyard of our hotel. Then we all gathered together on the bus and rode to the airport. After clearing customs, we had time to relax and shop. Amazingly, the prices were very affordable at the airport. I purchased a Cuban flag, t-shirts, stamps, and various souvenirs. The flight back to the USA was smooth. We were met by our trip organizer, Jeanne Katzenstein, and friends Nancy and Jerry Kast in Fort Lauderdale. Some members of the expedition spent another day in Florida while the rest flew on to their homes.

## Conclusions

It was so exciting to visit Cuba and share the experience of being on another Gesneriad Research Expedition with like-minded enthusiasts and contribute to science. We explored and saw so many new gesneriads in their natural habitats. The total picture, the complete experience of location, environment, weather, nature, plants, animals, people, food, cars, and buildings, easily seduces one to fall in love with the Cuba of today, of yesteryear, and of tomorrow. Join us on our next trip to Cuba to make memories of a lifetime and until then, sing along with the song: Guantanamera. *¡Hasta pronto!*

The trip would not have been possible without the enormous amount of prep work done by many people: John L. Clark, Jeanne Katzenstein, Sara Suárez and Norvis Hernandez. Special thanks to all of them.

*Stephen Maciejewski will present a slide show program on the trip to Cuba at the upcoming Gesneriad Society Convention in July.*

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this article are the personal opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the trip.

# Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws of The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

AT THE BOARD RETREAT HELD ON FEBRUARY 9, 2019, THE BOARD of Directors approved a proposal to change our Bylaws. This change will be voted on by the Membership at the Annual Membership Meeting on July 4, 2019.

The proposal is as follows:

**SECTION 1, ARTICLE V OF THE BYLAWS IS AMENDED BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING SUBSECTIONS:**

**“Section 1A:** In lieu of a personal meeting of the Board of Directors, the President may submit a proposal on any matter not restricted by these Bylaws to the Board by e-mail or other electronic means. Members of the Board shall e-mail their comments on such proposal to all of the members of the Board. Thirty days after the President has submitted the proposal to the Board by e-mail, the President, by e-mail, shall call for a vote (if needed) on such proposal.

**Section 1B:** Any proposal acted upon by e-mail shall be considered passed if a majority of all of the Members of the Board approve of the proposal. Any Member who does not reply within ten days of the date the President submits the proposal for vote shall be deemed to have voted against the proposal.

**Section 1C:** The Secretary (or such other person designated by the President if the Secretary is unavailable) shall print and save all of the e-mails regarding such proposal as proof of the approval (or disapproval) of such proposal.”

**Explanation:** The amendment provides a mechanism for electronic discussion of a proposal outside of a regularly scheduled board meeting, with ample opportunity for all Board members to engage in an online discussion of the President’s proposal before voting. The Board does not anticipate use of this procedure except in unusual, urgent circumstances.

## The Gesneriad Society

63rd Annual Convention – 2019

June 30 – July 6, 2019 – Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

### Call for 2019 Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the members of The Gesneriad Society will be held on Thursday, July 4, 2019 at 6:45 p.m. for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the meeting.

### Call for 2019 Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 2, 2019 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the meeting. The Board will reconvene on Friday, July 5, 2019 from 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

*Leonard Re, Recording Secretary*



# Chapters & Affiliates Update

Karyn Cichocki ~ Lafayette, NJ, USA ~ kdc05@ptd.net



Have you thought about inviting someone from another horticulture society to speak to your chapter?

supplies and members bring in plant material. Besides educating our members on gesneriad propagation, they also provide plants for our sales tables. The Puget Sound chapter in Washington had a field trip to the Kubota Gardens, a Japanese garden in the Seattle area. A field trip to a botanical garden or nursery can be interesting and fun for members, and who doesn't enjoy shopping for plants?

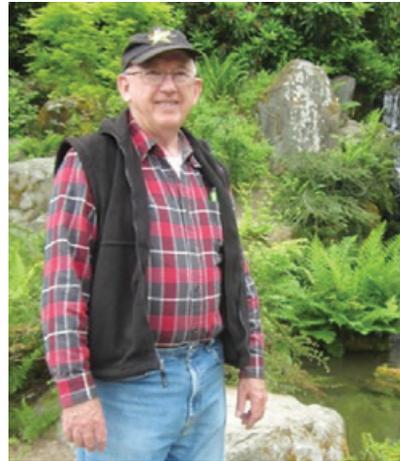
One of the suggestions at the meeting was having a meeting via Skype. This type of meeting would allow members who can't get to meetings be able to participate and it might also attract new members who would be only be interested in an online meeting. Maybe once you get them hooked on the virtual meeting, they might decide to come to a meeting in person. Although this was an excellent idea, some chapter representatives mentioned that the places they meet either didn't have consistent internet service, and some said that their members weren't technically savvy. Having interesting programs was another suggestion and it was mentioned that the Society webinars have been well received by chapter members.

It is also important to get word out about your chapter or affiliate. This can be done by either a website or Facebook page and these should be kept updated. Having a show or exhibit is a great way to get members involved and show the public the variety of the plant family and is also another way to get new members. The Long Island and New England Chapters hold their shows alongside another horticulture society show

I BELONG TO SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS AND IN all of them there has been discussion as to how to get new members and keep existing ones. This was also brought up at the Chapters & Affiliates meeting at the 2018 Gesneriad Society Convention. It appears to me that people would rather interact with others via social media than come to a meeting and interact face to face. If that is the case then what do we do to draw those people to a meeting?

First we need to keep our current members, so it is important to keep their interest and not fall into the "been there, done that" rut of business meetings and same old programs. Have you thought about inviting someone from another horticulture society to speak to your chapter? We all like plants, so wouldn't it be interesting to have a program from a rock garden, begonia or orchid society? Some of these plants have the same growing needs as the gesneriads. What about some type of wildlife program? The Society's webinars have provided a diverse selection of programs and have proven to be successful. Our Frelinghuysen Chapter enjoys having a hands-on program such as our annual propagation meeting.

The chapter provides the



Patrick Forgey at the Puget Sound Chapter's outing.

(LI-African Violets, New England - Begonia), which brings in people who might not know anything about gesneriads and could be future members. It is also a great way to share the cost of the facility the show is held in, which can be a great expense.

I'm happy to report that the Society has a new affiliate located in Virginia - the Richmond African Violet Society. Many of their members are also members of the National Capital Gesneriad Society and The Gesneriad Society. The Grow & Study Chapter has merged with the South Coast African Violet Society. Their new name is the South Coast African Violet and Gesneriad Society. I've heard that there are several other chapters that are also considering merging with local African violet groups.

On a sad note in the past several years we have lost several chapters; Peninsula (CA), Granite State (NH) and Carefree (Canada) as well as Suncoast (FL) an affiliate. These chapters have folded due either to lack of members, officers, or scheduled meetings.

I would love to hear your suggestions. Please remember to send me changes in your officers, contact person, meeting date or place, or any other chapter pertinent information.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2019 Convention in Cincinnati.

## In Memoriam – Bob Nicholson

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Bob Nicholson. He joined the Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society in the early 1970s, and was a committed supporter and a driving force of the chapter. Bob was extraordinarily generous with his time and his money. He kept the club running when no one else wanted the job. He was aesthetically talented and undoubtedly it was primarily beauty that drew him to gesneriads. Everything he grew had to have the most glor-or-or-ious flowers or the most un-you-oo-oo-sual leaves.

Bob will be missed both as a friend and a leader of NIGS.

—Susan Bradford



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## Come Have Gesneriad Fun in Texas!

AVSA Convention & Show

May 26 - June 2, 2019

Marriott Westchase, Houston, TX

[www.avsa.org/conventions-2019](http://www.avsa.org/conventions-2019)

Hosted by Lone Star African Violet Council



Check the convention schedule on the AVSA website and tailor the week to meet your interests. See an amazing African Violet and Other Gesneriad Convention and Show and plan an awesome vacation to Houston. Enjoy a vibrant city, historic Galveston Island on the Gulf of Mexico and much, much more.



Houston is the fourth-largest city in the U.S., with two major airports and Amtrak; it's the perfect spot to see horticultural perfection and have a great vacation.

Learn more details about the 2019 AVSA Convention at [www.avsa.org/conventions-2019](http://www.avsa.org/conventions-2019)

Learn more about the wonders of Houston, Texas at [www.visithouston.com](http://www.visithouston.com)

# Donations

Betsy Gottshall, Development Chairperson ~ Collegetville, PA, USA ~  
<gottshb@verizon.net>

## INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS FROM MEMBERS AND CHAPTERS

throughout the year enable The Gesneriad Society to meet its dreams for future research, scholarships, convention speakers, student grants, conservation, and special convention activities. These funds are not financed through dues revenue but through individual donations. Please consider making a donation when you renew your membership or through the Gesneriad Society's webstore to secure the growth of these funds and availability for future grant applicants. The recipient of the proceeds in the live and silent auctions at the 2019 Cincinnati Gesneriad Convention will be the **Nellie D. Sleeth Scholarship Endowment Fund**. We are most appreciative of the following tax-deductible donations that were made during the period of July to December 2018.

### CONSERVATION FUND – \$71

Margaret Bruckhart in honor of Rebecca Bartow  
Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society in memory of Victoria Maciejewski  
Janice Murasko and Frank Soares

### ELVIN McDONALD RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND – \$160

Donald Henley  
Barbara Pomichter in memory of Maryjane Evans

### FRANCES BATCHELLER ENDOWMENT FUND – \$100

Jonathan Ertelt in memory of Carol Ann Bonner

### STUDENTS AND SPEAKERS FUND – \$1,000

Jeanne Katzenstein  
Tampa Bay Chapter in memory of Angie Castellano, mother of Jo Anne Martinez

### LIFE MEMBERSHIPS – \$1,125

Bobbie Johannsen, Stephen Kerr, and Martin Siaw  
Life Memberships are placed in the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund

### THE 2018 ANNUAL APPEAL – \$3,525

#### THE NELLIE D. SLEETH SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Heather & Michael Ascher	Long Island Gesneriad Society
Kelly Ates in honor of Randy and Annelle Cox	Stephen Maciejewski in memory of Victoria Maciejewski
Andrew Cathcart	Dale Martens in memory of Bob Nicholson
Karyn Cichocki	Leslie C. Morris-Smith
Betsy Gottshall in honor of Kathy Spissman	Ben Paternoster in memory of Nellie Sleeth
Austin Gracious in honor of Bill Price	Andrea Pirone
Mel Grice in honor of Jay Sespico	Molly Schneider in honor of Richard Schneider
Susan Grose in memory of Carol Ann Bonner	Peter Shalit & Bob Clark in honor of Doreen Hovermale
Cynthia Hayes in honor of President Julie Mavity-Hudson	Paul Susi in memory of Melissa McDowell
Kwang-Wu Kim	Anne Vidaver
Liberty Bell Gesneriad Society in memory of Victoria Maciejewski	

## Changes to Species Seed List 1Q19

### Additions:

*Aeschynanthus mimetes* (*A. parasiticus*)  
*Sinningia brasiliensis* 'Leopoldina'  
*Sinningia pusilla* 'White Sprite'  
*Streptocarpus baudertii*  
*Streptocarpus buchananii*  
*Streptocarpus caulescens* v. *pallescens*  
*Streptocarpus cyanandrus*  
*Streptocarpus gardenii* (white)  
*Streptocarpus hilsenbergii*  
*Streptocarpus kirkii*  
*Streptocarpus rexii* (blue)  
*Streptocarpus rexii* (white)  
*Streptocarpus silvaticus*

### Deletions:

*Columnnea erythrophaea*  
*Columnnea hirta* 'Light Prince'  
*Columnnea tandapiana*  
*Columnnea tenella* GRE15399  
*Columnnea tenella* GRE15859  
*Gesneria libanensis* GRE15978  
*Moussonia deppeana*

Mail orders for species seed to:  
Carolyn Ripps, 21 Sprain Road, Hartsdale, NY 10530

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### Seeds For Us

Send orders for hybrid seed to: Gussie Farrice, 121 Nelson Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10308

Send orders for species seed to: Carolyn Ripps, 21 Sprain Road, Hartsdale, NY 10530

Send donations of seed for the Seed Fund to: Karyn Cichocki,  
79 Beaver Run Road, Lafayette, NJ 07848

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# Entering Show Plants is Fun!

Dale Martens ~ Sherrard, IL, USA ~ <dalemartens@mchsi.com>



Don't lose points for something you can easily correct.

YOU WILL OFTEN HEAR VERY EXPERIENCED growers say with all sincerity, "I don't care about the ribbons." Their goal in participating in shows is to educate the public by entering a variety of gesneriads. One open flower on an entry may not get the plant a blue ribbon, but it will show people what the flower looks like. Those that participate in shows fulfill one of The Gesneriad Society's goals for holding shows, that is, "Stimulate interest in gesneriads and disseminate information about them to the public."

This year in particular we need you to enter plants. Mel Grice, editor of the free e-newsletter, *Gleanings*, is hosting the convention in Cincinnati. Although there are no Gesneriad Society chapters in the area, Cincinnati is easily accessible by car in a one-day drive for many growers, especially those in the Midwest region.

If this is your first convention entering plants, look at the Society's website featuring the 2019 Convention and review the convention program, which lists each day's activities. Note the deadline for "Submission of Show Entry Forms" and be prepared to list your entries on a form and submit it the day before entries

begin. Submissions will be in the same place where you received your convention registration packet and name badge.

Photos by author unless noted otherwise.



An entries table for grooming. Sticky paper dots, which will be given to you, are placed on entered pots to indicate the "front" display side of the plant.



Above, Friendly faces like Paul Susi and Emma Bygott will greet you when you enter your plants. Photo: Jeanne Katzenstein  
Right, The score sheet used to judge the “Gesneriads in Bloom” category.

The Gesneriad Society Score Sheet Division I (Horticulture) <i>Gesneriads In Bloom</i>		
Section _____	Class _____	Entry # _____
Criteria	Max	Score
<b>Cultural Perfection</b>	<b>35</b>	
Healthy, vigorous, well shaped Damaged, discolored, misshapen leaves or bloom Growth pattern not pleasing, leggy and/or needs shaping Fully (Not fully) developed show specimen		
<b>Condition (grooming)</b>	<b>30</b>	
Plant in excellent condition Some foliage needs removal, trimming, or cleaning Spent flowers should be removed Conspicuous staking Distracting soil surface Container needs cleaning Under or over potted		
<b>Bloom (for species/hybrid/cultivar)</b>	<b>35</b>	
Very floriferous and well distributed (including berries, buds with color, showy bracts/calyces) Inadequate flowers Flowers not well distributed		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Comments: (Please use reverse side, if needed)</b>		

Next, look at the flower show schedule. Note the time entries will be accepted on Thursday, July 4, and plan to get there at least an hour before closing time. In the entries area, put your plants on one of the tables that have been set up. Helpers will be there to answer your questions and guide you through the process. If you have not already groomed your plants in your hotel room, you may do that in this area, so bring scissors for trimming and a soft artist’s brush to clean off pet hair, dust, and soil. And even if you have already groomed them, bring your tools along just in case you find something not quite right at the last minute.

During judging, the “condition” of the plant – basically grooming – accounts for 30 points on the score sheet. Spend time doing it, and you have nearly one-third of the total points possible. Clean the container and remove spent flowers. Use craft scissors or regular scissors to trim leaves, depending on whether the leaves have notched edges. Remove anything that detracts from the plant.

One solution for transporting plants to the show. Cut holes in cereal boxes the size of the pot and tape the boxes to the bottom of the transport container to keep the pots in place during travel. When you get to the hotel don’t totally remove the lid of the travel container as the drop in humidity may shock the plants.



This entry could have been improved by removing the smaller leaf on the left and trimming the main leaf in the shape of a normal leaf tip with pinking shears or craft scissors.





If you have an entry that has leaves/stolons that touch the table, consider bringing some sort of inconspicuous riser for the pot, such as the one Beverly Williams used for her AVSA entry of *Columnea microphylla*.

For distracting soil, typically something on the surface of the soil such as big chunks of perlite, I pick off the bigger white perlite chunks, and often add a top dressing of sphagnum or black pebbles. You may stake a tall plant, but make sure the stake and the ties holding the plant to the stake are neat and inconspicuous. All grooming needs to be done before you enter the plants. Don't lose points for something you can easily correct. (Saucers will be provided for your pots to keep the tables from getting wet and dirty.)

If you are used to seeing many blue ribbons at African violet shows, remember that the judging concepts between the two organizations are different. The African Violet Society uses the merit method of judging whereas The Gesneriad Society uses the competitive method. An example of competitive judging may result in a plant with 99 points getting a second place ribbon if a plant in the same class received 100 points – and the blue ribbon. That's why many of us have the attitude that getting a ribbon is great, but we are also proud of our entries without

ribbons because we've helped educate others about that particular species or hybrid.

Entering show plants is a lot of fun. Try it in Cincinnati!

## Seed Fund Donations

Donations mailed from anywhere should be sent to:  
**Karyn Cichocki, 79 Beaver Run Road, Lafayette, NJ 07848**



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Author:  
**Qiu Zhi-Jing**  
 Fairylake Botanical  
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# Seed Fund – Hybrids

Gussie Farrice, Seed Fund Co-Chairperson ~ Staten Island, NY, USA ~  
<f.farrice@verizon.net>



HERE WE ARE AGAIN IN THE MIDDLE OF A COLD miserable winter. The weather cannot make up its mind if it wants to rain or snow. Some days it's not too cold and others it seems to be fairly arctic. I can't wait for the nice warm days of summer. By the time you read this message, I hope that a good many of you will have registered for the convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. I look forward to seeing many of you there. The final night dinner cruise on the Ohio River looks wonderful. Carolyn Ripps and I will be attending and will have our boxes of seeds to fulfill your every wish.

Donations from the following are helping the Seed Fund grow: Karyn Cichocki, Keith Dabney, Lynne Dibley, Jill Fischer, Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter, Ginny Heatter, Leong Tuck Lock, Dale Martens, Hung Nguyen, Dolores Reed, Peter Shalit, Betsy Sherwin, Elaine Stutt, MJ Tyler, Chris Underhill, and Wallace Wells.

Send orders for hybrid seed to:

Gussie Farrice, 121 Nelson Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10308

## Seed Fund – Hybrids

### *Achimenes* (D)

- 'Carmencita' × self
- longiflora* × 'Klaus Neubner'
- hybrid mix (B,L)

### *Aeschynanthus* (B)

- "Thai Pink" × self
- hybrid, large orange/red

### *Chrysothemis* (F,LM)

- *pulchella* hybrid mix
- hybrid mix

### *Columnnea* (B)

- crassifolia* × *microphylla*
- 'Jude'
- 'Malissa' × self
- hybrids (orange)

### *Episcia* (H,L,B,F)

- *cupreata* hybrids × 'Suomi'
- cupreata* hybrids mix
- cupreata* yellow hybrids
- hybrid mix
- mixed hybrids (5 crosses)
- yellow hybrids

### *Eucodonia* (D,F,P)

- verticillata* 'Cecilia'
- hybrid 1
- hybrid 2
- hybrid 3
- hybrid mix

### *Gesneria* (H,F,L)

- citrina* hybrid × self

'Flashdance' × self

'Sundrop' seedling × self

### *Kobleria* (D)

'Brazil Gem' × *bogotensis*

hybrid mix

### *Microchirita*

*caliginosa* × *sericea*

*sericea* × *caliginosa*

*viola* × *caliginosa*

### *Nematanthus*

- 'Cheerio' × self

### *Primulina*

'Dreamtime' × self (sp. "New York")

× *flavimaculata*)

*dryas* 'Hisako' × self

### *Seemannia* (D)

'Medusa' × self

*sylvatica* hybrid × self

### *Sinningia* (D)

(*aggregata* [yellow] × *sellovii*) × self

*canescens* × *leucotricha* 'Max Dekking'

*carangolensis* × *warmingii* 'Esmeril'

*cardinalis* × *glazioviana*

*cardinalis* hybrids

*cardinalis* 'Innocent' × *iarae* (LM)

(*cardinalis* 'Innocent' × *iarae*) × self

(*cardinalis* × *iarae*) × self

[(*cardinalis* × *leucotricha*) × *leopoldii*] × self

*cardinalis* × double orange hybrid

(*cardinalis* 'Skydiver' × *iarae*) × self

- conspicua* × *cardinalis*  
*eumorphia* hybrids mix (F,R)  
*(eumorphia* ‘Saltao’ × *piresiana*) × *conspicua*  
*glazioviana* × *leopoldii* F2 (LM)  
*guttata* × *aggregata* (yellow)  
*guttata* × *speciosa* ‘Cabo Frio’  
*(iarae* × *cardinalis* compact) × self  
*leopoldii* × *iarae*  
*(leucotricha* × *bulbosa*) × self  
*(leucotricha* × *cardinalis*) × *leopoldii* × self  
*(leucotricha* × *cardinalis*) × self  
*leucotricha* × *leopoldii*  
*leucotricha* × ‘Apricot Bouquet’  
*leucotricha* × *piresiana*  
*sellovii* small pink hybrid × self  
*(sellovii* × ‘Apricot Bouquet’) × self  
*sellovii* × ‘Peridots Sand Pebbles’  
*(sellovii* × *tubiflora*) × self  
*sellovii* × unknown sp.  
*(sellovii* × *warmingii*) × self  
*(tubiflora* × ‘Apricot Bouquet’) × (*sellovii*  
× *tubiflora*)  
*(tubiflora* × *incarnata*) × self  
‘Anne Crowley’ × self (F,L)  
‘Apricot Bouquet’ seedling × ‘Apricot  
Bouquet’ (LM)  
‘Apricot Bouquet’ × self (LM)  
(‘Apricot Bouquet’ × self) × self (LM)  
‘Apricot Bouquet’ seedling × *conspicua*  
(F,L)
- (‘Apricot Bouquet’ × self) × (*conspicua* ×  
*eumorphia*) (F,L)  
‘Apricot Bouquet’ hybrids  
‘Arkansas Bells’ × self  
‘Beata’ × self (*leucotricha* × *leopoldii*)  
‘Bewitched’ × self (F,L)  
‘Cherries Jubilee’ open pollinated  
‘Cindy-Ella’ × self  
‘Claire’s Choice’ × self  
‘Delta Fox’ × self (F,P)  
‘Diego’ (red) (F,L)  
‘Diego’ (pink)  
‘Dollbaby’ × self  
[(‘Dollbaby’ × ‘Mercury’) × self] × ‘Foxy  
Blue’  
‘Doris’ F3 × self
  - ‘Elin’ × *leucotricha*  
‘Flamenco Apricot Bouquet’ × self  
(‘Florianoapolis’ × *leopoldii*) × self  
‘Fuzzy Bear’ × self  
‘Georgia Peach’  
‘Good Pink’ × self (F,L)  
‘Gyllenblom’ × ‘Raketbarn’
  - ‘Jubilee’ × self (F,L)
  - ‘Krezdorn Yellow’ × self (L)
  - ‘Krishna’ × self  
‘Lavender Crest’ × self  
‘Little Imp’ × self (F,P)  
‘Little Redhead’ × self  
‘Maiden’s Blush’ × self (F,P)  
‘Mother of Pearl’ × self (F,P)  
‘Mothers Day’ × self (F,L)  
‘Ozark Pink Petunia’ × self
- ‘Pale Beauty’ × self (L)  
‘Peridots Blazer’ × self  
‘Pink Pearl’ × self  
‘Premier Pink’ × self (F,P)  
‘Pure Pink’ × self (F,P)  
• ‘Purple Crest’ × self  
‘Raketbarn’ × self  
‘Romanza’ × self  
‘Ruby Red’ × self (F,P)  
‘Scarlet O’Hara’ × self  
‘Scarlet Sunset’ × self (F,P)  
‘Tampa Bay Beauty’ × self (L)
- ‘Ted Bona’ × self (F,P)  
‘Towering Inferno’ open pollinated  
‘Towering Inferno’ × self
  - ‘Treva McDaniel’ × self
  - ‘Vevette’ × self
  - ‘Winkie’ × self  
hybrid (peach) × self  
Super Mini F5
  - ‘Georgia Sunset’ hybrid mix  
“Hummingbird Mix”  
miniature hybrid mix (F,P)
  - miniature hybrid mix (lav/purple) (F,P)  
pink hybrid mix  
peloric hybrid mix  
peloric hybrid mix, red
- Sinningia speciosa*** hybrids (F,R)  
blue × self  
mini  
lavender  
pink  
• purple  
red  
rose  
white  
white × red
- pink and rose pink
  - pink dwarf
  - purple peloric
  - purple picotee
  - purple × pink
  - purple w/spots
  - red picotee
  - red w/spots
  - red w/white edge
  - solid dark purple
  - white
  - white w/red spots
  - white/lavender
  - “California Minis”
  - Chiltern hybrid
  - blue slipper
  - blue slipper × self
  - ‘Avenida Niemeyer’ × *macrophylla*
  - ‘Empress’ purple × self
  - lavender and pink slipper × self
  - lavender slipper
  - pink slipper
  - red slipper
  - AC1503 × *speciosa* ‘Regina’
  - blue mix
  - orchid/purple mix

- pink mix
- pink/white mix
- pink and white slipper
- pink and white × purple
- purple
- purple × red
- red mix
- slipper mix
- Charles Lawn hybrid mix
- Empress Mixed
- Jack Evans purple mix
- Red spotted × red spotted sibling
- 'Regina' hybrid
- 'Regina' × *speciosa* AC1503
- speciosa* × *conspicua*
- Small's dwarf mix
- white × red
- mixed hybrids
- Smithiantha** (D)
- 'Big Dots Rule' × 'Vivian's Gift' hybrid (white)
- 'Jan's Surprise' × 'Tropical Sunset'
- 'Little One' (F,L)
- 'Sassy Redhead' × 'An's Sognare Firenze'
- 'Sassy Redhead' × 'Dale's Texas Delight'
- 'Vivian's Gift' × 'Sunrise Thunder'
- Streptocarpus** subg. **Streptocarpus**
- 'Amy' × self
- 'Bethan' × self
- 'Black Panther' × self
- 'Bristol's Charm' × self
- 'Bristol's Daisy Jane' × self
- 'Bristol's Gum Drop' × self
- 'Bristol's Hey Mei' × self
- 'Bristol's Hot Rod' × self
- 'Bristol's Ice Castle' × self
- 'Bristol's Luv It' × self
- 'Bristol's Popsicle' × self
- 'Bristol's Ripe Melon' × self
- 'Canterbury Surprise' × self (V)
- ('Canterbury Surprise' × 'Bristol's Leopard Skin') × self
- 'Canterbury Surprise' × 'Charlotte'
- 'Canterbury Surprise' × 'Coral Flair' (V)
- 'Canterbury Surprise' × 'Emily's Song'
- 'Cape Beauties' × self (F,P)
- ('Cape Essence' × 'Iced Pink Flamingo') × unnamed hybrid
- 'Charlotte' × self
- 'Charlotte' × 'Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon'
- 'Crystal Wonder' × self
- 'Demeter' × self
- 'Elegance' × self
- 'Ella Mae' × self
- 'Ella Mae' × "Blue Variety"
- ('Epupa Falls' × self) × self
- 'Falling Stars' × self
- 'Fancy Pants' × self
- 'Fernwood's Cherries Jubilee' × self
- 'Fernwood's Fairy Princess' × self
- 'Festival Wales' × self
- 'Fleischle's Princesse' × self
- 'Fleischle's Roulette Cherry' × self
- 'Franken Dainty Lady' × self
- 'Franken Jane Elizabeth' × self
- 'Franken Stacey' × self
- 'Good Vibrations' × (*primulifolius* × *rexii* selfed)
- 'Hera' × self
- 'Ice Berg Blues' × 'Guidelines'
- 'Ice Berg Blues' × ('Canterbury Surprise' × 'Bristol's Leopard Skin')
- 'Jane Elizabeth' × "Blue Variety"
- 'Jenny' × self
- 'Ken's Purple' × self
- 'Keri's Purple' × self
- 'Kim' × self
- 'Kitten Face' × self
- 'Midnight Flame' × self
- 'Mini Pink Fu' × self
- 'Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon' × self
- 'Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon' × 'Iced Amethyst Showoff'
- 'Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon' × 'Velma'
- Pale lilac netted × self
- 'Park's Holiday Hybrid' × self
- 'Party Doll' × self
- 'Passion Pink' × self
- 'Pegasus' × self
- 'Persephone' × self
- 'Piment Ornamental'
- 'Pink Ice' × self
- Polish Mini #2 × self
- 'Royal' (red)
- 'Royal' (white/pink stripes)

### Seed Packets — \$3 each

- Please**
- To pay by credit card, send your credit card number, expiration date, and signature, and indicate if the card is MasterCard or Visa (\$6 minimum)
  - To pay by PayPal, contact the Seed Fund chairpersons for instructions
  - Make checks payable to The Gesneriad Society in U.S. funds
  - **Provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope** (non-U.S. orders will have the postage added to their credit card bill)
  - List alternate choices
  - Include your membership number (first number on your mailing label)
- Note**
- There is a limit of one seed packet of a single variety per order
  - There is a limit of 25 seed packets per order
  - There is a household limit of 50 seed packets per calendar year

- 'Sandra' × self
- 'Saturn' × self
- 'Scarlet Glitter' × unknown
- 'Smooched' × self
- 'Somerset Purple Ice' × self
- 'Spooky' × self
- 'Stacey' × "Blue Variety"
- 'Stonewashed' × self
- 'Sue mini' × self
- 'Suzie' × self
- 'Thalia' × self
- 'Velma' × self
- 'Wow' × self
- (*confusus* ssp. *confusus* × *polyanthus* ssp. *verecundus*) × self
- *johannis* × unknown
- (*montigena* × *rexii*) × self
- (*polyanthus* ssp. *polyanthus* × *prolixus* JT04-11) × self
- (*primulifolius* × *rexii*) × self
- *rexii* × *gardenii*
- rexii* hybrids
- Wiesmoor hybrids
- hybrid, lt blue/dk blue lines
- hybrid, lg purple

- hybrid, lg white
- hybrid, lg mixed colors
- hybrid, pink/pink
- hybrid, red
- hybrid, red × self
- hybrid, white/pink × self
- hybrid mix
- Dibley's Dragon Mix
- Dibley's Pink Bouquet Mix
- New Zealand hybrid mix

*Streptocarpus* subg. *Streptocarpella* sect. other than *Saintpaulia*  
hybrid, white/pink flowers

#### Intergenerics

- Paliavana prasinata* × *Sinningia macropoda* MP 944
- Paliavana prasinata* × *Sinningia reitzii* MP 949
- × *Gloximannia* 'Circe' × self

#### Mixed gesneriad hybrids

- denotes LIMITED quantities

## Seed Fund Key

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) Alpine or cool greenhouse</li> <li>(AN) Annual, dies after flowering</li> <li>(B) Suitable for hanging basket</li> <li>(D) Has dormant period, forming tubers or rhizomes</li> <li>(F) Blooms readily in fluorescent light</li> <li>(G) Recommended for greenhouses; requires space</li> <li>(H) Requires humidity and warmth</li> <li>(L) Low growing; not more than 12"</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(LM) Low to medium height</li> <li>(M) Medium height; 1 to 2 feet</li> <li>(MT) Medium to tall</li> <li>(P) Petite or miniature; under 6"</li> <li>(R) Rosette in form</li> <li>(S) Requires sun to bloom</li> <li>(T) Tall plants; generally over 3 feet</li> <li>(U) Unifoliate or single leaf</li> <li>(V) Leaves may be variegated</li> </ul> |
|---|--|



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**Gesneriad Hybridizers Association** — *CrossWords*, 3 issues, \$8 (\$9 outside USA). Send to Martha Lacy, 260 Stoddards Wharf Rd., Gales Ferry, CT 06335 <[Martha\\_GHA@comcast.net](mailto:Martha_GHA@comcast.net)>

**"Gleanings"** — a free monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society (Mel Grice, editor). To subscribe, go to <http://www.gesneriads.org/gleanings/index.htm> and click on "Subscribe to Notification email."

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for more information about websites, organizations, and Facebook pages devoted to gesneriads.

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