Plant of the Month: *B. ignita*

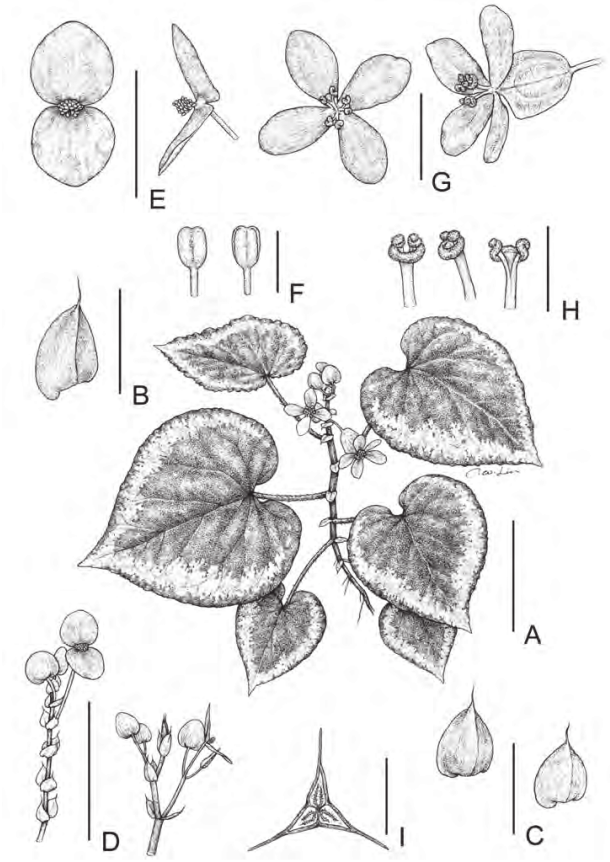
Courtesy of the Buxton Branch and the American Begonia Society

Here is a lovely Begonia from the Island of Sulawesi in Indonesia.
B. ignita got its name from the orange colored flowers, in Latin 'igneaus' means flame-colored.

There are currently forty-six species of *Begonia* are known from the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. *B. ignita* came to the Botanic Gardens in Bogor in 2017 without a confirmed provenance (location of origin) but more on this later. At that time, it was only "claimed" to be of likely Sulawesi origin by some growers.

Because of how rare orange toned flowers are *B. ignita is d*escribed as one of the most distinct and most beautiful Indonesian species. Also, for the beautiful foliage. It is the only known orange-flowered Begonia in Sulawesi.

Wisnu Ardi, on an ABS supported expedition to Sulawesi, made a discovery of a wild form and population of B. ignita. Wisnu's discovery gave the species provenance (a confirmed location of natural populations).



Begonia ignita, a new species from Sulawesi

Fig. 1. Begonia ignita C.W.Lin & C.I Peng.
a) Habit.
b) Stipule.
c) Bracts at lowermost and uppermost parts of inflorescence.
d) Male inflorescence parts showing basal few-flowered cymes and distal nodes bearing single flowers.
e) Staminate flower, face and side views.
f) Stamen, dorsal and ventral views.
g) Pistillate flower, face and side views.
h) Style, dorsal, side and ventral views.
i) Cross section of an ovary.
Drawn by C.W. Lin.

- It is on the smaller side, staying under 7".
- So far, it has been easy to grow and does best in terrarium conditions.

There are two forms of ignita, the dark, or maroon foliage form, and a simple green leaved form.