

#### SLIDE 1

Had planned to do the POM only on goldingiana, but when I was given ruhlana and saw how similar they are, I decided to spotlight both Brazilian species

Both begonias are very attractive, adjusting well to my growing conditions, and haven't needed any special growing environment.

#### SLIDE 2

B. goldingiana

I'll start with begonia goldingiana. It is shrub-like, with succulent leaves that similar to venosa, shouldn't be touched often so that the beautiful, fine hairs aren't rubbed off. Here are photos from Steve's Leaves. On the next slide you'll see photos of goldingiana in its natural environment, and they are quite beautiful.

This species is named for Jack Golding, an ABS member who passed away in 2009 at the age of 90. Jack made significant contributions to ABS, was very generous and supportive, and loved by all.

#### SLIDE 3

It was described by Ludovic Kollman in 2010.

Ludovic grew up in France, but lives in Brazil. He is regarded as the expert on this section of begonias, and described many species. Ludovic is a member of ABS, and highly regarded. He recently received funding from the ABS Conservation & Research Fund to do a series of expeditions starting a few months from now.

B. goldingiana has a vulnerable conservation status. It isn't widely in cultivation. These photos were taken by Ludovic, and show its natural environment

#### SLIDE 4

The 2 photos on the right are those by Ludovic, taken on expedition, and beautifully show the flowers.

The photo on the left was shared on Instagram, and is a beautiful photo of the flowers with the fuzzy leaves in the background. I don't know many people growing it, but it would be interesting to work together to see how others are growing it, conditions that may help stimulate flowers, etc.

#### SLIDE 5

For me, ABS and begonias are about the plants, but also very much about the people. Here are photos of Ludovic, so that you have a chance to meet him. Also, I'm impressed with how very wet and muddy begonia expeditions are

#### SLIDE 6

And here is Jack Golding, for whom it is named. Ludovic named this species for Jack, because of Jack's tremendous support. Mark Tebbitt, in his first book, also thanked Jack for his support of his research.

The photo on the right is from the New York Magazine in an article on begoniacs by Richard Langer in 1975 titled "Becoming a Begoniac". Richard Langer wrote:

Take Jack Golding...He started with just a few begonia specimens. Even though he'd flunked high school Latin, something stirred within him when he found the species names spelled differently in various reference sources. To make a long story short, now, after 8 years, thousands of begonias, and lengthy correspondence with botanists around the world, he completed the task of co-authoring the definitive orthographic work on correct begonia names.

Richard captioned the photo of Jack surrounded by begonias: A thousand and one plants. Begonias everywhere and in the middle Jack Golding surrounded by his hundreds of specimens in his house where he converted a room into an indoor garden with 48 8' fluorescent tubes on the ceiling.

Jack was a mechanical engineer, but known for being a respected authority specializing on the nomenclature of begonias. He served as president of the American Begonia Society, was the author of many important begonia publications, corresponded and collaborated with begonia researchers around the world, and generously shared his knowledge.

#### SLIDE 7

I'll quickly move on to *B. ruhlandiana*. It looks similar it looks to *goldingiana*.

I looked for publications and info about *ruhlandiana*, but couldn't find much I saw on Twitter that Peter Moonlight posted photos of this begonia while on an expedition in Brazil. Peter has done Begonia of the week on Twitter. Peter has a strong interest in South American species. Peter graciously provided a lot of info on this begonia.

The IDB has *ruhlandiana* as rhizomatous, but I wonder if it is shrub-like.

Peter has collected begonia *ruhlandiana*, says that both of these species are part of an extremely interesting group of Brazilian begonias

He sequenced the DNA of a few of these begonias, and data showed they were related. He thought about what unites them, and they all have a dense coating of stellate (star-shaped hairs), which is what makes them look felty. He used this feature to unite them all into section *Tetrachia* in a 2018 paper.

#### SLIDE 8

Peter said that: most begonias in Brazil are found in the Atlantic forests along the eastern and southern coast of Brazil. A few members of this section are found in the same forests, but many more of them are found either on granite outgroups in the Atlantic Forests (like *Begonia goldingiana*), or on an inland mountain range called the Serra d'Espinaca (like *Begonia ruhlandiana*). Both habitats are very dry, and the whole section has thick, succulent stems and leaves, and their coating of stellate hairs allows them to survive the dry season. Not only that, but they are often found growing in full sunshine, which is extremely unusual for begonias. I've seen a few members of this group growing next to cacti, which really highlights their drought tolerance.

And of course, the next slide is Peter, so that you get to know him and again, see mud on a begonia explorer.

#### SLIDE 10

Last is *ruhlandiana* taken by an IG user, and shows a very artistic photo of this species.

#### Further reading

*Begonia goldingiana* L. Kollmann & A. P. Fontana (Begoniaceae), a new species from the Atlantic Forest of Southern Bahia, Brazil  
Ludovic Jean Charles Kollmann & André Paviotti Fontana

*Begonia* sect. *Tetrachia* Brade in *Rodriguesia* 18: 21. 1945 – Type: *Begonia quadrilocularis* Brade = *Begonia egregia* N.E.Br. — [Fig. 17]

Jack Golding, By Richard W. Langer, New York Magazine