

# C R WORDS S S

The Gesneriad Hybridizers Association  
(An affiliate of the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Inc.)

## NEWSLETTER

Volume X, Issue 1, 1986

Ten years ago, Art and Peg Bellanger had an idea: To start an organization devoted exclusively to the hybridization of gesneriads. Since the very first issue of CrossWords, Gesneriad Hybridizers Association members have been the first to learn about the latest gesneriad hybrids, who created them and how they did it, along with an extremely diverse wealth of knowledge to help us learn more about our favorite plants. How could an organization like the G.H.A. survive 10 years? A vast majority of the population of Earth doesn't even know what a gesneriad is, much less know what hybridizing them involves. The G.H.A. has survived because of the continuous support of its members. We may be small in number, but we have an endless craving for information about gesneriads that must be satisfied. Your support has been excellent. I realize that not all members are actively hybridizing, but simply enjoy reading about it. I hope this support will continue for another 10 years ... and beyond. Having just recently re-read all the back issues of CrossWords, it was interesting to see how far we have come. It will be even more interesting to see what the future holds.

This year's G.H.A. meeting will be held during the A.G.G.S. Convention in Denver on Wednesday, July 2 at 8:45 p.m. Final plans for the program at this meeting are still being worked out, and it should be an interesting one. I hope to see many of you there.

- Al Wojcik

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#### HYBRIDIZING WITH SINNINGIA 'DYPH'

John Boggan, 1686-2 Slaterville Rd., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

Sinningia 'Dymph' is an interesting new hybrid by Jim Steuerlein, and was described by Dave Zaitlin in CrossWords IX (1), 1985. As Dave mentioned, it is unusual in that it is a cross between a tetraploid and a diploid (S. 'Purple Beauty' X S. pusilla), yet is somewhat fertile. S. pusilla undoubtedly acted like a tetraploid in this cross, producing diploid rather than the normal haploid pollen. As might be expected, 'Dymph' shows a strong pusilla influence. It is quite a nice plant itself, but it has proven to accept pollen from quite a number of plants, despite its low fertility. Its pollen has never been used successfully, although I did manage to get one sickly seedling after several self-pollinations. It died soon after germination.

By far the easiest crosses 'Dymph' makes are with the tetraploid miniatures. In general, the hybrids are compact, fertile and inherit 'Dymph's' wide face and narrow tube. Unfortunately, they all inherit its purple color also, but selfing and backcrossing the progeny can restore the pink color. Jim has also made crosses with 'Cherry Chips' and describes the offspring as being "pansy-faced," with big, flat faces of a red-purple color with speckling.

'Dymph' crosses with the diploid species have been very interesting, but much more difficult to produce and invariably sterile. The first of these was Jim's 'Dymph' X S. concinna. The plant is very small and floriferous, with dark foliage and dark purple flowers with speckling in the throat. The tube curves up abruptly at the end, holding the face horizontal. Next came my own cross of 'Dymph' X S. discolor (also known as S. speciosa 'Discolor'), which I will describe in another article.

Probably the most attractive hybrid was Jim's cross of 'Dymph' X 'Pink Eumorpha.' The plant had a ridiculously large flower on a tiny plant. The flower was a light pinkish-lavender with a wide, flat face. I have been unable to repeat this cross, but I did have several seedlings of 'Dymph' X S. eumorpha. They got off to a good start, but have all died recently, probably due to poor cultural conditions. One cross which is now in bud is 'Dymph' X S. pusilla 'White Sprite.' It will be interesting to see how this second backcross to S. pusilla will turn out. So far it is tiny, even smaller than S. pusilla, and looks just like the tetraploid version of that species.

'Dymph' is an interesting hybrid, proving, like Frances Batcheller's 'Ramadeva,' that the tetraploid miniatures are able to take pollen from all kinds of odd sources. I hope the above crosses, even the disappointments, will stimulate others to try and use 'Dymph,' or other tetraploid minis, in hybridizing, as the possibilities are far from exhausted. Although these crosses may be difficult to make, they may be quite worthwhile and 'Dymph' cooperatively produces plenty of flowers just begging to be pollinated.

A SPORT FROM EPISCIA 'SILVER SKIES'

Leong Tuck-Lock, 24, Jalan Johore, Taman Canning,  
31400 Ipoh, Perak, West Malaysia

About six months ago, several large stolons of Episcia 'Silver Skies' were cut to start new plants. The stolons rooted in two weeks. The rooted cuttings, in their shallow pots, were left under a fruit tree. Then came a rather wet spell which lasted for about a

month. During this period, all the leaves dropped off and returned eventually. The stumps put forth many new shoots - some normal but some were different. Without realizing that I was on to something new, all the mutant or 'sport' shoots were cut and discarded!

Three months later, another wet spell came and, true to form, the stems put out more mutant shoots. Now, I have kept a few to grow on to see how they will turn out eventually. Please note that the mutant shoots in all cases did not appear as stolons but only as side shoots from the main stems.

This sport of E. 'Silver Skies' lacks the band of

silver; it has a brown edge and small brown islands on the leaves. The two drawings and the accompanying photograph will illustrate the difference. Furthermore, this sport has a yellowish sheen on the leaves and there is more reddish coloration on the underside of the leaves, too.

I do hope the sport will remain small. Incidentally, one of the mutant stems flowered recently. The flower is identical to that of E. 'Silver Skies.'



Normal leaf (left), sported leaf (right)



GESNERIACEAE - NEW AND OLD WORLD

Compiled by Linda Jorgensen, Vancouver, B.C.

KEY

- A. Subfamily GESNERIOIDEAE - Distribution - NEOTROPICS  
- 54 Genera  
- over 1300 species
1. Tribe GLOXINIEAE (Fritsch)
  2. Tribe EPISCIEAE (Endlicher)
  3. Tribe BESLERIEAE (Bartling & Wendland)
  4. Tribe NAPEANTHEAE (Wiehler)
  5. Tribe GESNERIEAE
- B. Subfamily CORONANTHEROIDEAE - Distribution - SOUTHERN CHILE  
(Wiehler) S. PACIFIC IS.  
AUSTRALIA  
- 9 Genera  
- 20 species
6. Tribe CORONANTHEREAE (Fritsch)
- C. Subfamily CYRTANDROIDEAE - Distribution - OLD WORLD, chiefly  
in Tropics, but  
species in  
Neotropics  
- 63 Genera  
- over 1550 species
7. Tribe CYRTANDREAE (C.B. Clarke)
  8. Tribe TRICHOSPOREAE (Fritsch)
  9. Tribe KLUGIEAE (Fritsch)
  10. Tribe DIDYMOCARPEAE (Endlicher)

GESNERIACEAE WITH FIBROUS ROOTS - NEW WORLD

SUB FAMILY	TRIBE	GENUS	PRONUNCIATION	APPROX. # OF SPECIES	BASE CHROMOSOME	# DISTRIBUTION
A	2	<u>ALLOPLECTUS</u> Martius	al/o/PLEK/tus	65+	9	Central & S. America
A	2	<u>ALSOBIA</u> Hanstein	al/so/BEE/a	2	9	Central America Mexico
A	3	<u>ANETANTHUS</u> Bentham	an/ee/TAN/thus	1		S. America
A	1	<u>BELLONIA</u> Linnaeus	bell/DWN/ee/a	2	13	W. Indies
A	3	<u>BESLERIA</u> Linnaeus	bes/LEER/ee/a	200+	16	C. & S. America W. Indies
A	2	<u>BUCINELLINA</u> Wiehler	bu/sin/el/EE/na	2	9	Colombia
A	2	<u>COBANANTHUS</u> Wiehler	ko/ba/NAN/thus	1	9	Guatemala
A	2	(Martius) <u>CODONANTHE</u> Hanstein	ko/doe/NAN/thee	20+	8	Central & South America
A	2	<u>CODONANTHOPSIS</u> Mansfeld	co/doe/nan/THOP/sis	6	9	S. America
A	2	<u>COLUMNEA</u> Linnaeus	ko/lum/NEE/a	75+	9	Cent. & S. Amer., W. Indies
A	2	<u>CORYTOPLECTUS</u> Oersted	ko/ree/tow/PLEK/tus	10+	9	S. America
A	3	<u>CREMOSPERMA</u> Bentham	kre/mo/SPER/ma	25+		C. & S. America
A	2	<u>DALBERGARIA</u> Tussac	dal/bur/GAR/ee/a	65+	9	C. & S. America
A	2	<u>DRYMONIA</u> Martius	dry/MON/ee/a	110+	9	C. & S. America
A	2	<u>EPISCIA</u> Martius	e/PISH/ee/a	6	9	C. & S. America

(Continued)

GESNERIACEAE WITH FIBROUS ROOTS - NEW WORLD

SUB FAMILY	TRIBE	GENUS	PRONUNCIATION	APPROX. # OF SPECIES	BASE CHROMOSOME	DISTRIBUTION
A	3	<u>GASTERANTHUS</u> Bentham	gas/ter/AN/thus	40+	8,16	C. & S. America
A	5	<u>GESNERIA</u> Linnaeus	jes/NER/ee/a	50	14	W. Indies
A	1	<u>GLOXINIA</u> L'Heritier	glok/SIN/ee/a	5	13	C. & S. America
A	1	<u>MOUSSONIA</u> Regel	moos/DWN/ee/a	11	11	C. America
A	4	<u>NAPEANTHUS</u> Gardner	na/pee/AN/thus	30+		C. & S. America
A	2	<u>NEMATANTHUS</u> Shrader	nee/ma/TAN/thus	26+	8	Brazil
A	2	<u>NEOMORTONIA</u> Wiehler	nee/o/mor/TON/ee/a	3	9	C. & S. America
A	2	<u>OERSTEDINA</u> Wiehler	or/STED/ee/na	3		Panama, Mexico
A	1	<u>PALIAVANA</u> Vandell	pay/lee/a/VA/na	7	13	Brazil
A	2	<u>PARADRYMONIA</u> Hanstein	pa/ra/dry/MON/ee/a	40+	9	C. & S. America
A	2	<u>PENTADENIA</u> (Planchon) Hanstein	pen/ta/DEEN/ee/a	30+	9	Mexico C. & S. America
A	3	<u>RELDIA</u> Wiehler	REEL/dee/a	4		Panama, Colombia
A	3	<u>RESIA</u> H.E. Moore	ree/SEE/a	2		Colombia, Venezuela
A	5	<u>RHYTIDOPHYLLUM</u> Martius	rit/id/o/FILL/um	20	14	West Indies
A	2	<u>RUFODORSIA</u> Wiehler	ru/fo/DOR/see/a	4	9	C. America
C	9	<u>RYNCHOGLOSSUM</u> Blume	rin/ko/GLOSS/um * ONLY GESNERIAD TO OCCUR IN NEW AND OLD WORLD	12	10,21,27	*Asia, C. Amer. S. America

(Continued)

GESNERIACEAE WITH FIBROUS ROOTS - NEW WORLD

SUB FAMILY	TRIBE	GENUS	PRONUNCIATION	APPROX. # OF SPECIES	BASE CHROMOSOME	DISTRIBUTION
A	1	<u>SOLENPHORA</u> Bentham	so/len/OFF/or/a	20+	10	C. & S. America
A	2	<u>TRICANTHA</u> Hooker	tri/KAN/tha	70+	9	C. & S. America W. Indies
A	3	<u>TYLOPSACAS</u> Leeuwenberg	ta/LOP/sac/as	1		Guiana Highland Venezuela
A	1	<u>VANHOUTTEA</u>	van/HOO/tee/a	6		Brazil

GESNERIACEAE WITH FIBROUS ROOTS - OLD WORLD

SUB FAMILY	TRIBE	GENUS	PRONUNCIATION	APPROX. # OF SPECIES	BASE CHROMOSOME	DISTRIBUTION
C	10	<u>PARABOEA</u> C.B. Clarke, Ridley	pa/ra/BOW/ee/a	55+	9,16	Asia
C	10	<u>PETROCOSMEA</u> Oliver	pet/ro/KOS/mee/a	20	17	Asia
C	9	<u>RYNCHOGLOSSUM</u> Blume	rin/ko/GLOSS/um * ONLY GESNERIAD TO OCCUR IN NEW AND OLD WORLD	12	10,21,27	S. America
C	7	<u>RHYNCHOTECHUM</u> Blume	rin/ko/TEE/kum	12	10	China
C	10	<u>SAINTPAULIA</u> Wendland	saint/PAUL/ee/a	20	15	Africa
C	10	<u>STREPTOCARPUS</u> Lindley	strep/to/KAR/pus	132+	15,16	Africa, Madagascar

(Continued)

GESNERIACEAE WITH FIBROUS ROOTS - OLD WORLD

SUB FAMILY	TRIBE	GENUS	PRONUNCIATION	APPROX. # OF SPECIES	BASE CHROMOSOME	# DISTRIBUTION
C	8	<u>AESCHYNANTHUS</u> Jack	ess/kin/ANTH/us	80+	15,16	Asia
C	8	<u>AGALMYLA</u> Blume	aggle/MY/la	50+	16	Asia
C	10	<u>ANCYLOSTEMON</u> Craib	an/sky/lo/STEEM/on	8	17	China
C	10	<u>BECCARINDA</u> Kuntze	bek/a/RIND/a	7	10	S.E. Asia
C	10	<u>BOEA</u> Lamarck	bo/EE/a	17	8,16,18	Asia to Australia
C	10	<u>CHIRITA</u> D. Don	cheer/EE/ta	77	4,7,9,10, 14,17,18	Asia
B	6	<u>CORONANTHERA</u> Vieill. ex C.B. Clarke	co/ron/an/THERA	11		New Caledonia Solomon Is.
C	7	<u>CYRTANDRA</u> J.R. & G. Forster	sir/TAN/dra	600+	17	Asia, Pacific Is. (Hawaii)
B	6	<u>DEPANTHUS</u> S. Moore	de/PAN/thus	2		New Caledonia
C	10	<u>DIDISSANDRA</u> C.B. Clarke	did/is/sandra	30		China
C	10	<u>DIDYMOCARPUS</u> Wallich	did/ee/mo/KAR/pus	190+	9,11,12, 14,16, 18,19	Asia
C	10	<u>HEXATHECA</u> C.B. Clarke	hex/ATH/e/ca	2	17	
B	6	<u>LENBRASSIA</u> G.W. Gillet	len/BRASS/ee/a	1		Australia
C	9	<u>MONOPHYLLAEA</u> R. Brown	mono/FILL/ee/a	32	10	S.E. Asia Philippines
B	6	<u>NEGRIA</u> E. Mueller	neg/REE/a	1	45+	Lord Howe Is.
C	10	<u>ORNITHOBOEA</u> C.B. Clarke	or/nith/o/BOW/ee/a	10	16	Thailand S.W. China

(Continued)



COLD TOLERANT GESNERIACEAE WITH FIBROUS ROOTS - NEW WORLD

SUB FAMILY	TRIBE	GENUS	PRONUNCIATION	APPROX. # OF SPECIES	BASE CHROMOSOME	# DISTRIBUTION
B	6	<u>ASTERANTHERA</u> Hanstein	a/ster/AN/ther/a	1		Chile
B	6	<u>MITRARIA</u> Cavanilles	mi/TRARE/ee/a	1	37+	Chile
B	6	<u>SARMIENTA</u> Ruiz & Pavon	sarme/AN/ta	1	37+	Chile

COLD TOLERANT GESNERIACEAE WITH FIBROUS ROOTS - OLD WORLD

SUB FAMILY	TRIBE	GENUS	PRONUNCIATION	APPROX. # OF SPECIES	BASE CHROMOSOME	# DISTRIBUTION
C	10	<u>CONANDRON</u> Zuccarini, Siebold	ko/NAN/dron	1	10	Japan
C	10	<u>CORALLODISCUS</u> Batalin	cor/al/lo/DIS/cus	18	10	China, Himalayas
B	6	<u>FIELDIA</u> Cunningham	feel/DEE/a	1	40+	Australia (N.S. Wales)
C	10	<u>HABERLEA</u> Friedrichs	ha/BUR/lee/a	2	22	Balkans
C	10	<u>JANKAEA</u> Boissier	JAN/kee/a	1	28	Mt. Olympus
C	8	<u>LOXOSTIGMA</u> C.B. Clarke	lox/o/STIG/ma	4		India, China
C	10	<u>OPITHANDRA</u> B.L. Burtt	o/pith/AN/dra	5	17	Asia
C	10	<u>DREOCHARIS</u> Bentham	o/ree/OK/a/ris	25+		China, Philippines
C	10	<u>RAMONDA</u> L.C. Richard	ra/MON/da	3	20,36	Balkans, Pyrenees
B	6	<u>RHABDOTHAMNUS</u> Cunningham	rhab/do/THAM/nus	1	37+	New Zealand

(Continued)

GESNERIACEAE THAT FORM SCALY RHIZOMES - NEW WORLD

SUB FAMILY	TRIBE	GENUS	PRONUNCIATION	APPROX. # OF SPECIES	BASE CHROMOSOME	# DISTRIBUTION
A	I	<u>ACHIMENES</u> Persoon	a/KIM/e/nees	21	11	C. America Jamaica
A	I	<u>ANODISCUS</u> Bentham	an/o/DISC/us	1	13	Peru
A	I	<u>CAPANEA</u> Planchon	ka/PAN/ee/a	11	13	S. America
A	I	<u>DIASTEMA</u> Bentham	die/a/STEEM/a	21+	13	C. & S. America
A	I	<u>EUCODONIA</u> Hanstein	u/ko/DOE/nee/a	2	12	C. America
A	I	<u>GOYAZIA</u> Taubert	go/YA/zia	2		Brazil
A	I	<u>HEPPIELLA</u> Regal	hep/ee/ELL/a	15+	13	C. & S. America
A	I	<u>KOELLIKERIA</u> Regal	ko/li/KER/ee/a	20+	13	C. & S. America
A	I	<u>KOHLERIA</u> Regal	ko/LEER/ee/a	20+	13	C. & S. America
A	I	<u>MONOPYLE</u> Bentham	mo/no/PIE/lee	23+	13	C. & S. America
A	I	<u>NIPHAEA</u> Lindley	ni/FEE/a	4	11	C. & S. America
A	I	<u>PARAKOHLERIA</u> Wiehler	pa/ra/ko/LEER/ee/a	20+	13	C. & S. America
A	I	<u>PEARCEA</u> Regal	peers/EE/a	1	13	S. America
A	I	<u>PHINAEA</u> Bentham	fin/NEE/a	10	13	C. & S. America
A	2	<u>SMITHIANTHA</u> Kuntze	smith/ee/AN/tha	4	12	Mexico

(Continued)

GESNERIACEAE THAT FORM TUBERS

SUB FAMILY	TRIBE	GENUS	PRONUNCIATION	APPROX. # OF SPECIES	BASE CHROMOSOME #	DISTRIBUTION
A	2	(In all species) <u>CHRYSOTHEMIS</u> Decaisne	kre/SAW/them/is	7	9	C. & S. America W. Indies
A	2	(In some species) <u>DRYMONIA</u> Matius	dry/MON/ee/a	110+	9	C. & S. America
A	1	(In most species) <u>LEMBOCARPUS</u> Leeuwenberg	lem/bow/KAR/pus	1		Surinam French Guiana
A	1	(In most species) <u>LIETZIA</u> Regal	LEETZ/ee/a	1		Brazil
A	2	(In some species) <u>NAUTILICALYX</u> Hanstein	na/tii/o/KAY/lix	50	9,18	C. & S. America
A	2	(In some species) <u>PARADRYMONIA</u> Hanstein	pa/ra/dry/MON/ee/a	40+	9	C. & S. America
A	2	(In some species) <u>RHOOGETON</u> Leeuwenberg	rhu/GET/on	3		C. & S. America
A	1	(In most species) <u>SINNINGIA</u> Nees	sin/INN/gee/a	60+	13	C. & S. America

(Continued)

G.H.A. SEED FUND

David Zaitlin, 84 Poplar St., Watertown, Mass. 02172

Jeannie A. Moe (2419 Mayer Dr., St. Charles, Mo. 63301) would like to find a source for the Bona hybrids Sinningia 'Aurora Borealis,' S. 'China Seas' or any other variegated sinningia.

I have only one cross at present, so there is nothing new to add to the Fund. I have a nice hybrid of Sinningia pusilla X S. schiffneri that was originally a small seedling from John Boggan. This plant is a true intermediate in form with respect to the parents. The lavender flower is rather large and the leaves are very dark. It appears to have no tuber (like schiffneri) but stays small and flowers quite well. I will try to propagate this plant.

GESNERIACEAE THAT FORM SCALY RHIZOMES - OLD WORLD

SUB		GENUS	PRONUNCIATION	APPROX.	BASE	# DISTRIBUTION
FAMILY	TRIBE			# OF SPECIES	CHROMOSOME	
Unaffiliated		<u>TITANOTRICHUM</u> Soleraeder	tie/tan/o/TRIKE/um	1	20	Taiwan

COLD TOLERANT GESNERIACEAE THAT FORM SCALY RHIZOMES

SUB		GENUS	PRONUNCIATION	APPROX.	BASE	# DISTRIBUTION
FAMILY	TRIBE			# OF SPECIES	CHROMOSOME	
C	10	<u>BRIGGSIA</u> Craib (Alpine)	briggs/ee/a	14	17	Asia
C	10	<u>PLATYSTEMMA</u> Wallich	plat/ee/STEEM/a	1	20	Himalayas

COLD TOLERANT GESNERIACEAE THAT FORM SMOOTH RHIZOMES

SUB		GENUS	PRONUNCIATION	APPROX.	BASE	# DISTRIBUTION
FAMILY	TRIBE			# OF SPECIES	CHROMOSOME	
B	8	<u>LYSIONOTUS</u> G. Don (Alpine)	lee/see/o/NO/tus	13	16	Asia

BACK ISSUES

Back issues of CrossWords may be obtained from Zelda Mines, 2206 East 66th St., Brooklyn, New York 11234

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Volume III (1979), 4 issues	Volume VII (1983), 3 issues
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Volume IX (1985), 3 issues	

Individual issues of the current volume are \$1.50 each.

Please make checks payable to "Gesneriad Hybridizers Association"

## SOME NEW SINNINGIA HYBRIDS

Al Wojcik, Bloomingdale, Ill.

Since I am constantly asking G.H.A. members for articles about what they have been hybridizing, I thought it was about time I started practicing what I preach. Some of my sinningia hybrids are slowly reaching the public, and I've received several letters asking for the parentage of my hybrids listed in the Roberts' catalog. So here goes.

I wish I could say that I take a very scientific approach when I make a sinningia cross, but nothing could be farther from the truth. Some of my best hybrids have been the result of random crossings. I do try to cross parents with bright colors or unusual spotting, but generally I just cross whatever is in bloom at the time.

My method for growing the seedlings to the blooming stage borders on the cruel. After germination, and when the seedlings have four pairs of true leaves, each one gets its own 2" square pot (square because there is NO wasted space when the pots are lined up next to each other). The pots are crammed into clear plastic boxes, and are given adequate light and nourishment. I do not pamper them, however. They must be tough, or they won't last long.

When the seedlings begin blooming, I examine each one carefully - discarding those that are not different enough, and keeping those that pass the test. The following 17 hybrids are the end result of hundreds of crossings and thousands of seedlings. But don't let this scare you off. Remember, it only takes about 3 months (on the average) to grow a sinningia from seed to bloom. And because I grow them leaf to leaf in boxes, it does not require great amounts of growing space. Of course, plants grown in this manner will never win blue ribbons, but it is easy and convenient to raise a large number of seedlings. If a plant isn't what I like, out it goes to make room for others. This way I'm able to keep a lot of new seedlings coming along, utilizing all available growing space.

The following is a list of my released hybrids. They are in approximate chronological order, with the first one being released in 1982, and the latest in 1985.

S. 'Scarlet Sunset' ('Scarlet Red' x 'Purple Beauty') - This was my first really successful cross. The flower color is an intense red with an undertone of purple in the throat. Prolific bloomer.

S. 'Cream Sherry' ('Scarlet Sunset' x 'April Doll') - An F1 selection from this cross. Deep burgundy flower with an unusual beige throat. Light green leaves.

S. 'Angora Love' ('Rex' x 'April Doll') - This cross produced only one seedling. I nurtured it along for quite a while, thinking nothing would come of it. It finally began blooming after about a year. Flowers are salmon red, with a pink face and a purple splotch in the throat. The leaves are identical to 'Rex' in that they show a

strong resemblance to S. eumorpha. Very compact and easy to grow. Anyone who is a fan of Laurel and Hardy will know what the name 'Angora Love' refers to.

S. 'Amethyst Lace' ('Hircon' x ('Super Orange' x 'Dollbaby')) - An F1 selection of this cross. Flowers are very large, deep purple with slightly ruffled lobes. The leaves are typically 'Hircon,' dark with sparse white hairs.

S. 'MGM' ('Hircon' x ('Super Orange' x 'Dollbaby')) - Another selection from the same cross as 'Amethyst Lace.' The unusual feature of 'MGM' are the leaves. The petioles are very closely spaced along the stem, so much so that it is difficult to get cuttings. The leaves are toothed, and held very neatly in symmetrical rows. The flower is a light lavender, but the leaves are the real star. 'MGM' stands for "Moby Grape Mutant." Don't ask me why.

S. 'Fantasia' - Sorry, but I didn't keep good records on the parentage of this one. The blooms are very large and a nice raspberry pink color. There is a narrow streak of dark raspberry in the throat, and the lower lobes are heavily ruffled.

S. 'Barbara Jean' ('Super Orange' x ('April Snow' x 'Norma Jean')) - A single selection from this cross produced a plant with a unique pink color. I would call it almost a flamingo pink. The throat has a purple streak that occasionally ends in blue spots.

And then along came 'Cherry Chips.' No, I am NOT the hybridizer (though I wish I were). 'Cherry Chips' was hybridized at Small's Greenhouses in Pinellas Park, Florida by Paul Cumiskey. It is an F3 selection of a cross of 'Scarlet Red' and 'Cindy-ella.' It was purchased and named by Carole Smith of Birmingham, Mich. when Small's was going out of the miniature sinningia business back around 1983. Carole distributed 'CC' among the A.G.G.S. members in the local Michigan chapter, and I sent a tuber or two to Marty Mines in New York. The rest is history. I quickly went on a hybridizing spree using 'CC,' pollinating everything in sight and getting some beautiful hybrids.

S. 'Anna W.' ('Love Spot' x 'Cherry Chips') - This was my first successful cross using 'CC.' All plants from the first generation were identical. Pink flowers with darker pink lines and streaks with a yellow throat. Very floriferous. Selfing this one will produce an endless variety of beautiful pink variations. Named for my grandmother, who passed away at age 101 on the day the first bloom of 'Anna W.' opened.

S. 'Pandora' ('Love Spot' x 'Anna W.') - In this backcross of 'Anna W.' to 'Love Spot,' most of the F1 generation were identical: Mostly pinks, not that much different from 'Anna W.' But one particular plant produced a very unusual flower. It was pure white on the outside, heavily spotted on the entire interior with small purple spots. This one can be variable. Sometimes the bloom will have light

purple on the outside, but as the plant matures, it should produce pure white exteriors.

S. 'Mercury' ('Scarlet Sunset' x 'Cherry Chips') - I don't know if it's possible to produce a more brilliant color than this one. The F1 generation produced a color combination of cherry and scarlet reds that is hard to describe. A faint undertone of purple with the red makes the bloom almost glow in the dark. There are faint darker red spots on the lobes.

S. 'Rose Bud' ('Buffy' x 'Cherry Chips') - 'Buffy' is a nice small sinningia hybridized by Mrs. Walter (Bud) Woodruff of Windsor, Ontario. It is a cross of 'Wood Nymph' x 'Ruby-Throated Dollbaby,' and I've always liked it. When crossed with 'CC,' it gave me one small plant with red/purple blooms and very tiny dark spots in the throat. It flowers easily, and in cooler weather there is a feathering effect on the lobes: Light red/purple streaked over dark red/purple. Named, of course, for Bud Woodruff, who gave me a lot of inspiration when I first started dabbling with sinningias.

S. 'Michelle Anne' ('Super Orange' x 'Cherry Chips') - I had a real bonanza when I crossed 'CC' with 'Super Orange.' It gave me several named hybrids. One of the best is 'Michelle Anne.' The large bloom is pale cherry pink, with regular lines and streaks of dark cherry from the throat extending to the edges of the lobes. Unfortunately, I only have a single tuber, which for the past 10 months has refused to break dormancy. I have my fingers crossed with this one. I'd hate to lose it.

S. 'Callisto' ('Michelle Anne' x 'Barbara Jean') - The flower color of this one is difficult to describe, but I'll try. Mostly dark purple, ruffled lobes, with darker spots on the inside. There is a slight hint of orange on the exterior that creates a very nice effect.

S. 'Io' ('Michelle Anne' x 'Super Orange') - Pale orange/pink flowers with cherry red spots lightly splashed on the interior. A very nice color combination.

S. 'Thriller' ('Super Orange' x 'Cherry Chips') Another selection from this cross gave me a light cherry-pink flower with large dark red spots spread throughout the interior of the bloom. People who have seen it say that, because of the large heavy spotting, it resembles a kohleria bloom.

S. 'Cherry Frosting' ('Super Orange' x 'Cherry Chips') - Coloration is similar to 'CC,' but there are many more spots and lines in the interior.

S. 'Cherries Jubilee' ('Super Orange' x 'Cherry Chips') - A slightly paler cherry pink than 'Cherry Frosting,' with just as many lines and spots.

So that's what I've been up to. Now let's hear from you!

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### Coordinating Committee

<b>Editor:</b>	Al Wojcik 228 Glen Ellyn Rd., Apt. 202 Bloomington, Ill. 60108	<b>Printing and Mailing:</b>	Martin and Zelda Mines 2206 East 66th Street Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234
<b>Membership &amp; Treasurer:</b>	Meg Stephenson 4115 Pillar Dr., Rt. 1 Whitmore Lake, Mich. 48189	<b>G.H.A. Seed Fund:</b>	David Zaitlin 84 Poplar St., Watertown, Mass. 02172

Gesneriad Hybridizers Association  
4115 Pillar Dr., Rt. 1  
Whitmore Lake, Mich. 48189



Judy Becker  
Undermountain Rd. Rte. 41  
Salisbury, Ct. 06068

First Class Mail