



The Magic of Life Butterfly House

Conservation and Research

The Begonia Collection

The Genus Begonia is one of the largest genera in the world with 1800 species. They inhabit the dank understorey of the rain forests. Their tolerance of low light and drought are traits that lend to making excellent house plants. We have kept Begonias since 2002 starting off with the commonly available hybrids. Since then, our focus has turned to species Begonia especially from Asia. As it is such a speciose genus and many have quite limited distributions, many species of Begonias are vulnerable or threatened with extinction.

The aims of the Begonia collection are :-

i) To build up and maintain a collection of rare species. Plant material of which is to be distributed to specialist collections such as Botanic Gardens.

ii) To carry out horticultural trials on different species and cultivars and publish on the website or other social media.

iii) List of species Begonias

B. variegata

B. ningmingensis var Bella

B. melanobullata

B. silletensis

B. metallica

B. edulis

B. heracleifolia

B. koelzii

B. pavonina



- B. josephi
- B. aff. xanthina
- B. kui
- B. soli-mutata
- B. brevimosa
- B. sudjanae
- B. luxurians
- B. evansii



Begonia variegata (top left) – a splendid new species to cultivation.

B. melanobullata (above) – from the mountains of North Vietnam.

B. haracleifolia var *nigricans* – attractive inflorescences.