

# THE HSPR NEWSLETTER

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The next meeting of HSPR will be our annual Christmas meeting hosted by Martha and Bob Lankford at 10:00 AM on **Sunday, December 9, 2001**. Their home is located at km 3.0, Carretera 3351, Sector Los Cruzado, Mayaguez, about 2 miles east of the campus of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez. A map is appended at the end of this newsletter.

Following our tradition, food and refreshments will be provided for this gathering (party) and the "business" part of the meeting will be kept as short as possible. However, please remember to bring chairs and plants you have for the raffle, sale, or exchange. (This might be a good chance to pick up some nice plants as Christmas gifts.)

Thanks for Arnaldo Astacio and Rafael Sobrino for hosting the last HSPR meeting in Guaynabo. Their collection of Zingerberales (as well as orchids, ferns, etc. etc.) was truly impressive! Thanks also for Raul Serrano who presented his interesting results about propagating heliconias from rhizomes.

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## REGISTRATION OF NEW HELICONIA CULTIVARS Part II. The Registration Process

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In Part I of this article I discussed some basics on plant taxonomy and the need for proper registration of plant cultivars. By registering new cultivars of heliconia or any plant, the originator creates a permanent record for that cultivar, with the goal of standardizing the name to avoid future confusion over a plant's true identity. The originator also receives credit for the contribution.

New plant cultivars are registered by International Cultivar Registration Authorities (ICRAs). ICRAs are appointed by the Commission for Nomenclature and Registration of the International Society for Horticultural Science, and must operate within the provisions of the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (Treharne et al., 1995). There are currently 70 ICRAs responsible for registration of new cultivars in different "denomination classes", or taxonomic groups, covering over 4,000 plant genera. Other functions of an ICRA are to reject unacceptable cultivar names, maintain a checklist of all known cultivar names within their denomination class, and publish checklists of new cultivars periodically.

Unfortunately, there has not yet been an ICRA created for registration of heliconias. The only genera of the order Zingiberales which may be registered with ICRAs are *Canna*, *Curcuma*, and *Hedychium*. The ICRA for *Curcuma* and *Hedychium* is the Singapore Botanic Gardens (Clury Road, Singapore 259569) established in 2000 (see <http://www.ishs.org/index1.htm>). The ICRA which accepts *Canna* registrations is the Royal General Bulbgrowers Association (Postbus 175, NL-2180 AD Hillegom, The Netherlands), and was established as an ICRA in 1955. In the absence of an ICRA specifically for *Heliconia* or the Zingiberales, this latter ICRA would probably be the most appropriate one for *Heliconia* registration, as its denomination class is "bulbous, cormous, and tuberous-rooted ornamental plants" (see <http://www.ishs.org/index1.htm>).

The logical ICRA for heliconias and other Zingiberales would be the Heliconia Society International (HSI). In the 2000 HSI Conference Report, it was mentioned that HSI would start a heliconia registry (Guttman, 2000), however the HSI is still not registered as an ICRA (Daniels, 2001). In October of this year, I was appointed as the HSI Registrar, and will be coordinating efforts to have the HSI designated as an ICRA for registration of heliconia cultivars. I will keep you posted on progress toward this goal.

Before the registration process begins, a name must be selected for the new, unique plant. As was mentioned in Part I of this article, a cultivar name, or epithet, is written in a modern language and written with single quotation marks. The name must also be unique within its denomination class. A series of guidelines and restrictions for cultivar naming is available at the ICRA website (<http://www.ishs.org/index1.htm>).

Once a name is chosen for the new cultivar, a registration form must be completed and submitted to the appropriate ICRA. Registration forms and fees vary among the different ICRAs, but typically the forms request the following information: names and addresses of the originator (who developed or discovered the cultivar), the nominant (who named the cultivar), the introducer (who distributed the plant privately or commercially) and the registrant (who is registering the new cultivar name); previous publication of the cultivar name (if applicable); the cultivar epithet; the parentage (when known); the location of the original find; details of trademarks, patents or plant breeder's rights (if applicable); awards received; a detailed description including a photograph or drawing; preferred method(s) of propagation; and an explanation of the meaning of the cultivar epithet.

The registration process is not complete until the new name is published in a printed form available to the general public. The publication must be dated, such as a technical journal or a nursery catalog. Newspaper and magazine articles, non-technical publications, websites and CD-ROMs are not acceptable forms of publication. The new cultivar name and description will eventually be published by the ICRA, at no cost to the registrant other than registration fees, however, if the chosen name is submitted by someone else and published first, another name would have to be chosen. To assure a desired cultivar name, the registrant should publish a variety description in a recognized journal, such as the Bulletin of the Heliconia Society International, HortScience, or the Journal of the Agriculture of the University of Puerto Rico. The publication must include a complete description of the cultivar, stating its obvious characteristics and how it differs from existing cultivars, preferably with an illustration or photograph.

By following these steps in cultivar registration, the originator receives credit for the development or discovery of the new cultivar. Furthermore, a

permanent record documenting that cultivar is created, which is necessary to avoid the confusion which is all too common in the ornamental plant world.

#### REFERENCES

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Trehane, P., C.D. Brickell, B.R. Baum, W.L.A. Hettterscheid, A.C. Leslie, J. McNeill, S.A. Spongberg and F. Vrugtman (eds.). 1995. *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*. Quarterjack Publisheing, Wimborne, UK.