



## New BuscaPlantasPR.com website offers opportunity to increase Zingiberales use in Puerto Rican landscaping

*By Francisco Pérez, HSPR Contributor*

On October 31, 2011, Bokeana Corporation, a nursery and landscape contractor from Hormigueros, Puerto Rico, launched their new website [www.BuscaPlantasPR.com](http://www.BuscaPlantasPR.com).

The site combines a plant search engine with a supplier directory and availability tool that enables its users, primarily landscape designers and contractors, to perform searches based on specific plant categories, growth, growing environment, maintenance requirements, characteristics, uses and special features. It can be accessed free of charge for basic functionality by hobbyists and plant enthusiasts/collectors, but requires the users to register.

Besides the search capabilities for plants, the site allows subscribed



users advanced search capabilities that allow them to find local suppliers that are selling the plants



commercially on the island.

The development of this website took one year from specs to launch. It required a parallel effort in designing and programming a database for the web, plus a team dedicated to documenting plant information from reputable sources and photographing the plants.

The plant information provided on the website has as its intended audience landscape architects, landscapers and plant enthusiasts, so it focuses less on taxonomical aspects and more on ornamental features of the plants, proper environ-

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### Dates to Remember

- HSPR Meeting, 10:00 am, Sunday, December 11, 2011. At the farm of Dr. José Abreu, Cidra, P.R.
- Heliconia Society International Conference, July 23 - August 7, 2012. Panama, Costa Rica & Colombia. Pre-Conference Tour to Chiriquí, Panama & Costa Rica. Post-Conference Tour to Colombia.

BuscaPlantasPR.com website  
(continued)

The screenshot shows the main menu of the website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: PLANTAS, DISPONIBILIDAD, SUPLIDORES, USUARIOS, SOBRE NOSOTROS, and AYUDA. On the right, a user is logged in as Francisco Pérez, with a registration expiration date of Saturday, October 13, 2012. The main header features the site's logo and the tagline "Tu solución para encontrar la Planta que necesitas". Below the header, there is a search bar with "Búsqueda" and "Nueva Búsqueda" buttons. The main content area displays "Plantas por Búsqueda Avanzada" with a list of three Heliconia species. Each entry includes a small image, the common name, the scientific name, and the cultivar name, along with a "Ver detalles" link. On the right side, there is a sidebar for "Eventos y Actividades" with an "Añada Eventos" button. A vertical navigation bar is also visible on the right.

Plantas por Búsqueda Avanzada	
	<p>Nombre científico: <i>Heliconia bihai</i> Cultivar: 'Balisier'</p> <p><a href="#">Ver detalles</a></p>
	<p>Nombre científico: <i>Heliconia stricta</i> Cultivar: 'Bucky'</p> <p><a href="#">Ver detalles</a></p>
	<p>Nombre científico: <i>Heliconia burleana</i> Cultivar: N/A</p> <p><a href="#">Ver detalles</a></p>

Above: The site's main menu page and results for an advanced search for heliconias.

Below: A view of the website's detailed information page for torch ginger (*Etilingera elatior*).

The screenshot shows the detailed information page for the torch ginger. The header includes the site's logo and the tagline "Tu solución para encontrar la Planta que necesitas". The main heading is "Vea los detalles de la planta seleccionada". On the right, the user is logged in as Francisco Pérez. The main content area features a large image of the torch ginger flower. Below the image, there is a table with detailed information about the plant. The table includes the common name, scientific name, cultivar, description, and typical height and width. On the right side, there is a sidebar for "Eventos y Actividades" with an "Añada Eventos" button. A vertical navigation bar is also visible on the right.

<p><b>Nombre Común:</b> Ginger antorcha, Torch ginger, Phillipine wax flower, Syn: Nicolai elatior</p>
<p><b>Nombre Científico:</b> <i>Etilingera elatior</i> <b>Cultivar:</b></p>
<p><b>Descripción:</b> Herbacea perenne oriunda del Sureste asiático. Planta erecta que crece por rizomas y forma cepas; con hojas lanceoladas con tono púrpura por debajo. Se cultiva por su follaje tropical y sus flores en forma de cono de hasta 12 pulgadas. Sus flores se usan como flores de corte. Se puede cultivar en interiores si se le proporciona bastante luz. Existen variedades rojas y rosadas.</p>
<p><b>Altura Típica:</b> 240</p>
<p><b>Ancho Típico:</b> 120</p>

BuscaPlantasPR.com logo: **busca plantas pr.com**

Tu solución para encontrar la Planta que necesitas

Bienvenido: Francisco Pérez  
Su registro se vence en:  
Sabado 13 de Octubre 2012.

Mi Perfil | Renovar/Activar Registro | Salir

Eventos y Actividades

Forma de la Hoja: Elíptica/Obovada
Color del Follaje: Verde
Color de la Flor: Rojo
Estación en que florece: Todo el año
Tamaño Hoja: Mediana
Fertilidad Suelo: Fértil
Uso en Estanques: Ninguno
Zona: 10   Categoría: Herbacea Perenne
- Flores/Follaje de Corte: Si - Tiene Flores: Si - Sirve para Tiestos: Si - Sirve para Jardineras: Si - Sirve para Interior: Si - Sirve para Follaje: Si

THIS WEBSITE IS PROTECTED BY COPYSCAPE DO NOT COPY

COMPRAMENTO DE LA PLANTA  
MANTENIMIENTO DE LA PLANTA  
BUSQUEDA DE PLANTAS  
CONDICIONES AMBIENTALES ADECUADAS  
EVENTOS

Añada Eventos

### Part 2 of the detailed information page for torch ginger (*Etilingera elatior*).

ment for growing them, and cultivation. Since the information is intended for local landscapers and enthusiasts, a decision was made to provide the information in Spanish. The team made a great effort in ensuring the latest scientific names were used in the database by verifying each plant's name in the International Plants Name Index (IPNI) and the-plantlist.org website, which are the key sources for correct nomenclature. The team also made sure that all the plants in the database are either in cultivation or have been cultivated in the past in Puerto Rico.

As of the launch date, the website had a total of 1,120 plants documented, but Bokeana plans to continue adding plants and continue improving the content provided. Out of the total number of plants documented to date, the website offers information for the following Zingiberales: 102 Heliconia, 6 Alpinia, 4 Musa, 2 Hedychium, 2 Curcuma, 1 Dichorisandra, 1 Tapeinochilos, 1 Costus sp., 1 Zingiber, 1 Monocostus, 2 Ensete, 2 Etilingera, 3 Canna, and 3 Strelitzia, for a total of 131 varieties or 11.6% of the total number of plants listed. The

team plans to continue documenting varieties and cultivars, to make sure these plants are more widely known and used in landscaping.

Since the users of this site are likely to be people interested in plants, the site offers a free events announcement calendar, where organizations such as HSPR can announce their meetings and educational activities, so that interested website users can attend. When an event is entered it is reviewed by the website administrator and if approved it will be posted on the global calendar which is visible by all users of the site.

We hope this article motivates all members of HSPR to register on our site and help develop the content that is related to Zingiberales. The BuscaPlantasPR.com team still needs to work on photography and information for many Zingiberales varieties so if you are interested in offering help, please feel free to contact me on 787-399-0120 or via e-mail at: admin@buscaplantaspr.com  
**(Ing. Francisco J. Pérez-Vega is President of Bokeana Corporation)**

## HELICONIA SOCIETY OF PUERTO RICO, INC.

www.heliconiasocietypr.org

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# HSPR

*Promoting Zingiberales in  
Puerto Rico since 1996.*



*The Heliconia Society of Puerto Rico, Inc. was founded in 1996. The objectives of the society are to stimulate and promote the enjoyment and understanding of Heliconia and related plants of the order Zingiberales through education, research and communication, and to interact with the Heliconia Society International and other institutions which share similar interests, purposes or objectives.*

## President's Corner

Saludos Amigos,

As everybody knows, our September meeting was derailed by Tropical Storm Maria. This meeting had been scheduled for the western side of the island because the last meetings had been mostly in the metropolitan area.

After consulting and considering different ideas and options, we decided to attempt rescheduling the meeting. Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Juan A. Rivero and Dr. Figueroa, we were able to obtain the conference room of the Juan A. Rivero Zoo in Mayaguez for the second Sunday in October. The atmosphere was very pleasant, surrounded by nature, and was a perfect consolation as a meeting locale.

Even though the participation of the “westerners” was less than anticipated, the meeting went well. Many thanks for the special cooperation of Isabelita, Gildreth, Myriam and the rest of the women enthusiasts and leaders. I hope that the absence of the “locals” was due to lack of information and not lack of interest. Once again I would like to thank Dr. Rivero for his generosity, words of wisdom, and advice on heading an association.

December's meeting will be my last as president of this society. I hope I have been useful in its preservation and/or improvement. I have tried to do the best possible job within my means. I give thanks to all those who have helped me, including Hector, Bob and Gildreth, Reily, Yolanda, Isabelita and others, and I ask them to do the same for the next president... as I also plan to do.

December's meeting will be at my house in Cidra, and will be a regular meeting. I ask you to please bring food dishes, preferably home made and not expensive items. Also, above all, please bring plants, rhizomes, trees, etc., for the raffle. Remember that the raffles have become one of the most attractive (and productive) parts of our society. In this meeting the new leaders will be elected, who will direct the activities of the HSPR for the next two years.

Nos vemos en Cidra,

José R. Abreu,  
President, HSPR



**HSPR president José Abreu with two huge inflorescences of *Heliconia caribaea* 'Canaries Giant' (also known in Puerto Rico as 'St. Lucia').**