



New, Rare, and Beautiful Heliconias from Colombia and Ecuador

By Raymond Jerome, HSPR Member

This is the second of four articles based on new, rare, and beautiful heliconias. The humid tropical forests of Colombia and Ecuador provide a fabulous array of heliconias. Our heliconia explorers, Carla Black and Bruce Dunstan, have provided us with a fabulous collection of heliconia photographs from their expedition to these two countries. In their explorations, they have found numerous new and unreported heliconias which have not been previously described in the literature. All of us are very grateful to them and deeply appreciate their hard work and rough trips that have so greatly contributed to knowledge



H. griggsiana - 'Blue Moon'

of heliconias for heliconia enthusiast worldwide.

Mark Collins was the first to discover these beautiful forms of *H. griggsiana* in Colombia and bring them back to his farm in Hawaii where he gave them cultivar names. Since there has been some confusion over the naming of these cultivars, I communicated with Mark, before his death, to clarify the names of all three of these cultivars, which he kindly did. According to Mark, their real names are as listed on the photos in this bulletin.



H. griggsiana - 'Angry Moon'

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Dates to Remember

- *HSPR Meeting, 10:00 am, Sunday, September 14, 2014. UPR Botanical Garden, Río Piedras, PR.*

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H. griggsiana - 'Harvest Moon'

Heliconia gigantea looks very similar to *H. griggsiana*. However it is considered to be a different species and the plant and inflorescence are much larger than those of *H. griggsiana*.

There are two color

variations of *H. aemygdiana*. 'Lavender Storm' has more purple coloration to its bracts, and 'Purple Peru' has more red in its bract coloration.

Heliconia dielsiana has three color variations: one which is all red, another that is all orange, and the third is all yellow.

Heliconia chartacea 'New Orleans' is from Ecuador. Notice its similarity to *H. chartacea* 'Surinam Gold,' from Surinam, which is far from Ecuador, on the east coast of South America.



H. gigantea

'Surinam Gold' has much more yellow and less green on its bracts than does 'New Orleans'.

This *H. fernandezii*, found by Carla and Bruce, has yellow tips. All of the *H. fernandezii* which we have in

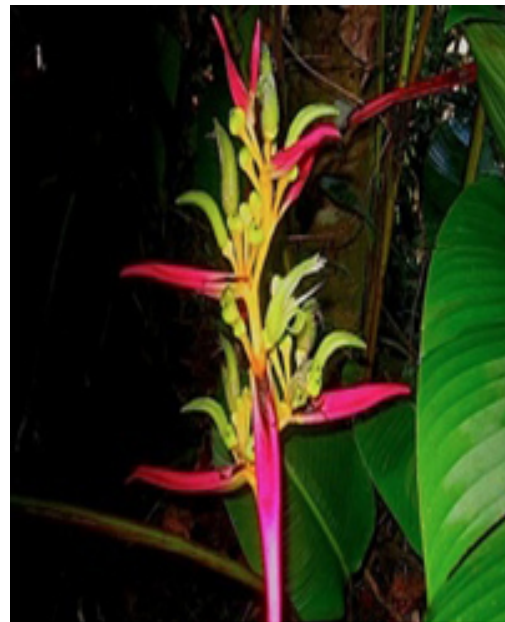
Puerto Rico are peach red in color.

Heliconia regalis has many different forms and colors.

Heliconia vellerigera also has many different forms and colors.



H. aemygdiana - 'Lavender Storm' - (basic purple color with red tint)



H. aemygdiana - 'Purple Peru' - (basic purple color with red tint)

Heliconia robertoi, *H. sanctaethersae*, *H. atratensis*, *H. stellaris*, and *H. estherae* are all beautiful Colombian species which we do not presently have in Puerto Rico. However, I noticed that

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H. aemygdiana - *ssp. transandiniana*

“The Plant Group” in Thailand is now offering *H. sanctae-theresae* for sale on the Internet.

Carla Black and Bruce Dunstan discovered the following new species of heliconias, which had not been previously

reported in the literature, on their Colombian/Ecuadorian expedition:

New Species #4 is a beautiful, all yellow pendant, heliconia from Colombia. It is possible that this is a yellow form of *H. obscura*, but Carla Black feels



H. dielsiana (yellow form)-(also exist in all red & all orange forms)

that it has many features which do not match *H. obscura* and that it is probably a new species.

New Species #5 has small inflorescences that are red, peach, and yellow, and is yet to be named.

New Species #6 is a beautiful, brilliant pink pendant heliconia with a white rachis. Its rachis is covered with white fuzzy hairs. It has not previously been reported in the literature. If cultivars of this

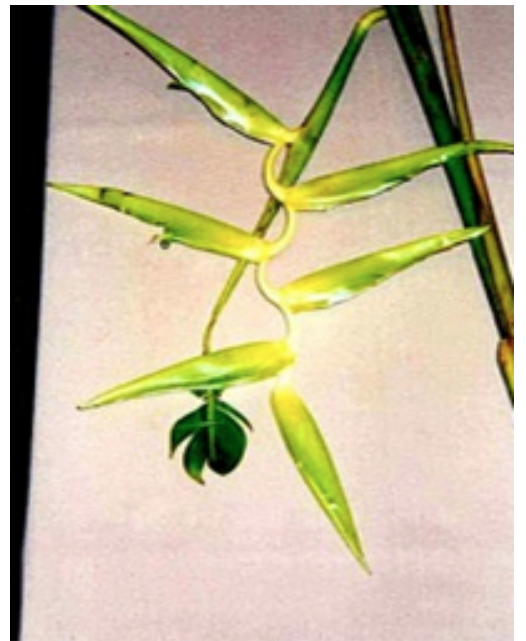
beauty can be established, they will make a great addition to our collections.

New species #7 is an interesting twisted red pendant heliconia, not previously described.

New species #8 is a beautiful rainbow colored small upright heliconia, which will be a welcomed addition to our Puerto Rico collections if it ever becomes available.



H. chartacea - 'Sexy Coca'



H. chartacea - 'New Orleans' - Ecuador

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H. chartacea - 'Surniam Gold' (Meeana) Surniam



H. fernandezii - 'Peach Fuzz' - (yellow tipped form)



H. regalis - 'Barnum & Bailey'



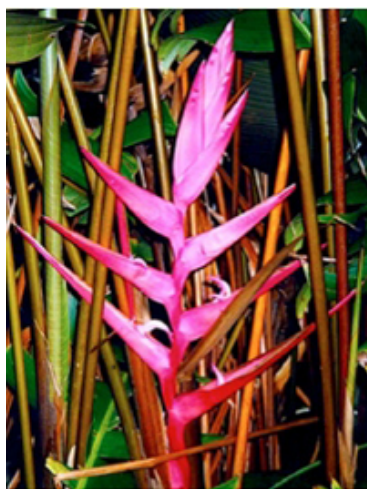
H. regalis - 'Lita'



H. regalis - 'Red'



H. robertoi



H. atratenensis



H. estherae



H. sanctae-theresae

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H. yellerigera - 'Root Beer'



H. yellerigera - 'Tena' -
(yellow hairs)



H. stella-maris



? New Species - #4 - (possibly yellow
H. obscura)



H. sp.
New Species - #5



New Species - #6 - (full)



New Species - #6 - (close-up)



New Species - #7



New Species - #8

(Assistant Editor's Note: The nomenclature of the heliconias in this article is not always in agreement with the International Cultivar Registration Authority for Heliconia.)

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.

From Our Last Meeting

At the last meeting, President Roberto Castro reported that the Board of Directors met on May 17, 2014 at Dr. Jose Abreu's farm in Cidra. The Board revised and updated the bylaws of the HSPR, the draft is ready and it will be presented to the members. The Board also agreed to name member Mr. Paul Yoshioka, one of the founding members as an Honorary Member. The President also informed that the electronic HSPR bulletin was sent to members that agreed to receive it that way, and it was a success. We encourage our members to inform their interest in receiving the bulletin electronically; it really saves HSPR money and contributes to a paperless society.

Mrs. Miriam Mercado (representing Reily Rodriguez, our treasurer) gave the financial report. She reported that we have a balance of \$7,382.09.

Juan Carlos Velez gave a short talk and demonstration on techniques of separating rhizomes from the mother plant. Many of the new members were very thankful for the demonstration.

At this meeting we started the process of having all the memberships due date prorated to the month of December 2014. Starting on January 2015, the membership due date will be December. This process will make the membership payment easy for all the members.

Gildreth González
HSPR Secretary

President's Corner

Our June 2014 meeting, held at the beautiful property of Evelyn Fontanez and Frank Marrero in the town of Guayama, was a great success. Many old members showed up after a long absence from previous meetings, it was great to see them all! We want to thank Evelyn and Frank for their hospitality and sharing with us their well-kept garden. Everybody had a great time, and the weather was perfect.

After the meeting, thanks to the generosity of Ana Lago, several members toured the Mariposario Las Limas, with its large collection of heliconias. The property was closed for a few years but she is working to bring it to its former splendor. Gracias Ana! Once again thanks to Isabelita, Saily and their crew for coordinating the delicious dishes served after the meeting.

Our September 14, 2014 meeting will be held at the facilities of the UPR's Botanical Garden (Estación Experimental – first building on the right) in Rio Piedras. Following our continuous interest in learning, member Dr. Duane Kolterman will give a talk about hybridization in heliconias. Don't forget to bring snacks or refreshments, as well as plants for the raffle!

The HSPR would like to express condolences to our assistant editor Dr. Bryan Brunner for the loss of his beloved brother. Also condolences to the Mattei family of Adjuntas for the loss of our member Annette Mattei.

Roberto L. Castro
President, HSPR