



# Gleanings

a monthly newsletter from The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

(articles and photos selected from chapter newsletters, our journal *Gesneriads*, and original sources)

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Welcome to the latest issue of **Gleanings**! This issue includes my photos of gesneriads at the Ohio State African Violet Society Show and Dale Martens' article on growing *Sinningia minima*.

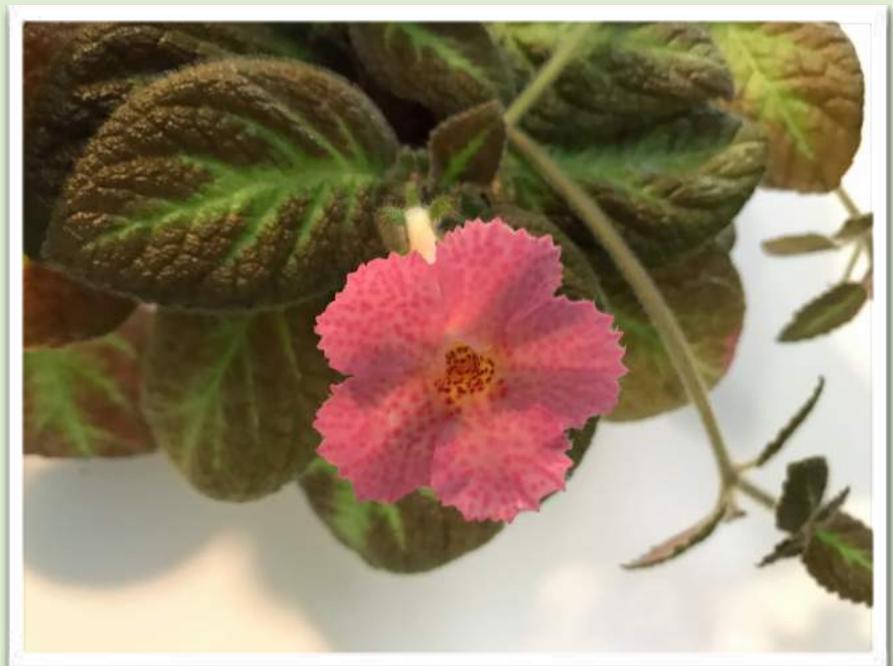
Hope you enjoy **Gleanings**!

Mel Grice, Editor



*Episcia* 'Jim's Specialty' is one of my favorite hybrids created by the late Jim Bodner from Canada. I love the vivid pink color and the dots in the yellow throat of the blossom.

Mel Grice photo



# Gesneriads at the Ohio State African Violet Society Show

*Episcia* (Belize collection)  
Paul Kroll



Mel Grice photos



*Streptocarpus* 'Joker'  
Terri Vicenzi



*Streptocarpus*  
'Fred's Yellow Wine'  
Terri Vicenzi

*Columnnea orientandina*  
Terri Vicenzi



*Episcia cupreata* 'La Soledad Bronze'  
Paul Kroll



Mel Grice photos



*Gloxinia erinoides* 'Judy' - Paul Kroll

Mel Grice photos



*Primulina* 'Moonlight' - Mel Grice

*xRhytidoneria* 'Ako Cardinal Flight'  
Paul Kroll



*Episcia* 'Moonlight Valley'  
Penny Wichman



*Primulina* 'Kitaguni'  
Terri Vicenzi

Mel Grice photos

# Life Cycle of *Sinningia minima*

Dale Martens  
Sherrard, IL, USA

The Gesneriad Society has very exciting live auctions at the conventions. In 2017, I was determined to be the winner for a packet of *Sinningia minima* seeds generously donated by Mauro Peixoto. Happily, I won one of the packets, and when I got home, I contacted Mauro who wrote, "It grows on iron rocks and the tiny tuber is deep incrustated on the rock cracks. Although it grows in Amazonian region, the habitat has a definite dry/wet season, and the plant stays dormant at least six months. Be careful AFTER flowering because it goes dormant for at least three to four months and could be tricky to keep a tuber alive without rotting or drying out beyond recovery. I grow my plants in soilless mix that I added some extra iron pebbles that I collected nearby the plants. They grow in nature on almost pure iron rocks, but a miniature begonia that grows mixed with it, does very well in ordinary soilless mix, so I don't know if the extra iron is necessary or not."

November 8, 2017: These seedlings are 10 days old. It took 43 days for the first of the seedlings to sprout. I had a small, lidded container with one side New Zealand sphagnum and the other side my usual soilless mix.

Nothing, absolutely nothing sprouted on the sphagnum side. I kept the mix moist, not soaking wet. Subsequent seed sowings also proved the seed takes between 35 and 60 days to sprout depending on conditions. I lifted each seedling up and put it back in the same container because I've found this stimulates growth.



December 14, 2017: The seedlings were transplanted to a 2.5-inch, plastic pot along with a wick. The pot and wick reservoir were placed inside a bowl for extra humidity. Slightly less than 1/8 teaspoon of 20-14-13 fertilizer per gallon of water was put into the reservoir.

All photos by Dale Martens



December 26, 2017: See how quickly seedlings grow when transplanted!



January 31, 2018: The first buds emerged. This photo shows how I grew this little species on a wick reservoir inside a bowl for extra humidity.

"Terrarium is a good idea because they grow in places that have dripping water all the time during the growing season. It grows at 700 meters of altitude (about 2100 feet), but what really differs it from the other miniatures is the dry/wet period. The place is very dry for at least six months. August/September are the driest months. It does not have much to do with temperature or day length because it is close to Equator line 6 degrees 2'22.97" S 50 degrees 17' 25.94W.

The rainy season starts in November and in February the sinningias are in full bloom." In my home they came back in October, started blooming in November and right now are all dormant.



February 17, 2018: First flowers bloomed. Initially I was hand pollinating the flowers to make sure I got seeds, but this little species self-pollinates.



*Sinningia pusilla* is on the left and *Sinningia minima* is on the right.

March 27, 2018: I harvested the first seeds.



May 13, 2018: The plant was in significant decline, going dormant. I waited until the seedpods were dried before looking for tubers.

All photos by Dale Martens



May 18, 2018: To be honest, I wasn't sure if these were really tubers or just hard pieces of soil.



May 18, 2018: I consulted with Mauro who cautioned that I not allow the tubers to completely dry. I added moistened, large chunks of vermiculite to a small container along with the tubers and put a lid on the container. I kept the container on the shelf of my stand so it got the LED lights during the daytime.

August 24, 2018: I was thrilled to see that four of the tubers sprouted after 14 weeks in the moist vermiculite!



This article appeared originally in GESNERIADS Vol. 69, No. 1, First Quarter 2019, Peter Shalit, editor. Read other interesting articles like this about gesneriads by becoming a member of The Gesneriad Society and receiving our quarterly 64-page journal.

