



# 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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This issue includes photos of gesneriads at the Philadelphia Flower Show, Dale Martens' article about *Sinningia nordestina*, and information about the 2020 Gesneriad Society Convention.

Hope you enjoy **Gleanings**!

Mel Grice, Editor

*Sinningia helleri*, shown on the right, was exhibited by Leslie Anne Miller at the Philadelphia Flower Show. See more photos from the show on the following pages taken by Karyn Cichocki and Stephen Maciejewski

Karyn Cichocki photo



# Gesneriads at the Philadelphia Flower Show



Blooming class

Karyn Cichocki photos



Foliage class



Jill Fischer, Ginny Heatter, and Karyn Cichocki were one of three panels of Gesneriad Society judges that selected the awards donated by the Liberty Bell chapter of the Gesneriad Society.



Gesneriads over six inches class

Karyn Cichocki photos



*Sinningia* 'Prudence Risley'  
Sarah Coulson



*Sinningia* sp.  
Stephen Maciejewski



*Kohleria* cv.  
Leslie Anne Miller

Stephen Maciejewski photos

*Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Lollipop'  
Binney Rankin McCague





*Sinningia* 'Deep Purple Dreaming'  
Leslie Anne Miller



*Sinningia cardinalis*  
Paul Sheetz

Stephen Maciejewski photos



# Life Cycle of *Sinningia nordestina*

Dale Martens



By November 12, 2018, shoots in the axils began to bloom



Alain's article mentions that *S. nordestina* grows in thin pockets of organic litter. There is a rainy season for six months when the plant grows in semi-shady and humid locations. That is why I used a small 2-1/2 inch pot. In July 2018, I put the newly sprouted plant in high humidity. This photo was taken on September 9, 2018.

I'd been warned by JJ Wu in Taiwan not to keep the tuber of *Sinningia nordestina* too wet. In May 2018, I put the half-inch tuber in a covered container with barely moist vermiculite. It began to sprout at the end of July 2018, which I understand is a characteristic of this species in that it sprouts towards the end of the summer. I looked at Alan LaVergne's "Sinningia & Friends" website, and his page on *S. nordestina* has cautions about some growers finding it difficult to grow, thinking it's an annual. Sometimes it does not come out of dormancy. According to Alan, Mauro Peixoto introduced this species by distributing seed at the 2002 AGGS Convention.

All photos by the author

In 2000 Alain Chautems published an article in *The Gloxinian* entitled “Introducing *Sinningia nordestina*: An Unusual Annual New Species from Northeastern Brazil.” This article mentions that the many seedlings around the wild plants suggest this species relies on seed production for survival. Where it grows in northeastern Brazil there is a severe five-month dry season.

*Sinningia nordestina* has pendent flowers. My first thought when the plant bloomed was how much it looks like a kohleria or smithiantha. The somewhat sticky leaves are covered with soft hairs. When the leaves are gently rubbed there’s a strong, pleasant smell that is similar to rhubarb. As with all my gesneriads, I grew *Sinningia nordestina* with a wick and water reservoir. It grew under an LED fixture with lights on 12 hours a day. Fertilizer was alternated between 20-14-13, 9-3-6, and 20-10-20 at the rate of 1/8 teaspoon per gallon of water.

**Reference:** The GLOXINIAN, 2Q 2000, Vol. 50, No. 2, pp. 18-21.

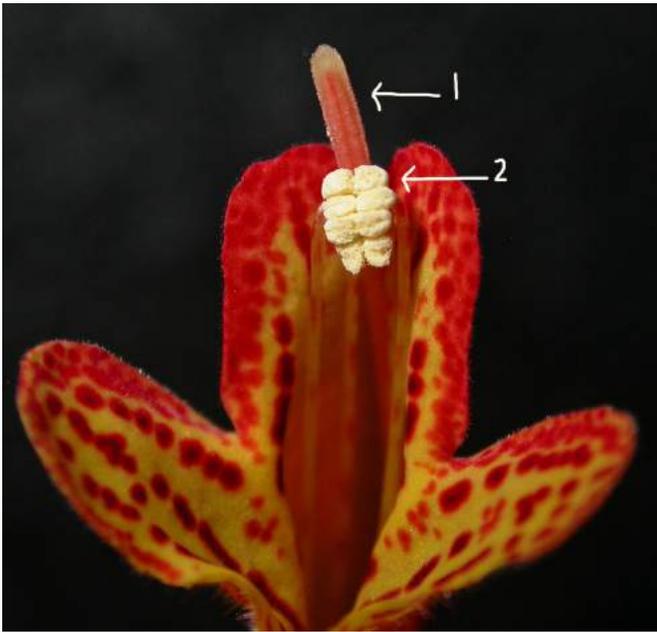


As of October 26, 2018, I had acclimated the plant to room air and the inflorescence began to bloom.



Also on October 26, I saw multiple flower stems with buds in the nodes.

All photos by the author



Above, #1 shows the style and stigma before it matures. #2 shows the powdery pollen on the anther. Note the pollen is facing away from the female organs so there is no self-fertilization.



By the end of December 2018, I harvested the tuber, which will be kept for the next 6 to 7 months in barely moist vermiculite.



This photo is significant because it shows that when the stigma is most receptive to pollen, the flower's own anther/pollen are nowhere near it. The filaments are limp, causing the anthers to fall to the base of the corolla.



I harvested several seed pods for the Seed Fund.

All photos by the author

This article appeared originally in **Gesneriads** Vol. 69, No. 3, Third 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.

# Coming Events

Many local chapter shows that were advertised here in previous issues have been cancelled. Please check the Gesneriad Society or AVSA events websites for more recent updates — <https://www.gesneriadsociety.org/events/> or — <http://www.avsa.org/events>

## *Gesneriad Treasures in the Sunshine State*



*Join us in St. Petersburg, Florida*

*June 30 - July 4, 2020*

Gesneriad Friends,

We are currently living in unprecedented times. Some Gesneriad Society members have expressed concerns about our upcoming convention in St. Petersburg, Florida, scheduled to start in late June.

The Convention Committee and the Society officers have been monitoring the situation daily. Since our convention is still several months away, we encourage our members to register and make hotel reservations now, if they haven't already done so. We have extended the early-bird cutoff date to April 15 so that you will have more time to register at the discounted rates.

**If we find that we must cancel the convention, or if you must cancel your registration for any reason, please understand that all registration costs will be refunded to you with no penalty.** Hotel reservations can also be cancelled without penalty no later than two days before your planned arrival.

The Convention Committee has been in touch with the hotel, already suffering greatly with cancellations of rooms and activities that had been scheduled over the next few months. They are willing to work with us to possibly reschedule our convention to this fall or beyond should we decide that we are not able to hold our convention this summer as planned. I am not saying this will happen but just that we are exploring possible options.

I will be in touch again regarding any changes as soon as any decisions are made ... and am still very much hoping we can get together in St. Pete this summer for our annual family celebration of gesneriads!

Mel Grice,  
President Gesneriad Society

