Seed Micromorphology of Neotropical Begonias

A. de Lange
and F. Bouman

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ABSTRACT

Lange, A. de, and F. Bouman. Seed Micromorphology of Neotropical Begonias. Smithsonian Contributions to Botany, number 90, 49 pages, 1 figure, 21 plates, 1999.—The seeds of about 235 Neotropical Begonia species, representing almost all recognized American Begonia sections, were studied using scanning electron microscopy. The seeds show an appreciable diversity in size, shape, and micromorphology, which is helpful in the delimitation of sections and sometimes also of species. Mean seed length varies from 235µm in Begonia filipes to 1450 µm in B. fruticosa; most seeds have a length between 300 µm and 600 µm. The shape of the seeds varies from almost globular to narrowly elliptic, and the length to width ratio ranges from 1.2 in B. hexandra to 8.1 in B. fruticosa. Further differences exist in the shape of the testal cells, the undulation of the anticlinal walls, the bulging of the outer periclinal walls, and the pattern and roughness of the cuticle.

Five of the 15 mainly Brazilian, five of the 12 Andean and Guianan, and one of the eight middle American sections have a seed structure that is characteristic at the sectional level. All these sections have a relatively restricted geographical distribution, and they may differ in growth form or habitat. Most species of the other sections, including the larger and more widely distributed sections Begonia, Gireoudia, and Knesebeckia, have seeds conforming to the ordinary seed type.

In a number of the sections, the structural differences of the seeds are nicely correlated with differences in growth form and/or in means of dispersal. In contrast to the African begonias, the great majority of the Neotropical begonias have anemoballistic dispersal. Seeds may be adapted to wind dispersal by extended micropylar and/or chalazal ends with inflated, air-filled cells, such as in the Brazilian sections Solananthera, Trendelenburgia, and Enita and in the Andean section Rossmannia, or by a more pronounced surface with deep, collapsed testal cells, such as in sections Gobenia and Scheidweileria. Zooballistic dispersal by passing animals is supposed to be present in section Casparya. The seeds of sections Casparya and Trachelocarpus have very pronounced cuticular patterns and may be secondarily dispersed by rain wash or by adhering to animals.

No distinct indications for an intercontinental relationship between Neotropical, African, and Asiatic sections could be established.

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Seed Micromorphology of Neotropical Begonias

A. de Lange and F. Bouman

Introduction

The genus Begonia L. represents one of the larger genera of flowering plants and has a complicated taxonomic history. Generic concepts in the family Begoniaceae have changed much; about 50 genus names have been put into synonymy with Begonia. According to current opinions, the family comprises only the genera Begonia, Hillebrandia, and Symbegonia, although Symbegonia was classed under Begonia by Mabberley (1989). Hillebrandia sandwicensis Oliver, of the monotypic genus Hillebrandia, is endemic to Hawaii.

According to Smith et al. (1986) and Golding (1992), Begonia comprises almost 1400 species arranged into 78 sections (Baranov and Barkley, 1974), some of which are dubious or under discussion. Each section is restricted to a single continent except sections Begonia and Knesebeckia, which have an American-Asian distribution.

The seeds of Begoniaceae are characterized at the family level by the presence of a transverse ring of so-called collar cells. These cells are usually elongated and border the micropylar-hilary part of the seed. During germination, this part separates along preformed rupture lines and is lifted off like a seed lid or operculum (Figure 1), and the walls between the collar cells split to clear the way for the emerging seedling (Bouman and de Lange, 1983). The seeds of begonias show an appreciable diversity in size, shape, and micromorphology. The most common “ordinary” Begonia seeds mostly measure between 300 μm and 600 μm long. As far as is known, the extremes are found among the African begonias: the smallest seeds are recorded from B. iucunda Irmscher, with a mean seed length of 220 μm, and the largest are from B. ebolowensis Engler, with a mean length of 2240 μm (de Lange and Bouman, 1992).

The African begonias have received considerable attention by De Wilde and colleagues during the last 15 years (de Wilde, 1985, 1992). Using a multidisciplinary approach (including karyology, pollen morphology, stigma morphology (Panda and de Wilde, 1995), placentation, seed morphology, and leaf anatomy (Sosef, 1994)), sections have been revised and intersecional relations have become clearer. A comparative scanning-electron-microscopy (SEM) study proved seed micromorphology to be a very useful additional character set, especially at the sectional level (de Lange and Bouman, 1992). The African begonias showed a considerable diversity in seed size and...
structure. Moreover, differences in seed structure appeared to be distinctly related to the means of seed dispersal. In contrast to the general opinion that wind dispersal is the predominant means of dispersal in Begonia (van der Pijl, 1972), the seeds of the majority of the African Begonia species are dispersed by alternative ways. Animals may eat the fleshy, often colored fruits; seeds also may be dispersed by mud on the legs of passing animals or by rain wash (de Lange and Bouman, 1992).

The taxonomy of the Neotropical begonias is far from settled. During his long botanical career, Lyman B. Smith, in cooperation with Bernice G. Schubert and later Dieter C. Wasshausen, published a series of contributions to regional or national floras. Taxonomic revisions at the sectional level, however, unfortunately are lacking, with the exception of the study by Burt-Utley (1985) on the Central American and Mexican species of section Gireoudia. Because of the lack of a recent, updated revision of the Neotropical Begonia sections we have mainly followed the publication of Baranov and Barkley (1974) for sectional classifications and for the determination of their type species. It is important, however, to realize that their work was in large part based on published descriptions and did not involve critical examination of many species. A number of new sections described later have been added. For the sectional affiliation of species, we have used the publication of Barkley and Golding (1974) supplemented with data from later publications on newly described species.

In the Neotropics, about 600 Begonia species are recognized. According to Baranov and Barkley (1974), these are arranged in 47 sections; however, four of these sections, Auriformia, Irmscheria, Quadruperigonia, and Saueria, have since been eliminated due to synonymy. The monotypic section Dasystyles is of uncertain origin and is based on cultivated specimens. Twenty of the sections dealt with in the present paper have held generic status in the past (e.g., Casparya, Gireoudia, Hussia, Pritzelia, Scheidweileria).

For convenience, we have arranged the sections discussed herein according to six areas of geographical distribution. Thirty-five sections have a restricted geographical distribution, with the species of 15 sections confined mainly to Brazil and some adjacent countries, 12 sections confined to the Andean and Guianian regions, and eight sections confined to the Central American, Mexican, and Caribbean regions. The species of seven sections have a wider distribution: two sections occur in both Brazilian and Andean regions, one section occurs in both Andean and Central American regions, and four sections have a more extended Neotropical distribution.

The possibility of a sectional classification within the genus Begonia has been questioned repeatedly. Smith and Schubert (1946) discussed the use of placental form as the basis for division into sections but in subsequent publications ignored sections altogether. In her description of the begonias of Madagascar, Keraudren-Aymonin (1983) also renounced classifying species into previously recognized sections. The studies on African begonias, however, clearly demonstrated the sensibleness and usefulness of a sectional division. Sosef (1994:11) made a strong plea to taxonomists always to denote the section to which any given species belongs.

Our study aims at a better insight into the diversity of seed structure of Neotropical begonias and the adaptive characters for dispersal. Moreover, it may provide arguments for sectional delimitation.

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MATERIAL AND METHODS.—Most of the seed material was collected by visits to and/or by loan from the following herbaria: AAU, AMD, B, COL, CR, G, GENT, K, L, MO, P, PDA, PRE, RB, SP, U, US, and WAG. Moreover, seeds were received from the American Begonia Society Seed Fund (ABS), the former collection of cultivated begonias at the Department of Horticulture, Wageningen (WAG), and from the collections of L. Goldsmith (University of Vermont (VT)) and R. Ziesenhenne (Santa Barbara, California). Of the seeds received from Ziesenhenne, vouchers are present in his personal herbarium. No vouchers are available for the seeds obtained from ABS.

For the smaller sections, seeds of all available species were collected and studied. For the larger sections, seeds of a number of representative species were chosen. Mature seeds were sputter-coated with gold-palladium for 2 to 3 minutes and were observed using either a Cambridge Stereoscan MK 2a or an ISI DS-130. Dirty seeds were cleaned by soaking in water with a detergent and by subsequent ultrasonic vibration.

Seed size was determined from SEM measurements of usually six seeds. The seed width was measured at the widest apparent point. All mentioned mean sizes are arithmetically determined.
Description of Seeds of Neotropical Begonias

In the descriptions of Neotropical Begonia seeds, we emphasize those sections with a characteristic seed structure that sometimes can be related to special growth forms or to methods of seed dispersal. Sections with seeds conforming to the ordinary seed type are dealt with more briefly. Although variation in seed micromorphology between sections can provide taxonomic information, in view of the issue of correct identifications and the sometimes complicated nomenclature, detailed comparative studies are most valuable when done in close cooperation with taxonomists.

The results are presented according to the main geographical distributions of the sections for reason of surveyability and are not intended to suggest evolutionary relationships.

1. SECTIONS MAINLY CONFINED TO BRAZIL AND SOME ADJACENT COUNTRIES

Of the 15 Brazilian or mainly Brazilian sections, five (Enita, Scheidweilleria, Solananthera, Trachelocarpus, Trendelenburgia) share a unique seed structure that is characteristic at the sectional level. Seeds of the species within each of these sections can be distinctly discerned from those of all other sections. Of nine remaining sections, the seeds of all or most species have a more ordinary structure. No seeds were available from B. schlumbergerana Lemaire of the monotypic section Plurilobaria. This section is questionable because it is based on a dubious type species described from a cultivated specimen, probably related to section Ewaldia (Warburg, 1894).

1.1. Section Trachelocarpus A. DC.

PLATE 1a-c.f

This taxon was first described by Klotzsch as the genus Trachelanthus in 1855. C. Mueller (1857) changed the name to Trachelocarpus, and subsequently A. De Candolle (1859) reduced its status to sectional level. The section now comprises six species, restricted to Brazil. The taxonomically correct section type (Doorenbos et al., 1998) is Begonia depauperata Schott (=B. rhizocarpa Fischer ex A. DC.). Seeds were not available for B. angraensis Brade, B. fulvo-setulosa Brade, or B. velloziana Walp.

The species of the section are characterized by a rhizomatous habit and almost equal-sided lanceolate leaves. Moreover, the inflorescences are unisexual: the male ones are stalked cymes; the female ones are reduced to a single subsessile flower. The ovary and fruit have three narrow wings joining a beak-like elongation bearing tepals and styles with stigmas. All species are epiphytic, creeping herbs.

TYPE SPECIES.—Begonia depauperata (Plate 1e).

Seed Structure: Seeds ellipsoid to narrowly ellipsoid, 750–830 μm in length, 305–330 μm in width, mean 800 μm × 320 μm, length:width ratio 2.5. Collar cells relatively short, 175–280 μm in length, mean 205 μm, number in seed circumference about 14. Ratio of collar-cell length to seed length 1:4.0. Other testa cells polygonal, arranged in rows of about 10 cells. Anticlinal walls straight to slightly curved. Testa cells shallow, with collapsed outer periclinal walls forming ridges parallel to anticlinal boundaries. Operculum obtuse, composed of many irregularly arranged small cells.

Seed Micromorphology: Anticlinal boundaries straight or sometimes sunken. Cuticle with net-like structure of upright or folded-over pleats. Cuticular striae usually occurring only locally, especially on anticlinals or in patches on smaller apical cells of operculum.

Specimen Examined: B. depauperata, BRAZIL: Campos Goer 140 (B).

OTHER SPECIES OBSERVED (Plate 1a–c.f).—Seed Structure and Micromorphology: Begonia herbacea Vellozo and B. lanceolata Vellozo (syn. B. attenuata A. DC.) have seed structures that resemble those of B. depauperata in general morphology and cuticular structure. Seeds of B. herbacea have a mean size of 850 μm × 370 μm. Seeds of B. herbacea var. ellipticifolia Irmscher are slightly longer, 855–935 μm (mean 910 μm × 370 μm), have a length:width ratio of 2.5, and the anticlinal boundaries of the collar and testa cells are much more distinctly sunken. The seeds of B. lanceolata have a mean size of 1030 μm × 410 μm.

Specimens Examined: B. herbacea var. ellipticifolia, BRAZIL: Ule 4240 (B). B. herbacea var. herbacea, BRAZIL: Loefgren s.n. (B); Listedecceales s.n. (B).

B. lanceolata, BRAZIL: L.B. Smith & Pereira 15343 (US).

1.2. Section Solananthera A. DC.

PLATE 1d,g,h

The section Solananthera was established by A. De Candolle in 1859. It contains three species restricted to Brazil. The species are epiphytic, climbing subshrubs. The section is characterized by the presence of porate anthers and two-divided placentas, the lobes of which cling to each other. The seeds of the three species have been described in detail (de Lange and Bouman, 1986).

TYPE SPECIES.—Begonia solananthera A. DC. (Plate 1d).

Seed Structure: Seeds narrowly elliptic to narrowly obovate, mostly straight, sometimes J- or C-shaped. Mean seed size 755 μm × 145 μm, length:width ratio 5.2. Mean length of collar cells 250 μm, with collar-cell length:seed length ratio of 3.0. Other testa cells elongated, anticlinal walls finely undulated. Outer cell walls convex. Operculum obtuse, funnel-like, with sunken hilum.

Seed Micromorphology: Anticlinal boundaries flat. Cuticular pattern consisting of long linear undulated striae.


OTHER SPECIES OBSERVED (Plate 1g,h).—Seed Structure and Micromorphology: Begonia radicans Vellozo and B. in-
tegerrima Sprengel have seed structures that resemble those of *B. solanthera* in shape, general morphology, and cuticular pattern. Mean seed sizes are 1060 μm × 170 μm and 885 μm × 155 μm, respectively, and the length:width ratios are 1:6.2 and 1:5.7, respectively. The seeds of *B. radicans* also strongly resemble those of *B. fruticosa* of section *Trendelenburgia*. The periclinal walls of the testa cells are collapsed, with the exception of those at the chalaza of *B. radicans*.

Specimens Examined:

* B. integerrima var. integerrima, BRAZIL: E. Pereira 606 (RB).

* B. radicans, BRAZIL: H. Luederwaldt s.n. (SP); A.P. Duarte 3377 (RB).

1.3. Section *Trendelenburgia* (Klotzsch) A. DC.

**PLATE 2a,f**

The taxon *Trendelenburgia* was first described by Klotzsch as a genus in 1855 on the basis of one of the early *Begonia* collections by Ludwig Riedel in 1839. A. De Candolle (1864) changed the status to sectional level. Most probably the section is monotypic, with *B. fruticosa* as the type species.

The section is characterized by three-celled fruits with three equal-sized, very narrow wings and undivided placentas. The plants are slender-stemmed shrubs with a tendency to climb and with simple, pinnately veined leaves. *Begonia fruticosa* occurs in Argentina and southern Brazil.

**TYPE SPECIES.**—*Begonia fruticosa* A. DC. (Plate 2a,f).

**Seed Structure:** Seeds narrowly ellipsoid, extended micropylar and chalazal ends composed of bulging, air-filled cells. Testa cells covering central, embryo-containing part collapsed. One or both sides of seeds may be curved, rendering seeds J- or slightly S-shaped. Seed length 1310–1540 μm, width 160–200 μm, mean 1450 μm × 180 μm, length: width ratio 8.1 (slenderest seeds ever encountered in *Begonia*). Seeds of above described collection (Martins 8380) the biggest. Seeds of collections *Herb. Brasil* 1717, Kummerow 1636, a.d *Herb. Brasil* 830 with mean lengths of 1060 μm, 1005 μm, and 965 μm, respectively, and length: width ratios of 7.3, 5.4, and 6.3, respectively. Ratio of embryo-containing part to seed length 1:2.4. Collar cells strongly elongate, 275–380 μm in length, mean 325 μm, number in seed circumference about 10. Collar-cell length to seed length ratio 1:4.5. Longitudinal anticlinal walls of collar mostly undulated along entire length. Other testa cells of central part of seed also distinctly elongated and with undulated walls. Cells of operculum adjacent to collar elongated. Hilum sunken.

**Seed Micromorphology:** Anticlinal boundaries of operculum and chalaza sunken, those of central part of seed somewhat less so. Cuticle smooth, locally with faint, striate ornamentation, cuticle of central part of seed reflecting underlying pits. Larger pits present at bases of anticlinal walls.

Specimens Examined:

* B. fruticosa, BRAZIL: R. Kummrow 1636 (MO); H.F. Martins 8380 (US); H. Schenck, *Herb. Brazil* 850, 1717 (B).

1.4. Section *Scheidweileria* (Klotzsch) A. DC.

**PLATE 2b–e,g,h**

The section *Scheidweileria* was described by Klotzsch as a genus in 1855. The section comprises six species, one of which, *B. luxurians*, is well known as a collector’s plant. They are shrubs or small trees with compound, palmately veined leaves containing cystoliths and with large inflorescences that are dichotomous at the bases. The female flowers are characterized by five tepals, stigmas as helical bands with three turns, and undivided placentas. No seeds were available for *B. semidigita*.

Most species of the section are limited to Brazil, but *B. parviflora* Poeppig & Endler has a wider distribution, extending to southern Central America.

**TYPE SPECIES.**—*Begonia pentaphylla* Walpers (Plate 2b,c).

**Seed Structure:** Seeds ellipsoid to narrowly ellipsoid, 600–680 μm in length, 220–300 μm in width, mean 640 μm × 265 μm, length: width ratio 2.4. Collar cells elongate, 180–280 μm in length, mean 225 μm, number in seed circumference about 12. Ratio of collar-cell length to seed length 2.8.

Longitudinal anticlinal walls of collar straight. Other testa cells polygonal, with straight anticlinal walls. Testa cells at chalaza with higher anticlinal walls and becoming deep due to collapse of outer periclinal walls. Chalaza usually flattened on one side, probably from contact with inner surface of fruit wall, resulting in cell crumpling. Border between collar and operculum abrupt. Operculum nipple-shaped, with collapsed cells.

**Seed Micromorphology:** Anticlinal boundaries flat. Cuticular pattern variable, that of collar cells mainly linear, that of remaining testa cells with shorter linear, undulated, or short zigzag striae. Locally, patches with less pronounced, mainly linear pattern.

Specimen Examined:


**OTHER SPECIES OBSERVED (Plate 2d,e,g,h).—**The seeds of other species observed are characterized by a flattened chalaza with deep testa cells as described above for *B. pentaphylla*, but they show distinct differences in seed lengths.

**Seed Structure and Micromorphism:** The seeds of *B. parviflora* are 270–350 μm in length, 155–180 μm in width, with a mean of 315 μm × 170 μm, and have a length: width ratio of 1.9. They most resemble the ordinary type of begonia seed.

The seeds of *B. luxurians* Scheidweiler and *B. digitata* Raddi are longer and closely resemble each other. *Begonia luxurians* seeds (*Hoehne* 2370) are 580–640 μm in length and 180–200 μm in width, with a mean of 610 μm × 185 μm and a length: width ratio of 3.3. The collection *de Barros* 1139 has smaller seeds, with a mean of 485 μm × 195 μm. *Begonia digitata* seeds are 595–655 μm in length and 165–210 μm in width, with a mean of 625 μm × 185 μm and a length: width ratio of 2.9. The operculum in *B. digitata* and *B. luxurians* is broadly...
nipple-shaped, sometimes obtusate, and has a sunken hilum (Sellow s.n. and Martinelli c.s. 8045, respectively).

The seeds of B. incisisserrata A. DC. vary appreciably in size, being 370–500 μm in length and 170–215 μm in width, with a mean of 425 μm × 185 μm and a length : width ratio of 2.4.

The species of the section have straight or slightly curved anticlinal walls except B. parvijlora, in which all specimens locally have slightly undulated anticlinal walls in the collar and testa. The species have a cuticular pattern as described for B. pentaphylla.

Specimens Examined:
B. digitata var. digitata, BRAZIL: Martinelli & Maas 3271 (U); Sellow s.n. (P); L.B. Smith cs. 6691 (US).
B. incisisserrata, BRAZIL: A.C. Braide 20096 (B); G. Hatschbach & R. Kummran 45532 (US).
B. luxurians var. luxurians, BRAZIL: D. de Barros 1139 (B); F.C. Hoehne 2370 (B); G. Martinelli, Kautsky, & Leme 8045 (US).
B. parvijlora, COLOMBIA: Ed. André K 284 (K); J. Cuatrecasas 11311 (US); Killip 7837 (US). ECUADOR: Holguer Lugo S 1808 (MO).

1.5. Section Ewaldia A. DC.

PLATE 3a–d

This taxon was described by Klotzsch (1855) as a genus and was reduced to a section by A. De Candolle in 1864. It was maintained as such by subsequent monographers (Warburg, 1894; Irmscher, 1925). The section comprises about 11 species. They resemble the seeds of section Ewaldia in a number of characters, but they differ, among other characters, in the pinnate venation and in the shape and hairiness of the leaves. Except for the Venezuelan species B. boucheana (Klotzsch) A. DC., the species are limited to Brazil.

TYPE SPECIES.—Begonia lobata Schott (Plate 3a).


Seed Micromorphology: Anticlinal boundaries flat. Cuticular pattern coarse, that of chalazal cells with short linear or short undulated striae. Locally, patches with less pronounced, denser pattern.

Specimens Examined:
B. lobata, BRAZIL: G.L. Esteves c.s. CFCR 6028 (SP); G. Hatschbach 30073 (US), 36564 (MO).
B. aff. lobata, BRAZIL: P.J.M. Maas c.s. 3318 (U).

OTHER SPECIES OBSERVED (Plate 3b–d).—Seed Structure and Micromorphology: The seeds of B. rigida Lindem ex Regel, B. scharffii Hook.f., and B. tomentosa Schott resemble those of B. lobata in the coarse cuticular pattern and the straight anticlinal walls and boundaries. They differ, however, in a nipple-shaped operculum, smaller size, and the presence of a cuticular pattern with both short linear and short undulated to short zigzag striae. Mean seed sizes are 390 μm × 190 μm (B. rigida), 485 μm × 220 μm (B. scharffii), and 485 × 210 μm (B. tomentosa), with length : width ratios of 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3, respectively. The seeds of section Ewaldia, especially those of B. lobata, resemble the seeds of section Scheidweileria in shape, in size, and in having a somewhat massive operculum.

Specimens Examined:
B. scharffii, BRAZIL: Palacios-Cuezzo 2930 (US).
B. tomentosa var. tomentosa, BRAZIL: A.C. Braide 18572 (US).

1.6. Section Enita Brade

PLATE 3e–f–k

The species now constituting section Enita have a rather complicated taxonomic history. Klotzsch (1855) attributed the species then described, together with a number of species now mainly in section Pritzelia, to his genus Wageneria. A. De Candolle (1861) transferred this genus to Begonia section Wageneria. Warburg (1894) merged Wageneria with the large section Pritzelia, and this opinion was shared by Irmscher (1925). Braide (1945) established Enita as a subsection and later raised it to sectional level (Brade, 1957). The correct name of the section should be Wageneria Klotzsch, with B. fagifolia Hort. Petrop. ex Otto & Dietrich as type species (Doorenbos et al., 1998). The section comprises probably 10 species. The species of section Enita deviate from those of section Pritzelia by having stamens with filaments slightly united below and anthers usually much shorter than the filaments, and by having cylindrical seeds crowned with a group of larger cells at the chalaza. Moreover, they are climbing semishrubs with stems that often produce adventitious roots at the nodes and that have symmetrical or subsymmetrical, pinnately or palmately veined leaves.

All species are limited to Brazil except B. glabra Aublet, which has a wider distribution, occurring in the West Indies and from Mexico to Colombia and Ecuador.

TYPE SPECIES.—Begonia convolvulacea (Klotzsch) A. DC. (Plate 3e).

Seed Structure: Seeds narrowly ellipsoid, micropylar and chalazal ends differing, 635–705 μm in length, 180–215 μm in width, mean 675 μm × 195 μm, length : width ratio 3.4. Collar cells elongate, 130–475 μm in length, mean 275 μm, number in seed circumference about 11. Ratio of collar-cell length to seed length 2.4.

Longitudinal anticlinal walls of collar and other testa cells usually straight, sometimes slightly undulated. Other testa cells
also elongated. Chalazal end of seed flattened and with cells with higher anticlinal walls. These cells may become deep from collapse of outer periclinal walls or somewhat inflated from bulging of outer walls. Operculum obtuse, with sunken hilum.

Seed Micromorphology: Anticlinal boundaries usually flat but sunken at boundary of collar and operculum and at chalaza. Cuticular pattern weakly developed, with linear or short linear striae, more distinct at operculum. Locally, patches without ornamentation.

Specimens Examined:
B. convolvulacea. BRAZIL: G. Hatcher 9193 (B, L); H. Schenck, Herb. Brazil 858 (B).

Other Species Observed (Plate 3f–k).—Seed Structure: The seeds of B. epibaterium Martius ex A. DC., B. fagifolia, and B. glabra are quite similar in general shape to those of B. convolvulacea, but they may vary in the condition of the chalazal and micropylar ends, cells of which may be shrunken or inflated.

Unfortunately, only immature seeds of B. smilacina A. DC. were available; however, their morphology corresponds to that of other species of section Enita. No seeds were available of B. inconspicua Brade, but the drawing of Brade (1945, pl. 4.12) shows the seed type particular to section Enita.

In all specimens of the species observed, the chalazal side is flattened, probably from contact with the fruit wall, except in B. epibaterium (Scott Mori & Forbes Benton 12856), which has a more tapering, often somewhat asymmetric chalaza. Seed size in B. epibaterium tends to be a little smaller, as in B. convolvulacea. The mean seed size varies from 495 μm x 170 μm in B. epibaterium (Dos Santos 3408) to 660 μm x 150 μm in B. glabra (Laurito 8172). The length:width ratio in section Enita varies between 2.9 and 4.4. In all specimens observed the anticlinal walls may be undulated; however, some variation exists in the presence and extent of the undulations.

Remarks: The seeds of the different collections of the widespread species B. glabra vary in respect to the above-mentioned characters. The specimens from Surinam differ by having conspicuous chalaza with inflated cells, which make the chalaza even broader than the central part of the seed. The cuticular structure of the chalazal cells is more pronounced, with a more randomly orientated zigzag ornamentation and distinct patches with a confluent cuticular pattern.

The seeds of the collection from Cuba have few collar cells (mean = eight), with a mean length of 315 μm, and the ratio of collar-cell length to seed length is 2.0. This may be compared with, for instance, the collection from Costa Rica, the seeds of which have about 10 collar cells in the seed circumference. The collar cells have a mean length of 195 μm, and the ratio of collar-cell length to seed length is 3.4.

Our samples of B. glabra var. amplifolia (A. DC.) L.B. Smith & B.G. Schubert and B. glabra var. cordifolia (C. DC.) Irmscher do not show specific characters and more resemble B. convolvulacea in having less-inflated chalazal cells.
more thickened and elevated, are straight and form a distinct polygonal pattern at the outside, and are undulated, with pockets at their bases.

*Begonia grisea* and *B. paranaensis* resemble each other in shape and testal pattern. The seeds of *B. bradei* Irmscher, *B. crispula* Brade, *B. dietrichiana*, and *B. olsoniae* Smith & Schubert also resemble each other in some respects. The seeds of *B. itupavensis* Brade most resemble those of *B. hookerana* Gardner (Occhioni 4788) of section *Steineria*.

Remarks: The monotypic section Saueria A. DC. was eliminated by the placement of the Colombian type species *B. sulcata* Scheidweiler in Otto & Dietrich into synonymy with the Venezuelan species *B. dichotoma* Jacquin of section *Pritzelia* by L.B. Smith (1973). Although unfortunately no seeds of *B. dichotoma* were at our disposal, the seeds of *B. sulcata* quite closely resemble those of some other species of section *Pritzelia* from Brazil, e.g., *B. angulata*.

Specimens Examined:

**B. acida**, BRAZIL: cult., Boone-Hahn 108 (WAG); cult., Hort. bot. Liège.

**B. angulares** Raddi var. *angularis*, BRAZIL: D.R. Hunt 6470 (K).

**B. angulata var. angulata**, BRAZIL: Hatschbach 8831 (L).

**B. angulata var. serrana**, BRAZIL: Brade 17531 (U).


**B. coccinea**, BRAZIL: Burchell 2194 (P); cult., Ziesienhenn s.n.


**B. dichotoma**, COLOMBIA: cult., Boone-Hahn 25 (WAG, as *B. sulcata*).


**B. grisea**, BRAZIL: St. Hilaire B 2027 (P); H.S. Irwin c.s. 27654 (MO).

**B. hispida var. hispida**, BRAZIL: Bailey & Bailey 710 (L); Vauchier 542 (P).

**B. huegelli** (Klotzsch) ex A. DC., BRAZIL: Altamira & Wolter 11 (U).

**B. itaguassuensis**, BRAZIL: A. Lourteig 3236 (P).

**B. itupavensis**, BRAZIL: Hatschbach 11713 (U).

**B. olsoniae**, BRAZIL: cult., van Veldhuizen 408 (WAG); E. Pereira 307 (RB, as *B. vellozoana* Brade, paratype).

**B. paranaensis**, BRAZIL: Hatschbach 8941 (L).

**B. petatiscipula** Brade, BRAZIL: cult., van Veldhuizen 997 (WAG).

**B. reniformis** Dryander, BRAZIL: Luederwaldt & Fonseca 18031 (B); Ynes Mexia 5148 (P).


### 1.8. Section *Philippomartia* A. DC.

#### PLATE 5c–e

According to Irmscher (1953), the species of this section closely resemble those of section *Pritzelia* except for some stigmatic characters and for a ring of tentacle-like processes at the top of the petioles. Such a ring also is known in a number of species of *Pritzelia* and in some other sections. The section comprises two or three species, *B. leptophylla* Taubert, *B. membranacea* A. DC., and *B. neglecta* A. DC. The taxonomic position of *B. leptophylla* is questionable (Doorenbos et al., 1998). No seeds of *B. neglecta* were available.

**Species Observed.—**Seed Structure: The seeds of *B. leptophylla* and *B. membranacea* resemble each other and agree in many characters with those of species in section *Pritzelia*, such as *B. dietrichiana*. The mean seed length of both species lies between 300 μm and 360 μm. The testa cells are polygonal, with straight anticlinal boundaries, and the operculum is nipple-shaped.

Seed Micromorphology: The cuticular pattern is fine and dense; the striae are short linear in *B. leptophylla* and are zigzag in *B. membranacea*.

Specimens Examined:

**B. leptophylla**, BRAZIL: A. Mo 4331 (MO).

**B. membranacea**, BRAZIL: H. M. Curran 170 (US); Ex herb. horti Petropolitani Brasilia Castelnuovo (K).

### 1.9. Sections *Steineria* (Klotzsch) A. DC. and *Bradea* Toledo PLATES 5f—n, 6a,b

Section *Bradea* was separated from section *Steineria* by Toledo in 1946 on the basis of differences in the staminate flower. The sections *Steineria* and *Bradea* comprise about four species (seeds of *B. caraguata-tubensis* Brade were not available) and 10 species, respectively. The two sections cannot be distinguished from each other on the basis of seed characters.

The species of both sections are restricted to Brazil, with the exception of the questionable species *B. opuliflora* Putzeys from the former New Granada, which is based on a drawing of a horticultural specimen.

**Type Species, Section Steineria.—**Begonia *hookerana* Gardner (Plate 5f,j).

**Seed Structure: **Seeds narrowly ellipsoid to ellipsoid. Mean seed size 465 μm x 180 μm, length: width ratio 2.6. Cellular cells elongated, the outer cells polygonal, with straight or slightly curved anticlinal walls. Operculum nipple-shaped.

**Seed Micromorphology:** Anticlinal boundaries flat. Cuticular pattern consisting of mainly short linear striae. Seeds of collection *Burchell* 2539 somewhat smaller, with locally undulated anticlinal walls and fainter cuticular pattern.

Specimens Examined:

**B. hookerana**, BRAZIL: Burchell 2539 (K); P. Occhioni 4788 (US).

**Other Species Observed, Section Steineria** (Plate 5g,l).—The seeds of *B. arborescens* Raddi var. *arborescens* and *B. oxyphylla* A. DC. resemble those of *B. hookerana*, especially collection *Burchell* 2539. Their mean seed sizes vary between 330 μm and 415 μm. They all show locally undulated anticlinal walls with pockets at their bases and thin outer periclinal walls reflecting many small pits. The cuticular pattern of
both species and of the variety B. arborescens var. conflortiflo-
ra A. DC. show some minor differences.
Specimens Examined:
B. arborescens var. arborescens, BRAZIL: M. Clausen 63 (P);
Grisebach s.n. (K); J. Miers 3291 (K).
B. arborescens var. confertiflora, BRAZIL: Gardner 602 (K,
type).
B. oxyphylla, BRAZIL: Inh. Vien s.n. (1828) (K).
Type Species, Section Bradea.—Begonia rufosericea To-
ledo (Plate 5m).
Seed Structure and Micromorphology: Seeds closely re-
ssembling those of (especially) B. arborescens in general aspect
and in above-mentioned characters, except for less-pronounced
undulation of anticlinal walls.
Specimens Examined:
B. rufosericea, BRAZIL: Oswaldo Hanro s.n. (B); cult., van
Veldhuizen 496 (WAG).
Other Species Observed, Section Bradea (Plates 5h,k,n,
6a,b).—Some other seed collections of section Bradea ob-
served, especially those of B. bidentata Raddi and B. polyandra
Irmscher, resemble B. rufosericea. They differ by having
curved anticlinal walls and a more distinct cuticular pattern of
zigzag striae. The seeds of B. bidentata collection Riedel s.n.,
B. parvisiulata Schott, and B. dentatiloba A. DC. show a more
reticulate character set.
Specimens Examined:
B. bidentata var. bidentata, BRAZIL: A. Glaziou 11873 (K); G.
Peckol 75 (B); E. Pereira 287 (B); Riedel s.n. (U).
B. dentatiloba, BRAZIL: L.B. Smith 1935 (K).
B. parvisiulata, BRAZIL: d’Alleizette s.n. (L); A. Glaziou 15388
(K); Brasilia Schott s.n. (B).
B. polyandra, BRAZIL: Herb. Hieronymus s.n. (B, type).

1.10. Section Tetrachia Brade
PLATE 6c-g
The monotypic section Tetrachia was established by Brade
in 1945 on the basis of his newly described species B. quadri-
locularis. This species was put into synonymy with B. egregia
by Smith and Schubert (1955). The section is charac-
terized by ovaries with four locules and by the presence of four
styles and four-winged capsules. The number of tepals of the
staminate and pistillate flower is two and six, respectively. The
species is restricted to the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
Type Species.—Begonia egregia N.E. Brown (Plate 6c,g).
Seed Structure: Seeds ellipsoid, 500–550 μm in length,
250–300 μm in width, mean 530 μm x 275 μm, length:width
ratio 1.9. Collar cells 155–230 μm in length, mean 190 μm,
number in seed circumference about 12. Ratio of collar-cell
length to seed length 1:2.8. Testa cells polygonal, anticlinal
walls somewhat thickened, straight, slightly curved toward col-
lar. Operculum broadly nipple-shaped.

Seed Micromorphology: Anticlinal boundaries straight.
Cuticular pattern consisting of long linear and long zigzag striae,
the latter locally more pronounced.
Remarks: Seeds resemble those of B. itaguassuensis of
section Pritzelia in the more thickened, straight, and elevated
anticlinal walls.
Specimens Examined:
B. egregia, BRAZIL: J. Santos Lima s.n. (US, as B. quadri-
locularis Brade, isotype); cult., Boone-Hahn 1 (WAG).

1.11. Section Gaerdia (Klotzsch) A. DC.
PLATE 6d–f,h
The placenta provides the most obvious character for this
section. The placentas are two-parted, and the two lobes in
each locule cling together and bear ovules on their outer sides
only. The section contains about six species, three of which, B.
maculata Raddi, B. corallina Carriere, and B. undulata Schott,
were observed.
Type Species.—Begonia maculata (Plate 6e,f), the seeds of
which are to some extent characteristic and deviate in size and
shape from the two other species observed.
Seed Structure: Seeds elliptic, sometimes narrowly elliptic.
Mean seed size 565 μm x 240 μm, length: width ratio 2.4. Col-
lar cells relatively long, mean length 290 μm. Ratio of collarcell
length to seed length 1.9. Testa cells adjacent to collar also
elongated. Operculum long nipple-shaped. Anticlinal walls
mainly straight.
Seed Micromorphology: Anticlinal boundaries flat, locally
sunken. Cuticular pattern short zigzag.
Specimens Examined:
B. maculata var. maculata, BRAZIL: Gentry & Zardini 49513
(MO); Maas & Carauta 3149 (U).
Other Species Observed.—Seed Structure and Micro-
morphology: The seeds of B. corallina and B. undulata are
smaller, with a mean seed length of 495 μm and 460 μm, re-
spectively.
Specimens Examined:
B. corallina, CULTIVATED: Boone-Hahn 114 (WAG).
B. undulata, BRAZIL: Gaudichaud 1067 (P); cult., Hort. Bogor-
iensis 6071 AB (L).

1.12. Section Latistigma A. DC.
PLATE 6j–l,n
The species of this section are characterized by the presence
of five tepals in the pistillate flowers and by broad, lobed
styles. The section contains three species, B. aconitifolia A.
DC. and B. planansibola Schott from Brazil, and B. leatherma-
niae O’Reilly & Karegeannes from Bolivia.
Type Species.—Begonia aconitifolia (Plate 6j).
Seed Structure: Seeds ellipsoid, mean seed size 440 x 250
μm, length: width ratio 1.8. Testa cells polygonal, with straight
or slightly curved anticlinal walls. Anticlinal walls with more
or less distinct pockets at bases.
Seed Micromorphology: Cuticular pattern fine and very dense, consisting of mainly short zigzag striae.

Specimens Examined:
B. aconitifolia, BRAZIL: Glaziou 13389 (B).

Other Species Observed.—Seed Structure and Micromorphology: The seeds of B. platanifolia and B. lea-thermaniae closely resemble those of B. aconitifolia, differing mainly by their somewhat smaller size.

Specimens Examined:
B. lea-thermaniae, BOLIVIA: O. Kuntze s.n. (B); M. Moraes 1056 (US).
B. platanifolia var. platanifolia, BRAZIL: Creagh s.n. (B); G. Hatschbach 46298 (US).

1.13. Section Pereira Brade

PLATE 6m

This monotypic section is characterized by two-lobate broad stigmata that are almost kidney-shaped and cymatum-like.

Type Species.—Begonia edmundoi Brade, limited to Brazil.

Seed Structure and Micromorphology: Seeds conforming to ordinary seed type, not showing distinguishing characters. Mean seed size 460 x 230 μm, length:width ratio 2.0. Anticlinal walls straight and relatively thin. Cuticular pattern consisting of short linear to short zigzag striae.

Specimen Examined:
B. edmundoi, BRAZIL: E. Pereira 366 (B, cotype).

2. Sections Mainly Confined to the Andean and Guianan Regions

Of the 12 Andean sections, five (Casparya, Gobienia, Hydri-styles, Rossmannia, Warburgina) have a characteristic seed structure that distinguishes them from all other Neotropical sections.

2.1. Section Casparya (Klotzsch) A. DC.

PLATES 7-9

Section Casparya has a very complicated taxonomic history. Shortly after its establishment as a genus by Klotzsch (1855), A. De Candolle (1864) extended it by including in it Klotzsch’s genera Isopteryx, Sassea, and Stibadotheca and his newly described sections Aetheopteryx and Andiphila. Warburg (1894) reduced the genus Casparya to sectional level and reduced De Candolle’s sections to subsections, actions that were later accepted by Irmscher (1925). Moreover, he inserted Isopteryx in Andiphila.

Smith and Schubert (1955) expressed the opinion that the sympetalous character upon which the genera Begoniella Oliver and Semibegoniella C. DC. were based no longer was tenable. Consequently, the two species constituting genus Semibegoniella were placed into synonymy with Begonia grewiifolia (A. DC.) Warburg and so transferred to section Casparya. Smith and Schubert (1955) also merged the five species of the former genus Begoniella with section Casparya.

The section is characterized by bifid, or many-, or irregularly branched styles and by triquetrous fruits that are not winged but have each of the edges terminating in a horn. The capsule dehices at the edges. The plants are mostly erect semishrubs and usually grow above 2000 m elevation, especially in the Andean region of Colombia and Ecuador and in Venezuela. The section comprises about 40 species.

Begonia urticae Group

Begonia urticae LINNAEUS F. (Plate 7a,b,d).—Type species of section Casparya.

Seed Structure: Seeds narrowly ellipsoid, micropylar ends flattened. Seed shape slightly varying from ellipsoid to more ovoid, with greatest width in middle or more to micropylar or chalazal end. Length 695–780 μm, width 370–390 μm, mean 745 μm x 385 μm. Length:width ratio 1.9.

Collar cells relatively short, 90–155 μm in length, mean 130 μm, number in seed circumference about 15. Ratio of collar-cell length to seed length 1:5.7. Longitudinal walls of collar undulated over entire length. Other testa cells polygonal, mostly not arranged in distinct rows. Anticinal walls strongly undulated. Operculum nipple-shaped, sometimes almost flat. Ring of cells bordering collar slightly deepened.

Seed Micromorphology: Anticinal boundaries straight. Cuticular pattern rough, with relatively thick, linear to short linear or slightly undulated striae. No distinct patches.

Remarks: The 10 samples of B. urticae studied, the most common and most widely distributed species of section Casparya, show some variation in size and micromorphology.

The seeds of the collections Schultes & Villarreal 7786, Dryander 1694, Bouman s.n., Bonpland s.n., and Irally 192 closely resemble those of the above-described collection Harling et al. 20465. The mean seed size varies from 675 μm x 335 μm (Schultes & Villarreal 7786) to 785 μm x 430 μm (Irally 192). The length:width ratio varies from 1.7 (Dryander 1694) to 2.0 (Schultes & Villarreal 7786). The collections Bohlin 975 (originally described as B. urticae var. retusa Smith & Schubert), Cuatrecasas 23515, de Escobar c.s. 8521 (originally described as B. antioquensis (A. DC.) Warburg), and Scott Hoover 442 deviate from the above-mentioned ones by having a smaller seed size and a more conspicuous undulation of the anticinal cell walls. The mean seed size in collections Cuatrecasas 23515 and Scott Hoover 442 are 585 μm x 320 μm and 605 μm x 315 μm, respectively. In both collections, however, the cuticle has undulated striae of normal thickness. The collection Scott Hoover 442 deviates by having larger collar cells with straighter longitudinal anticinal walls. Mean length of the collar cells is 185 μm, with a collar-cell length to seed-length ratio of 1:3.3.

Specimens Examined:
B. species, ECUADOR: van der Werff & Palacios 9135 (MO); Scott Hoover & Wormley 1822 (MO).
**B. urticae**, COLOMBIA: M.A. Bonpland s.n. (P); F. Bouman s.n. (AMD); Cuatrecasas 23515 (US); E. Dryander 1694 (US); de Escobar, Velasquez, & Marulanda 8521 (US); W. Irally 192 (K); W. Scott Hoover 442 (US); Schultes & Villarreal 7786 (US). ECUADOR: J.E. & M. Bohlin 975 (US); Harling et al. 20465 (US).

**Additional Species Observed** (Plate 7c–e).—**Seed Structure and Micromorphology.** The seeds of *B. fuchsiiflora* (A. DC.) A. Baranov & F.A. Barkley, *B. gamolepis* L.B. Smith & B.G. Schubert, *B. longirostris* Bentham (Harling & L. Andersson 11608), and B. species (Scott Hoover & Wormley 1771) resemble those of *B. urticae* collection Bohlin 975 in size and in the strongly undulated anticlinal walls of both the testa and collar cells. Mean seed size varies from 545 μm × 310 μm in *B. gamolepis* to 630 μm × 375 μm in *B. fuchsiiflora*. All collections have a cuticle with mainly undulated striae of normal thickness except for collection Scott Hoover & Wormley 1771, which has a faint double structure.

**Specimens Examined:**

*B. fuchsiiflora*, ECUADOR: M.T. Madison 6854 (US); W. Scott Hoover 515 (MO).

*B. gamolepis*, COLOMBIA: Barkley & Araque M. 185094 (US); Killip & A.C. Smith 16037 (B).


*B. species*, ECUADOR: Scott Hoover & Wormley 1771 (MO).

**Begonia ferruginea** Group

*Begonia ferruginea* LINNAEUS F. (Plate 7h–k).—**Seed Structure.** Seeds narrowly obovate to obtriangular, micropylar end flattened, becoming acute at chalazal end. Length 770–960 μm, width 265–325 μm, mean 880 μm × 290 μm.

Length: width ratio 3.0. Number of collar cells in seed circumference about 14. Longitudinal walls of collar cells straight, sometimes slightly undulated. Other testa cells often elongated, with undulated anticlinal walls, cells of chalazal part more polygonal. Operculum nipple-shaped.

**Seed Micromorphology.** Anticlinal boundaries flat. Cuticular ornamentation conspicuous, more or less plicate, composed of long, undulated foldings forming loose structure. Locally, patches with long, parallel striae.

**Remarks.** The seeds of two other collections are smaller and more variable in shape than the above-described collection (Langenheim 3387). Mean seed size is 775 μm × 345 μm in collection Grubb et al. 534 and is 710 μm × 345 μm in collection Steyermark & Dunsterville 100784, with length: width ratios of 2.2 and 2.1, respectively. The seeds are ellipsoid, with rounded or more acute chalazal ends. Seeds of *B. ferruginea* var. *dilatata* Smith & Schubert are narrowly ellipsoid, with a mean seed size of 700 μm × 240 μm and a length: width ratio of 2.9. There are about 16 collar cells in the seed circumference, and the chalazal end is rounded or somewhat acute. The cuticular plicas and foldings are long and are undulated or somewhat zigzag.

**Specimens Examined:**

*B. ferruginea* var. *dilatata*, COLOMBIA: H. Garcia-Barriga 12053 (US).

*B. ferruginea* var. *ferruginea*, COLOMBIA: Grubb, Curry, & Fernandez-Perez 534 (US); J.H. Langenheim 3387 (US); Steyermark & Dunsterville 100784 (US).

*B. species*, COLOMBIA: F.A. Barkley 38c120 (US).

**Begonia trispathulata** Group


**Seed Micromorphology.** Anticlinal boundaries flat. Cuticle with so-called double structure: more elevated, short zigzag to star-shaped thick foldings and irregular, short zigzag to short linear underlying ornamentation. Locally, patches of labyrinth-like structure.

**Specimens Examined:**

*B. trispathulata*, VENEZUELA: L. Goldsmith 169 (VT); N. Ramirez 349 (MO); S.S. Tillett 739-585 (P).

**Other Species Observed** (Plate 8c–l).—**Seed Structure and Micromorphology.** A number of species occurring in and mostly endemic to Venezuela resemble *B. trispathulata* in seed structure. All species are characterized by cuticles with a distinct double structure. *Begonia brevipetala* Warburg, *B. mariae* L.B. Smith, and *B. trujillensis* L.B. Smith agree in seed size and shape. In *B. trujillensis* the more elevated elements of the cuticular double structure are short undulated to short zigzag or star-shaped, in *B. brevipetala* they are short zigzag or star-shaped, whereas in *B. mariae* they are mainly star-shaped. The star-shaped ornaments often show a central depression.

The seeds of *B. lipolepis* L.B. Smith differ in some characters. The seeds are quite variable in shape, with a tendency to a tapering chalazal end. The mean seed size is 575 μm × 300 μm, with a length: width ratio of 1.9. The anticlinal walls are less undulated and are sometimes almost straight to slightly curved. The cuticular double structure consists of short zigzag to star-shaped elements.

The seeds of *B. toledana* L.B. Smith & B.G. Schubert have a mean size of 500 μm × 300 μm. The anticlinal walls are distinctly undulated. The double structure is short undulated to short zigzag.

The seeds of *B. formosissima* Sandwith have a mean size of 635 μm × 395 μm. The anticlinal walls are less distinctly undulated. The double structure is composed of relatively dense,
mainly short zigzag elevations that obscure the underlying granular pattern.

Specimens Examined:
B. brevipetala var. brevipetala, VENEZUELA: F.J. Breteler 3468 (US); L. Goldsmith 160 (VT); Steyermark & Mehlin 109955 (U).

B. formossissima, VENEZUELA: L. Goldsmith 166 (VT); Ruiz-Teran & Figueiras 9306 (US).

B. lipolepis, VENEZUELA: L. Goldsmith 167 (VT).

B. mariae, VENEZUELA: L. Goldsmith 163 (VT).

B. toledana var. toledana, COLOMBIA: Killip & A.C. Smith 20270 (B). VENEZUELA: Steyermark & Dunsterville 100604 (K).

B. trujillensis, VENEZUELA: L. Goldsmith 168 (VT); S.S. Tillett 739-611 (US).

**Begonia pectennervia Group**

*Begonia pectennervia* L.B. Smith & Wasshausen (Plate 8m,n).—Seed Structure: Seeds ellipsoid, 535–590 µm in length, 350–360 µm in width, mean 565 µm × 350 µm, length:width ratio 1.6. Collar cells relatively short, 85–160 µm in length, mean 125 µm, number in seed circumference about 23. Ratio of collar-cell length to seed length 1:4.5. Anticlinal walls of collar straight to slightly undulated, those of other testa cells strongly undulated. Anticlinals broad, without boundary. Outer periclinal walls rather shallow. Collar slightly tapering, operculum therefore rather small. Opercular ring adjacent to collar sunken.

Seed Micromorphology: Anticlinals crossed by radiating longitudinal striae leaving "central field" of randomly orientated, small zigzag cuticular foldings of irregular thickness and elevation.

Remarks: The seeds of collection Holm-Nielsen et al. 26762 differ slightly from the above-described collection (Holm-Nielsen et al. 26438) by having less-shallow testa cells and by having a cuticular ornamentation of short linear to short zigzag striae, sometimes with a faint double structure.

Specimens Examined:

**OTHER SPECIES OBSERVED** (Plate 9a–e,g).—Seed Structure and Micromorphology: The seeds of *B. colombiana* Smith & Schubert, *B. killipiana* Smith & Schubert, *B. longirostris* (Lugo 4699), and *B. trispatalata* (Steyermark 103480) resemble those of *B. pectennervia* in their broad anticlinal and shallow outer periclinal walls. The mean seed size varies from 440 µm × 275 µm in *B. trispatalata* to 655 µm × 470 µm in *B. killipiana*. The number of collar cells in the seed circumference varies from about 17 in *B. colombiana* to 22 in *B. killipiana*. The seeds of *B. killipiana* are characterized by short collar cells that vary in length from 65 µm to 130 µm, with a mean of 90 µm. The testa cells of *B. killipiana* and *B. longirostris* have a cuticular pattern similar to that of the central field, with short zigzag to star-shaped foldings. *Begonia colombiana* has a very dense pattern of short zigzag and short undulated striae; *B. trispatalata* has a double structure of linear, undulated, or zigzag striae of varying length. The star-shaped cuticular foldings in *B. killipiana* occasionally have a central depression. The seeds of *B. killipiana* collections Killip 7994 and W.S. Hoover 463 resemble those of *B. antioquensis* collection Luteyn 12265, described below, especially in their micromorphological characters. The collar cells of *B. killipiana* and *B. longirostris* are or tend to be very short; those of *B. trispatalata* are relatively short. Of these four species, the seeds of *B. killipiana* most resemble those of *B. hexandra*, described below.

Specimens Examined:
B. colombiana, COLOMBIA: Schultes & Villarreal 7758 (US).

B. killipiana, COLOMBIA: Killip 7994 (US); W. Scott Hoover 27, 463 (US).

B. longirostris, ECUADOR: Lugo 4699 (MO).

B. trispatalata, VENEZUELA: Steyermark 103480 (US).

**Begonia antioquensis**

*Begonia antioquensis* (A. DC.) Warburg (Plate 9f).—Seed Structure: Seeds ellipsoid, without distinct differentiation between operculum and collar, 510–600 µm in length, 295–360 µm in width, mean 560 µm × 325 µm, length:width ratio 1.8. No characteristic collar cells; all testa cells more or less isodiametric or somewhat irregular, not distinctly longitudinally elongated. Anticinal walls pronounced, with rather obscure undulation, broader distally than proximally, and resembling rope netting. Micropylar end of seed rounded, without distinct hilum and micropyle.

Seed Micromorphology: Anticlinal boundaries obscured, anticlinals rough cross-hatched. Cuticle distinctly double-structured. Elevated parts, about 12 per cell, irregularly round or star-shaped, with central depression and interconnected by radiating linear cuticular striae.

Specimen Examined:
B. antioquensis, COLOMBIA: J.L. Luteyn 12265 (US).

**Begonia hexandra**

*Begonia hexandra* Irmscher (Plate 9h).—Seed Structure: Seeds broadly ellipsoid, without distinct borderline between operculum and collar, 630–680 µm in length, 505–565 µm in width, mean 660 µm × 540 µm, length:width ratio 1.2. No distinct differentiation between collar cells and other testa cells. Cells surrounding micropylar-hilar region somewhat more elongated, over 30 cells in circumference. Shape of testa cells irregular due to strongly undulated anticlinal walls. Anticlinals relatively broad, without boundary. Cell pattern difficult to recognize due to shallowness of outer periclinal walls. Micropyle a small, irregular bulge without distinct exostome and hilar scar.
Seed Micromorphology: Cuticular pattern, if present, reduced, with longitudinal striae.

Specimen Examined:
B. hexandra, COLOMBIA: E.L. Core 1500 (US).

Begonia diversistipulata Group

Begonia diversistipulata IRMSCHER (Plate 9j).—Seed Structure: Seeds ellipsoid, with flat operculum, 345–435 \( \mu \text{m} \) in length, 270–315 \( \mu \text{m} \) in width, mean 390 \( \mu \text{m} \times 295 \mu \text{m} \), length:width ratio 1.3. Collar cells 80–150 \( \mu \text{m} \) in length, mean 110 \( \mu \text{m} \), number in seed circumference about 13. Ratio of collar-cell length to seed length 1:3.5. Testa cells polygonal, arranged in rows. Anticlinal walls relatively thin, straight or slightly undulated. Micropyle almost not protruding.

Seed Micromorphology: Anticlinal boundaries flat. Cuticular pattern consisting of rather loose, short, undulated striae to more condensed, short zigzag striae.

Specimen Examined:
B. diversistipulata, COLOMBIA: Giacometto 11 (B).

OTHER SPECIES OBSERVED (Plate 9k).—The seeds of B. umbellata H.B.K. resemble those of B. diversistipulata in the thin, straight or almost straight anticlinal walls and a simple cuticular pattern of short linear to short undulated striae. The seeds, however, differ in size and in the number of collar cells. Mean seed size is 590 \( \times \) 350 \( \mu \text{m} \) with a length:width ratio of 1.7. The number of collar cells in the seed circumference is about 17.

The collection Scott Hoover 443 differs from the above-described collection (Killip & Hazen 9165) by having a denser cuticular pattern, consisting of a double structure of mainly long zigzag striae.

Specimens Examined:
B. umbellata, COLOMBIA: Killip & Hazen 9165 (US); W. Scott Hoover 443 (US).

Ungrouped Species

SPECIES OBSERVED (Plate 9l–n).—The seeds of Begonia montana Warburg, B. raimondi Irmscher, B. hirta (Klotzsch) Smith & Schubert, and one collection of B. formosissima (Lopez-Figueiras & Dugarte 29409) could not be incorporated into one of the groups of section Casparya described above.

Seed Structure and Micromorphology: Begonia montana and B. formosissima have, respectively, mean seed sizes of 545 \( \mu \text{m} \times 340 \mu \text{m} \) and 565 \( \mu \text{m} \times 360 \mu \text{m} \) and mean collar-cell lengths of 130 \( \mu \text{m} \) and 115 \( \mu \text{m} \). Both have undulated anticlinal walls; those of the collar are straighter.

The cuticular pattern is granular in B. montana and is granular to short zigzag and more uneven in elevation in B. formosissima.

The mean seed sizes in B. raimondi and B. hirta are 790 \( \mu \text{m} \times 395 \mu \text{m} \) and 725 \( \mu \text{m} \times 385 \mu \text{m} \), respectively. Mean collar-cell length in B. raimondi is 185 \( \mu \text{m} \). The cuticular ornamentation in B. raimondi consists of dense, short undulated striae; in B. hirta it is more granular.

Specimens Examined:
B. formosissima, VENEZUELA: Lopez-Figueiras & Dugarte 29409 (US);
B. hirta var. hirta, PERU: R.J. Seibert 2385 (US).
B. montana, VENEZUELA: Funck & Schlim 1044 (P, isotype);
H. Humbert 26725 (US).
B. raimondi, PERU: A. Raimondi 2982 (B).

2.2. Section Rossmannia (Klotzsch) A. DC.

PLATE 10a–c

The taxon Rossmannia was first described by Klotzsch as a genus in 1855 and was transferred to sectional level by A. De Candolle in 1864. The monotypic section is characterized by pistillate flowers with two-parted placentas and by fruits with two very small wings and one large, subascending wing up to 40 \( \mu \text{m} \) long, covered by two large, persistent bracteoles. Begonia rossmanniae is a climbing shrub that occurs in humid forests of Ecuador, Peru, and Colombia.

TYPE SPECIES.—Begonia rossmanniae A. DC. (Plate 10a–c).

Seed Structure: Seeds narrowly ellipsoid, micropylar and chalazal ends extended, one or both sides often curved, rendering seeds J- or slightly S-shaped. Micropylar end of seed composed of uncollapsed, air-filled cells, chalazal end tapering, with elongated, collapsed cells. Length 645–710 \( \mu \text{m} \), width 135–150 \( \mu \text{m} \), mean 675 \( \mu \text{m} \times 140 \mu \text{m} \), length:width ratio 4.8. Ratio of embryo-containing part of seed to total length of seed 1:2.8. Collar cells 105–225 \( \mu \text{m} \) in length, mean 160 \( \mu \text{m} \), number in seed circumference about 9. Ratio of collar-cell length to seed length 1:4.2. Longitudinal anticlinal walls of collar and adjacent cells straight or slightly undulated, those of operculum and chalaza always straight. Cells of operculum adjacent to collar elongated. Hilum sunken.

Seed Micromorphology: Anticlinal boundaries straight, those of operculum sunken. Cuticle with linear to short linear pattern. Operculum with long linear striae, often running over entire length of cells. Collapsed outer walls reflecting many small, underlying pits. Locally, patches with less pronounced pattern.

Specimens Examined:
ECUADOR: E. Asplund 9304 (G); Holguer Lugo S. 4824 (AAU); J. Jaramillo & F. Coello 3218 (AAU).

2.3. Section Hydristyles A. DC.

PLATE 10d–k

The section was established by A. De Candolle in 1859 and was retained as such by subsequent monographers (Warburg, 1894; Irmscher, 1925). The three species recognized by Irmscher in 1925 have been increased to about 10 in subsequent years, including the transfer of two species from section Ruiz-
pavonia. The section deviates from related Andean sections by the presence of five unequal tepals and multifid styles in the female flower. The species are semishrubs and occur in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

**Type Species.** *Begonia bridgesii* A. DC. (Plate 10f).

**Seed Structure:** Seeds ellipsoid, 440–480 μm in length, 205–235 μm in width, mean 460 μm × 215 μm, length:width ratio 2.1. Collar cells 120–195 μm in length, mean 150 μm, number in seed circumference about 13. Ratio of collar-cell length to seed length 3.1. Longitudinal anticlinal walls of collar straight, those of other testa cells more irregularly curved, sometimes locally undulated. Testa cells somewhat elongated. Operculum nipple-to-flat-nipple-shaped.

**Seed Micromorphology:** Anticlinal boundaries flat. Cuticular pattern short linear; cuticle locally with patches of thin, somewhat dense linear to undulated striae.

**Specimen Examined:**

**Aff. B. bridgesii, BOLIVIA:** Dereims s.n. (P).

**Other Species Observed** (Plate 10d,e,g–k).—**Seed Structure and Micromorphology:** The seeds of the other species observed agree with those of *B. bridgesii* in the cellular pattern and in the short linear cuticular striae. They differ in shape, seed size, and the thickness and undulation of the anticlinal walls. The smaller seeds are found in *B. juntasensis* Kuntze and *B. subcaudata* Rusby ex L.B. Smith & B.G. Schubert, with mean seed sizes of 340 μm × 175 μm and 380 μm × 185 μm, respectively. The longest ones are found in *B. santarosensis* Kuntze, with a mean size of 630 μm × 205 μm and a length:width ratio of 3.1. The anticlinal walls vary from weakly undulated in *B. subcaudata*; to undulated in *B. andina* Rusby, *B. juntasensis*, and *B. santarosensis*; to strongly undulated in *B. unduavensis* Rusby.

Thicker anticlinal walls with sunken anticlinals are found locally in *B. juntasensis* and *B. unduavensis* (G. Mandon 1089). More distinct pockets are found in *B. juntasensis* and *B. santarosensis*.

**Specimens Examined:**

*B. andina, BOLIVIA:* R.S. Williams 1566 (K).
*B. juntasensis, PERU:* H.E. Moore Jr., Salazar, & Smith 8601 (US).
*B. santarosensis, BOLIVIA:* s.n. (P).
*B. subcaudata, BOLIVIA:* St.G. Beck 9253 (US).
*B. unduavensis, BOLIVIA:* St.G. Beck 4691 (US); G. Mandon 1089 (K).

### 2.4. Section *Warburgina* O. Kuntze

**Plate 10f**

The section was named by O. Kuntze in 1893 on the basis of its then newly described species, *B. comata*. The section is monotypic and is restricted to Bolivia. The characters of the section agree to a large extent with those of section *Hydristyles* and also with those of sections *Huszia* (=*Eupetalum*) and *Ruizopavonia*. Section *Warburgina* differs from these sections by having pauciflorous inflorescences enveloped by numerous bracts.

**Type Species.**—*Begonia comata* Kuntze (Plate 10f).

**Seed Structure:** Seeds ellipsoid to narrowly ellipsoid, 365–435 μm in length, 170–185 μm in width, mean 420 μm × 175 μm, length:width ratio 2.2. Collar cells elongated, sometimes divided, 125–200 μm in length, mean 175 μm, number in seed circumference about 10. Ratio of collar-cell length to seed length 2.4.

Anticlinal walls of collar straight or almost straight, those of other testa cells strongly undulated, with pockets at bases of curves. Testa cells somewhat elongated. Operculum nipple-shaped.

**Seed Micromorphology:** Anticlinal boundaries sunken, those of other cells strongly undulated. Cuticular pattern short linear, mostly slightly undulated toward anticlinals. Periclinal walls thin, locally reflecting underlying pits.

**Specimen Examined:**

*B. comata, BOLIVIA:* St.G. Beck 12651 (US).

### 2.5. Section *Gobenia* A. DC.

**Plate 11a–d,f,g**

The section was established by A. De Candolle in 1859 and was retained as such by subsequent monographers. It includes about 15 species and occurs in the northern Andes, mainly Ecuador. Some of the distinguishing characteristics of the section are united filaments with sessile anthers and pistillate flowers that have extremely small styles with thick, auriculate stigmata. Fruits have three to four ribs or only one wing and are subtended by persistent bracteoles. The leaves are usually peltate. The species are climbing herbs or semishrubs.

**Type Species.**—*Begonia maurandiae* A. DC. (Plate 11a,d).

**Seed Structure:** Seeds ellipsoid, irregular in shape, often obliquely flattened at chalazal side, 500–610 μm in length, 225–285 μm in width, mean 555 μm × 250 μm, length:width ratio 2.2. Collar cells 125–290 μm in length, mean 185 μm, number in seed circumference about 15. Ratio of collar-cell length to seed length 3.0. Anticlinal walls of testa cells straight, sometimes slightly curved. Testa cells at chalazal end deeper due to elevated anticlinal walls. Operculum broadly nipple-shaped, cells bordering collar elongated, forming distinct ring. Micropylar rim often oblique, hilum sunken.

**Seed Micromorphology:** Anticlinal boundaries always straight. Cuticular pattern with long linear striae, sometimes slightly undulated. Locally, patches with zigzag striae.

**Remarks:** Seeds of collection *Ed. André* 3315 (originally identified as *B. hederacea* A. DC.) deviate from above-described collection (*W.H. Camp E 4974*) in the following characters: mean seed size 420 μm × 170 μm, length:width ratio 2.5; number of collar cells in seed circumference about 11; testa cells with more pronounced anticlinal walls and locally sunken anticlinal boundaries.
Specimens Examined:

Other Species Observed (Plate 11b,c,f,g).—Begonia pululahuaensis C. DC., B. secunda L.B. Smith & D.C. Wasshausen, B. sodiroi C. DC., and B. ynesiae L.B. Smith & D.C. Wasshausen closely resemble one another and agree with B. maurandiae (Camp E 4974) in general characters, including the large number of collar cells. The seeds are even more variable in shape, sometimes somewhat J-shaped and/or slightly distorted. Mean seed size is 545 \( \mu m \times 215 \mu m \) in B. pululahuaensis, 450 \( \mu m \times 200 \mu m \) in B. secunda, 590 \( \mu m \times 225 \mu m \) in B. sodiroi, and 560 \( \mu m \times 220 \mu m \) in B. ynesiae. In the last species, the anticlinal walls are locally undulated.

Specimens Examined:
B. pululahuaensis, ECUADOR: E.W. Davis 500 (US).
B. secunda, ECUADOR: A. Gentry & G. Shupp 26638 (MO).
B. ynesiae, ECUADOR: Ynes Mexia 7706 (K, isotype).

2.6. Section Meionantha A. DC.

Plate 11e,h

The section was established by A. De Candolle in 1859 and has remained monotypic, with its only species B. holtonis A. DC. The section is characterized by very small, subglobose anthers on long slender filaments, elongate tepals of the pistillate flowers, ovaries with entire placentas, and three-celled fruits with one large wing and two highly vestigial wings. The species is restricted to Colombia. The seeds are not very characteristic and resemble the ordinary type of begonia seed.

Seed Structure and Micromorphology: The seeds of B. holtonis var. holtonis are ellipsoid, with a mean size of 360 \( \mu m \times 195 \mu m \). The testa cells are polygonal, with straight or very slightly undulated anticlinal walls, and the operculum is nipple-shaped. The cuticular ornamentation is a fine, dense pattern of short linear or undulated striae. Locally, there are patches with a labyrinth-like structure.

Specimens Examined:
B. holtonis var. holtonis, COLOMBIA: F.A. Barkley c.s. 66 (US); Holton 725 (G, isotype); J.L. Luteyn c.s. 10393 (MO); Uribe Uribe 3878 (US).

2.7. Sections Lepsia (Klotzsch) A. DC. and Titelbachia (Klotzsch) A. DC.

Plate 11j–n

The species of the small sections Lepsia and Titelbachia resemble each other in several floral characters and in outer appearance.

Type Species.—Begonia foliosa H.B.K. var. foliosa, type species of section Lepsia; B. fuchsiodides Hooker var. fuchsiodides, type species of section Titelbachia.

Seed Structure and Micromorphology: The seeds of the two type species resemble the ordinary type of begonia seed. They are mostly medium-sized, 355 \( \mu m \times 180 \mu m \) and 490 \( \mu m \times 240 \mu m \), respectively, with distinctly elongated collar cells, variable undulation of the anticlinal testa cells, flat anticlinal boundaries, and a fine, dense cuticular pattern of mainly short linear or undulated striae.

The seeds of the different varieties of B. foliosa are rather polymorphic. The seeds of B. foliosa var. putzeysiana (A. DC.) Smith & Schubert are relatively long, with a mean size of 585 \( \mu m \times 230 \mu m \) and a length:width ratio of 2.5. The seeds of B. foliosa var. rotundata Smith & Schubert have a very dense cuticle that somewhat obscures the anticlinal walls. The synonymy of B. poepigiana A. DC. with B. foliosa var. australis Smith & Schubert is sustained by seed micromorphology.

Specimens Examined:
B. foliosa var. australis, ECUADOR: Jameson s.n. (B). PERU: Matthias & Taylor 5905 (MO).
B. foliosa var. foliosa, COLOMBIA: Oscar Haught 6159 (K); PERU: Herb. Splitgerberianum (L).
B. foliosa var. putzeysiana, COLOMBIA: Killip & A.C. Smith 19817, 20090 (US).
B. foliosa var. rotundata, COLOMBIA: McDougal & Roldan 3540 (US).
B. fuchsiodides var. miniata A. DC., COLOMBIA: Uribe Uribe 5005 (US).

Other Species Observed.—The seeds of B. microphylla A. DC. are about 550 \( \mu m \) in length and differ from the species described above by having a more irregular seed shape, a broadly nipple-shaped operculum, and testa cells with more elevated anticlinal walls, causing a more shallow appearance. The seeds resemble those of species of section Gobenia. The collection P.E. Berry 3291 is more or less intermediate between the collection F.J. Breteler 4643 and B. foliosa collections.

Specimens Examined:
B. microphylla var. microphylla, VENEZUELA: P.E. Berry 3291 (MO); F.J. Breteler 4643 (MO); L. Ruiz-Teran 393 (US).

2.8. Section Eupetalum (Lindley ex Klotzsch) A. DC., Including the Former Section Huszia (Klotzsch) A. DC.

Plates 12, 13a–c

Section Eupetalum is mainly Andean, with species known from Ecuador and Peru. The type species, B. geraniifolia Hooker, has several synonyms.

Smith and Wasshausen (1979, 1986) included the species of section Huszia in section Eupetalum. The species of former section Huszia occur in Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia, occasionally extending into Venezuela or occurring in Mexico.

The species of the two sections as formerly recognized resemble each other quite closely and differ mainly in stem length.
The seeds of all species examined resemble the ordinary type of begonia seed. Although several species locally show crow’s-foot-like cuticular striae, the seeds lack distinct features characteristic at the sectional level. Moreover, the seeds show some variation in size, shape of operculum, thickness of anticinal walls, and density of the cuticular pattern.

**FORMER SECTION Huszia.**—Seed Structure and Micromorphology: The seeds of the former type species, *B. octopetala* l'Héritier, have a mean size of 340 μm × 180 μm and a length:width ratio of 1.9. The seeds of *B. erythrocarpa* A. DC., *B. pastoensis* A. DC., and *B. pleiopetala* A. DC. resemble those of *B. octopetala* in size, testal pattern, and in the very dense cuticular pattern, which consists of short zigzag and crow’s-foot-like striae. The synonymy of *B. macbrideana* Irmscher with *B. erythrocarpa* as stated by Smith and Wasshausen (1984) is not substantiated by the seeds examined in this study. *Begonia macbrideana* has a different cuticular pattern and further differs by having an obtuse operculum, a larger number of collar and testa cells, and straight anticinals. It has the biggest seeds observed in the former section *Huszia*, with a mean size of 455 μm × 300 μm and a length:width ratio of 1.5.

Remarks: The seeds of the three collections of the Mexican species *B. monophylla* Pavon ex A. DC. studied (all collected as *B. unifolia* Rose ex Trelease) closely resemble each other and differ from the seeds of all other *Eupetalum* species by having a broad, nipple-shaped operculum, broader anticinal walls, and a coarser cuticular pattern of mainly zigzag striae.

Specimens Examined:
- *B. cinnabarina*, BOLIVIA: R. de Michel 16 (US).
- *B. erythrocarpa*, PERU: Wasshausen & Salas 1194 (K).
- *B. macra* A. DC. aff., VENEZUELA: Steyermark & Rabe 97300 (B).
- *B. monophylla*, MEXICO: C.G. Pringle s.n. (L, PRE); J.N. Rose c.s. 9367 (P).
- *B. octopetala*, PERU: L. Holm-Nielsen c.s. 3404 (MO); A. Lopez c.s. 2709 (US); O. Tovar 3600 (US).
- *B. pastoensis*, COLOMBIA: F.C. Lehman 5404 (B); J. Triana s.n. (P).
- *B. pearcei*, CULTIVATED: van Veldhuizen 580 (WAG).
- *B. pleiopetala*, PERU: Buchtich 653 (B); Weberbauer 6026 (B).
- *B. tumbezensis*, PERU: Weberbauer 7685A (B).

**SECTION Eupetalum.**—Seed Structure and Micromorphology: The seeds of the three collections of the type species, *B. geraniifolia*, closely resemble one another. The mean seed size is 340 μm × 195 μm, with a length:width ratio of 1.7. They resemble the seeds of the former section *Huszia* species *B. cinnabarina* Hooker, *B. hydrophylloides* Smith & Schubert, *B. pearcei* Hooker, *B. serotina* A. DC., and *B. tumbezensis* Irmscher in general characters, their length:width ratio, and their more granular cuticular ornamentation.

The seeds of the remaining species studied agree in the dense cuticular pattern but show some variation in other characters.

Specimens Examined:
- *B. geraniifolia*, PERU: Dowbey s.n. (P); A. Lourteig 3117 (K); Sela 259 (B).
- *B. novogranatae* A. DC., COLOMBIA: M.T. Dawe 272 (K, as *B. inanis* Irmscher, isotype); P.J. Grubb, Curry, & Fernandez-Perez 628 (K).

2.9. Section **Apteront C. DC.**

**PLATE 13d,e**

This monotypic section differs from the other sections by having globose, wingless fruits; it is endemic to Ecuador.

**TYPE SPECIES.**—*Begonia exalata* C. DC.

**Seed Structure and Micromorphology:** The seeds of *B. exalata* conform to the ordinary type of begonia seed. The mean seed size is 335 μm × 210 μm, with a length:width ratio of 1.6. The anticinal walls are straight, slightly curved, or obscured undulated. The operculum is nipple-shaped. The cuticular pattern is quite characteristic, consisting of very dense, mainly short zigzag striae almost without a distinct delimitation at the anticinals, resulting in a woolly appearance of the seed surface.

The seeds resemble those of *B. pastoensis* of section *Eupetalum* (*Huszia*).

Specimen Examined:
- *B. exalata*, ECUADOR: Sòdio 397 (US, isotype).

2.10. Section **Barya** (Klotzsch) A. DC.

**PLATE 13f-j**

Striking characters in section *Barya* are the presence of erect, lanceolate tepals in both staminate and pistillate flowers and unequal stamens united into an elongated column. *Begonia monadelpha* Ruiz & Pavon ex A. DC. and *B. soror* Irmscher occur in Peru; *B. boliviensis* A. DC. is known from Bolivia and Argentina.

**TYPE SPECIES.**—*Begonia monadelpha* (Plate 13h).

**Seed Structure:** Seeds ellipsoid to narrowly ellipsoid, somewhat irregular in shape. Length 450–555 μm, width 210–240 μm, mean 510 μm × 225 μm, length:width ratio 2.7. Collar cells elongated, 145–250 μm in length, mean 200 μm, number in seed circumference about 13. Ratio of collar-cell length to seed length 1:2.6. Longitudinal anticinal walls of collar straight, those of other testa cells straight, curved, or slightly undulated, with pockets. Operculum oblate to broadly nipple-shaped.
3. SECTIONS OCCURRING BOTH IN BRAZILIAN AND IN ANDEAN REGIONS

Only two sections have a distribution both from Brazil or Argentina and from the Andean countries.

3.1. Section *Pilderia* A. DC.

**PLATE 13k,n**

Klotzsch’s genus *Pilderia* was reduced to sectional level by A. De Candolle (1859). The section is characterized by staminate flowers with two to four tepals and pistillate flowers with five persistent tepals and undivided placentas. The plants are herbs or semishrubs with a yellowish pubescence. The section is probably monotypic. *Begonia buddleifolia* A. DC. has a distribution from Brazil and Peru to Venezuela.

**Type Species.**—*Begonia buddleifolia* A. DC. (Plate 13k,n).


**Seed Micromorphology.** Anticlinal boundaries flat, sometimes locally sunken. Cuticular pattern with linear or short undulated striae.

**Remarks.** The seeds of collection Barbour 3993 differ in several respects from the above-described collection Weberbauer 6714, being ellipsoid and somewhat smaller, with a mean seed size of 465 μm x 240 μm, a length:width ratio of 1.9, and having thicker, straighter anticlinals.

**Specimens Examined:**

*B. monadelpha*, PERU: P. Barbour 3993 (MO); A. Weberbauer 6714 (US).

**Other Species Observed** (Plate 13f,g,j).—**Seed Structure and Micromorphology.** The seeds of *B. soror* quite closely resemble those of *B. monadelpha* collected by Weberbauer. They have a sunken micropyyle and less undulated anticlinals.

The seeds of *B. boliviensis* A. DC. differ from the above-mentioned species and more resemble the ordinary begonia seed type. They have a mean seed size of 355 μm x 230 μm, with a length:width ratio of 1.5. The collar cells vary in length from 85 μm to 165 μm, with a mean of 125 μm. The ratio of collar-cell length to seed length is 1:2.8. The operculum is nipple-shaped. The cuticular pattern is short linear to short undulated striae.

**Specimens Examined:**


3.2. Section *Australes* Smith & Schubert

**PLATE 13l,m,o**

The section was established by Smith and Schubert in 1941 and comprises herbaceous or almost herbaceous species with a small tuber at the stem base. The staminate and pistillate flowers have four and five tepals, respectively. The three styles are deeply two-divided on the back and are more or less wavy on the front. The section contains four species, all occurring in Argentina. *Begonia micranthera*, with several varieties, also extends to Bolivia and Peru.

No seeds were available of *B. parodiana* L.B. Smith & B.G. Schubert and *B. sleumeri* L.B. Smith & B.G. Schubert.

**Type Species.**—*Begonia micranthera* Grisebach (Plate 13m,o).

**Seed Structure.** Seeds elliptic. Mean seed size 405 μm x 240 μm in *B. micranthera* var. *micranthera*, 420 μm x 230 μm in *B. micranthera* var. *foliosa* L.B. Smith & B.G. Schubert, and 340 μm x 210 μm in *B. micranthera* var. *fimbriata* L.B. Smith & B.G. Schubert. Length:width ratios 1.7, 1.8, and 1.6, respectively. Relatively many testa cells, those adjacent to collar somewhat elongated, chalazal ones polygonal. Anticlinal walls straight, slightly curved, or slightly undulated. Operculum cone-shaped.

**Seed Micromorphology.** Anticlinal boundaries flat, sometimes locally sunken in *B. micranthera* var. *fimbriata*. Cuticle with short, undulated striae and with slight double structure in *B. micranthera* var. *fimbriata* and var. *foliosa*.

**Specimens Examined:**

*B. micranthera* var. *fimbriata*, ARGENTINA: J. West 8413 (MO, isotype).

*B. micranthera* var. *foliosa*, ARGENTINA: S. Venturi 3457 (US); J. West 6216 (MO).


**Other Species Observed** (Plate 13k).—The seeds of *B. tafiensis* Lillo closely resemble those of *B. micranthera* var. *foliosa* in size and morphological characters.

**Specimen Examined:**

*B. tafiensis*, ARGENTINA: S. Venturi 3093 (US).

4. SECTIONS MAINLY CONFINED TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN, MEXICAN, AND CARIBBEAN REGIONS

Of the eight sections confined to Middle America, six could be studied for their seed structure. Of these only one, *Urniformia*, shows a characteristic seed structure that distinguishes
it from all other Neotropical sections. No seeds for study were available of the monotypic sections *Cylindrobegonia* and *Parietetoplatenia*.

4.1. Section *Urniformia* Houghton ex Ziesenhenne  
**PLATE 14a,b**

This section was draughted by Houghton in 1924 but wasn’t published by Ziesenhenne until 1974. The section is monotypic and is restricted to Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Panama. The section is characterized by a one-celled ovary and a capsule with three long, hollow, fleshy horns.

**Type Species.**—*Begonia heydei* C. DC. (Plate 14a,b).

**Seed Structure:** Seeds ellipsoid, 540–620 µm in length, 255–295 µm in width, mean 585 µm × 280 µm, length:width ratio 2.1. Collar cells 165–244 µm in length, mean 205 µm, number in seed circumference about 11. Ratio of collar-cell length to seed length 1:2.9. Testa cells polygonal, sometimes somewhat elongated toward collar. Anticlinal walls curved or slightly undulated. Operculum broadly nipple-shaped.

**Seed Micromorphology:** Anticlinal boundaries flat. Cuticle smooth, without ornamentation; locally, striae on anticlinal walls of operculum.

**Specimens Examined:**
- *B. heydei*, COSTA RICA: Haber & Bello 7645 (MO); R.A. Ocampo 1323 (CR); Stone & Stone 2712 (US).

4.2. Section *Gireoudia* (Klotzsch) A. DC.  
**PLATES 14c–n, 15a–c**

*Gireoudia* was described by Klotzsch in 1854 as a genus. It was reduced to a section by A. De Candolle in 1859. Later, *Gireoudia* was considered to be a subsection of section *Magnusia* along with subsections *Rachia* and *Psathuron*. On the basis of priority, *Gireoudia* is now treated as a section including *Magnusia* and *Psathuron*. *Rachia* is now included in section *Knesebeckia*. Section *Gireoudia* includes the monotypic section *Auriformia* Ziesenhenne by the synonymy of *B. bakeri* C. DC. with *B. cardiocarpa* Liebmann (Burt-Utley, 1985). We accept the proposal by Burt-Utley (1985) to select *B. plebeja* Liebmann as lectotype of section *Gireoudia* above the more arbitrarily chosen species *B. involucrata* Liebmann (Baranov & Barkley, 1974).

The Central American and Mexican species of the section have been revised by Burt-Utley (1985, 1990). The section is characterized by staminate and pistillate flowers with two tepals and pistillate flowers with two-parted placentas. The plants are rhizomatous perennials or suffrutescent herbs. The section comprises over 60 species, most of which are endemic and restricted to Mexico and Central America. Four species are reported from Colombia, Venezuela, and Guyana.

**Type Species.**—*Begonia plebeja* (Plate 14c,f).

**Seed Structure:** Seeds ellipsoid. Mean seed size 365 µm × 185 µm, length:width ratio 2.0. Testa cells polygonal or more elongated. Anticlinal walls slightly curved. Operculum nipple-to broadly nipple-shaped.

**Seed Micromorphology:** Anticlinal boundaries flat. Cuticular pattern mainly consisting of short undulated striae. Locally, patches without distinct ornamentation.

**Specimens Examined:**
- *B. plebeja*, COSTA RICA: John Taylor 17305 (US).
- *B. sericoneura*, MEXICO: Bourgeau 2968 (L); Ch.L. Smith 690 (US).
- *B. oaxacana*, NICARAGUA: Ziesenhenne s.n. (cult., as *B. bakeri* C. DC.).
- *B. fusca* Liebmann, MEXICO: Botteri & Sümichrast 1631 (P).
- *B. heracleifolia* Schlechtendal & Chamisso var. *heracleifolia*, MEXICO: Bourgeau 1583 (P).
- *B. involucrata*, COSTA RICA: P.C. Standley 34241 (US); Stanley & Valerio 48137 (US).
- *B. jennmannii*, BRITISH GUIANA (=Guyana): B. Maguire & Fanshawe 23081 (U).
- *B. multiflora*, COSTA RICA: cult., *van Veldhuizen* 661 (WAG).
- *B. nelumbifoila*, MEXICO: *van Veldhuizen* 1631 (L).
- *B. sartori*, MEXICO: Bourgeau 2100 (L).
- *B. urophylla*, COSTA RICA: cult., *van Veldhuizen* 655 (WAG).

4.3. Section *Hexaptera* Ziesenhenne  
**PLATE 15d,e**

In 1974 Ziesenhenne established this monotypic section to accommodate *B. oaxacana*, formerly belonging to section *Knesebeckia*. The section is characterized by the presence of erect
fruits with six small wings. This character, however, is not always present in this variable species. The species occurs in Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and southern Mexico.

The seeds of B. oaxacana differ to some extent from the ordinary type of begonia seed.

**TYPE SPECIES.—**Begonia oaxacana A. DC. var. oaxacana (Plate 15d,e).

**Seed Structure:** Seeds ellipsoid. Mean seed size 480 μm x 225 μm, length:width ratio 1.9. Testa cells more or less polygonal, with straight, curve, or sometimes slightly undulated anticlinal walls; anticlinal walls thickened. Operculum nipple-shaped.

**Seed Micromorphology:** Anticlinal boundaries always flat. Cuticular structure variable, from mostly faint linear, to short zigzag striae.

**Remarks:** The seeds of collection McWilliams & Molina 42675 are comparable in size and shape; however, they differ in having a greater number of collar and testa cells, mainly straight anticlinal walls, and a more distinct cuticular pattern of short zigzag striae.

The seeds of collection McVaugh 10266 strongly resemble those of B. udysilvestris C. DC., a species placed in section Ruizopavonia by Barkley and Golding (1974). The seeds of collection Davidse et al. 26139 resemble those of B. heydei (section Urtiformia) in shape, the smooth cuticle, and the thicker anticlinal walls.

**Specimens Examined:**
- B. oaxacana, COSTA RICA: G. Davidse et al. 26139 (CR);
- P.C. Standley 38821 (US).
- NICARAGUA: Williams & R. Molina 42675 (US).

**4.4. Section Dissepbegonia Ziesenhenne**

**PLATE 15f-g**

This section was established by Ziesenhenne in 1948 on the basis of the newly described species B. cavum Ziesenhenne, found in a small cave in Oaxaca, Mexico. The section closely resembles section Knesebeckia but can be distinguished by the presence of placentas affixed to the inner walls of the locules. Later the section was extended with B. palmeri S. Watson (Barkley and Golding, 1974).

**SPECIES OBSERVED.—**Unfortunately no seeds were available of B. cavum. The seeds of B. palmeri are not characteristic and resemble the ordinary type of begonia seed.

**Seed Structure and Micromorphology:** Seeds of B. palmeri have a mean seed size of 355 μm x 205 μm, with a length:width ratio of 1.7. The testa cells are polygonal, with straight or curved anticlinal walls. The operculum is nipple- to broadly nipple-shaped. The cuticular structure is faint-granular, with more prominent short linear or short undulated striae.

**Species Examined:**
- B. palmeri, MEXICO: Ynes Mexia 219 (MO).

**4.5. Section Podandra A. DC.**

**PLATE 15h-j**

The section is characterized by staminate and pistillate flowers with four and five tepals, respectively, and filaments united into a column. The section comprises the type species B. decandra Pavon ex A. DC. from Puerto Rico and Mexico. The inclusion of a second species, B. trichosepala C. DC. from Guatemala (Barkley and Golding, 1974), is disputed (Doorenbos et al., 1998). No seeds of the latter species were available.

**TYPE SPECIES.—**Begonia decandra.

**Seed Structure:** Seeds ellipsoid, mean size 370 μm x 180 μm, length:width ratio 2.1. Collar cells distinctly elongated, other testa cells rectangular. Anticlinal walls of collar and testa cells varying between collections: strongly undulated in Krug & Urban 1121, undulated to weakly so in Hoffmann 876, and weakly undulated to almost straight in Sintenis 5341. Operculum nipple-shaped.

**Seed Micromorphology:** Anticlinal boundaries varying among collections: mostly sunken in Krug & Urban 1121, locally sunken in Hoffmann 876, and almost always flat in Sintenis 5341. Cuticular pattern consisting of short linear and short undulated striae.

**Specimens Examined:**
- B. decandra, PUERTO RICO: O. Hoffmann 876 (B); Krug & Urban 1121 (L); P. Sintenis 5341 (P).

**4.6. Section Weilbachia (Klotzsch & Oersted) A. DC.**

**PLATE 15k-o**

Weilbachia was originally described as a genus but was reduced to a section by A. De Candolle (1859). The section probably includes section Liebmannia Ziesenhenne, as it is similar to, if not indistinguishable from, section Weilbachia (Burt-Utley, 1985). The section is characterized by staminate flowers with two or four tepals and by pistillate flowers with two or three tepals and two-celled ovaries with two or three styles and two-parted placentas. The section is restricted to Central America and Mexico and comprises about 20 species (Burt-Utley, 1985).

**TYPE SPECIES.—**Begonia ludicra A. DC. (syn. B. liebmannii A. DC.). The original type species was described by Klotzsch as Weilbachia reptans, which was renamed Begonia liebmannii by A. De Candolle in 1864.

**SPECIES OBSERVED (Plate 15k-o)._**Seed Structure: Seeds ellipsoid, varying in size from 320 μm x 195 μm in B. aridicaulis Ziesenhenne to 415 μm x 215 μm in B. pustulata Liebmann, with length:width ratios of 1.6 and 1.9, respectively. Testa cells irregularly polygonal. Anticlinal walls undulated in most species but straight to curved in B. purpulii Houghton ex Ziesenhenne. Operculum nipple-shaped.
Seed Micromorphology: Anticlinal boundaries always flat. Cuticular pattern short undulated, short linear, or granular. Outer periclinal cell wall sometimes rather thin, almost without cuticular ornamentation, and reflecting underlying pits, as in Begonia imperialis Lemaire.

Specimens Examined:
B. alnifolia, VENEZUELA: Mocquers 1219 (P).
B. viridiflora, PERU: Ellenberg 815 (U).
B. alnifolia, COSTA RICA: Kappelle & Monge 3635 (CR).
B. consobrina, PERU: Sandeman 4373 (US).

Species comparable to B. alnifolia (Plate 16c–h,k,l).—Seeds of most of the species observed of section Ruizopavonia resemble one another in their relatively small size, curved undulated anticlinals, and in their fine cuticular structure, consisting of linear or undulated striae.

Seed Structure and Micromorphology: Mean seed length varying from 225 μm in Begonia mendozoana C. DC., to 255 μm in B. cooperi C. DC., to 415 μm in B. carpiniifolia Liebm. Length:width ratios varying from 1.4 in B. peruviana A. DC. to 2.1 in B. convallariodora C. DC. Begonia carpiniifolia seeds with relatively many testa cells. Seeds of B. bracteosa A. DC. resembling those of several Andean species in section Begonia, such as B. cyatophora Poeppig & Endlicher. Anticlinal walls varying from almost straight, to curved (B. peruviana), to distinctly undulated (B. seemanniana A. DC.). Compared with other species resembling B. alnifolia, seeds of B. bracteosa with thicker, curved to undulated anticlinal walls, locally with sunken anticlinal boundaries and coarser cuticular pattern of short linear or short undulated striae.

Specimens Examined:
B. bracteosa, PERU: Ellenberg 815 (U).
B. carpiniifolia, COSTA RICA: Kappelle & Monge 3635 (CR).
B. consobrina, PERU: Sandeman 4373 (US).

5. Section MAINLY OCCURRING IN BOTH ANDEAN AND MIDDLE AMERICAN REGIONS

Only one section has a distribution more distinctly restricted to the Andes and Central America and Mexico.

5.1. Section Ruizopavonia

PLATES 16, 17a,b

The section was established by A. De Candolle in 1859. Irmscher (1949) discussed the delimitation of the section. Begonia corredorana C. DC. and B. thiemei C. DC., affiliated to this section by Barkley and Golding (1974), were included in section Gireoudia by Burt-Utley (1985).

Most species of the section have only two tepals in the staminate and pistillate flowers, but in some species there are three tepals in the staminate flowers and up to four tepals in the pistillate flowers. The connective of the stamens is a little extended. The styles are deeply two-parted and are sometimes divided again. The plants are suffrutescent, shrubby, or climbing, predominantly with pinnately veined leaves, and with small deciduous bracteoles. The section comprises about 35 species, mostly from the Andes, but eight species are reported from Central America and/or Mexico.

Type Species.—Begonia alnifolia A. DC. (Plate 16a,b).

Seed Structure: Seeds ellipsoid, resembling ordinary begonia seed type. Mean seed size of collection Mocquers 1219 325 μm × 195 μm, length:width ratio 1.7. Collar cells elongated, other testa cells relatively few in number. Anticlinal walls of testa cells thin and straight to curved. Operculum nipple-shaped.

Seed Micromorphology: Anticlinal boundaries flat. Cuticular pattern linear or undulated. Locally, patches without a smooth or fine structure.

Remarks: Seeds of B. aff. alnifolia collection A.C. Smith 3169 deviate by having somewhat larger seeds, undulated anticlinals, and a less dense cuticular pattern with underlying pits.

Specimens Examined:
B. alnifolia, VENEZUELA: Mocquers 1219 (P).
Boundaries flat, crosshatched. Seeds of *B. cuatrecasiana* show tendency to scobiformy, as seen more extremely in section *Rossmannia* (see Smith and Schubert, 1946).

*Begonia estrellensis* C. DC.: Seeds narrowly ellipsoid, with obtuse operculum and extended chalazal end. Mean seed size 625 μm × 170 μm, length: width ratio 3.7. Testa cells elongated. Anticlinal walls elevated and slightly undulated, with many pockets along walls. Cuticular pattern mainly long linear striae. Seeds of collection Liesner 1023 somewhat smaller and more tapering toward chalazal end.

Remarks: The seeds of *B. estrellensis* resemble those of *B. santarosensis* of section *Hydristyles*. The seeds of *B. udysylvestris* resemble those of *B. oaxacana* of section *Hexaperta*.

Specimens Examined:

*B. cuatrecasiana*, COLOMBIA: Forrero-Jaramillo 2403 (COL).


PANAMA: Liesner 1023 (L).

B. suprafastigiata, PERU: Weberbauer 7907 (B, holotype).

B. udysylvestris, COSTA RICA: Burger & Stolze 5250 (CR).

6. Sections with a wide Neotropical distribution

The four sections discussed below comprise species distributed over a wide area, ranging from Brazil to Mexico. Two sections, *Begonia* and *Knesebeckia*, also have species in Asia.

6.1. Section *Doratometra* (Klotzsch) A. DC.

PLATE 17c–m

The section is characterized in part by three two-parted styles with linear branches, undivided placentas, and palmately veined leaves. The species are self-fertilizing herbs.

The section comprises about 12 species. Most species have a restricted distribution; *B. filipes* Bentham, *B. hirtella* Link, *B. humilis* Dryander, and *B. semiovata* Liebmam have a wider distribution in Central and South America. *Begonia hirtella* has been introduced and naturalized in, among other places, South Africa, Java, and Sri Lanka.

Type species.—*Begonia wallichiana* Lehman (Plate 17d.g).

Seed Structure: Seeds elliptic, 315–365 μm in length, 185–205 μm in width, mean 340 μm × 195 μm. Length: width ratio 1.7. Collar cells relatively short, with mean length of 100 μm. Testa cells isodiametric, anticlinal walls rather thick, straight or curved or somewhat undulated. Operculum nipple-shaped.

Seed Micromorphology: Anticlinal boundaries flat. Cuticular pattern dense, consisting of mainly granular ornamentation.

Specimens Examined:


*B. prieurii*, FRENCH GUIANA: Granville 2519 (US); C. Sastre 1698 (US), 1733 (U). BRAZIL: H.S. Irwin c.s. 48113 (US); T. Plowman c.s. 8243 (US).

*B. semiovata*, BRITISH GUIANA (=Guyana); B. Maguire & Fanshawe 32449 (US). COSTA RICA: Tonduz 9588 (US).

*B. steyermarkii*, BRITISH GUIANA (=Guyana): R.S. Cowan & Soderstrom 1841 (US).


6.2. Section *Begonia* Baranov & Barkley

PLATES 18, 19

Baranov and Barkley (1972) named section *Begonia* on the basis of the rules and recommendations of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN). The section comprises parts of the former section *Begoniastrum* A. DC. The taxonomic delimitation of section *Begoniastrum* changed sev-
eral times. According to Baranov and Barkley (1972), section Begonia includes the former subsection Eubegonia Warburg and the sections Moschkowitzia (Klotzsch) A. DC. and Cyatocnemis (Klotzsch) A. DC., but Knesbeckia, reduced by Warburg (1894) to a subsection, is again a section in its own right. Section Begonia has no unique characters and is circumscribed by a combination of more general character states, such as staminate flowers with four (sometimes two) tepals and oblong to linear anthers that are longer than the filaments and pistillate flowers with usually five (sometimes six) tepals and bipartite placentaes. With about 75 species, it is the section with the largest number of species in the Neotropics, but according to Barkley and Golding (1974), it also includes about 12 Asian species.

Some groupings can be made on the basis of seed structure. The most distinct is the B. cucullata—B. fischeri group, the species of which mainly are found in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay, although B. fischeri has a more widespread distribution.

Several species, often endemic, are present in the Caribbean region. The seeds of these species may resemble those of the section type, B. obliqua, or they may resemble the seeds of the more widespread B. guaduensis.

Begonia obliqua Group

Begonia obliqua LINNAEUS (Plate 18a,d).—Type species of section Begonia.

Seed Structure: Seeds elliptic, 295—420 µm in length, 180—205 µm in width, mean 360 µm x 195 µm, length:width ratio 1.8. Testa cells polygonal. Anticlinal walls thin, straight, or almost straight, but undulated at bases. Operculum nipple-shaped.

Seed Micromorphology: Anticlinal boundaries flat. Cuticular pattern faint, reflecting underlying pits; if present, pattern consisting of short zigzag striae.

Specimen Examined:
B. obliqua, MARTINIQUE: Duss 973 (US).

Caribbean Species Observed (Plate 18b,c,e–h,k).—The seeds observed of species originating from the Caribbean region all belong to the ordinary begonia seed type and more or less resemble B. obliqua.

Seed Structure and Micromorphology: Begonia rotundifolia Lamarck and B. glandulifera Grisebach quite closely resemble B. obliqua in size, shape, and the thin anticlinals and outer periclinal walls.

The seeds of B. odorata Willdenow and B. retusa Schulz resemble each other by the undulated anticlinal walls of testa and operculum cells and are to some extent similar to those of the B. cucullata—B. fischeri group. The two species differ from each other somewhat in seed size and cuticular pattern.

The seeds of B. cubensis Hasskarl and of B. plumieri A. DC. var. barahonensis O.E. Schulz differ by having almost straight anticlinals and more zigzag striae.

Specimens Examined:
B. cubensis, CUBA: J. Linden 1730 (GENT, as B. lindeniana A. DC., isotype). CULTIVATED: Ziesenhenne s.n.
B. glandulifera, TRINIDAD: Van Steenis 20304 (L).
B. aff. odorata, DOMINICA: J. Jérémie 1105 (P).
B. plumieri var. barahonensis, SANTO DOMINGO: Padre Miguel Fuertes 432 (L).
B. rotundifolia, WEST INDIES: Hortus Bot. Liège (cult.); Hortus Bot. Nancy (cult.).

Mainly Andean Species Observed (Plate 18j,l,m).—Seed Structure and Micromorphology: The seeds of B. guaduensis H.B.K., B. cyatophora (type species of former section Cyatocnemis), and B. portillana S. Watson strongly resemble those of B. odorata in shape, size, undulated anticlinal walls, and in the mainly granular to short linear cuticular pattern. The two samples of B. cyatophora studied by us differ somewhat in the extent of undulation.

The seeds of B. altoperuviana A. DC. and B. barrigae Smith & Schubert also conform to the ordinary seed type and do not show special characters.

Specimens Examined:
B. altoperuviana, BOLIVIA: Weddell 4556 (P).
B. barrigae, COLOMBIA: cult., van Veldhuizen 872 (WAG).
B. cyatophora, PERU: Ellenberg 733 A (U); Y. Mexia 8128 (MO).
B. portillana, MEXICO: Dunn, Le Doux, & Torke 21820 (MO).

Begonia cucullata—Begonia fischeri Group

Begonia cucullata WILDLNNOW (Plate 19a–d).—Seed Structure and Micromorphology: Among the specimens assigned to this species, three seed types are encountered: (1) narrowly ellipsoid seeds having an obtuse micropylar end with sunken hilum and an extended chalazal end (often J-shaped), a mean size of 670 µm x 185 µm, and a length:width ratio of 3.6; (2) obovate to narrowly obovate seeds having an obtuse operculum with sunken hilum, a somewhat extended chalazal end, a mean size of 550 µm x 220 µm, and a length:width ratio of 2.5; and (3) elliptic seeds resembling the ordinary begonia seed type, having a nipple-shaped operculum, a mean size of 315 x 200 µm, and a length:width ratio of 1.6.

Most seed collections of B. cucullata var. cucullata belong to the first seed type, with the exception of collections Bartlett 21359 and Jorgensen 3473, which belong to the second and third types, respectively.

The seeds of B. cucullata var. arenosicola (C. DC.) Smith & Schubert belong to the third seed type, with the exception of collection Fiebrig 5125, which belongs to the first seed type.

Testa cells adjacent to the collar are elongated in the first two seed types and are more polygonal in the third type. In spite of
the above-mentioned differences, all three seed types fully agree in their testal pattern, namely, undulated anticlinal walls and a granular to short linear cuticular structure.

Specimens Examined:
B. cucullata var. arenosicola, ARGENTINA: T.M. Pedersen 10232 (P). PARAGUAY: E. Hassler 6130 (P, isotype); E. Hassler 7884 (P, isotype); K. Fiebrig 5125 (L).

B. cucullata var. cucullata, BRAZIL: d’Alleizette s.n. (L); Irwin, Maxwell, & Waschhausen 19961 (P); Y. Mexia 5190 (U); Hj. Mosén 1398 (P). PARAGUAY: Jorgensen 3473 (US). URUGUAY: H.H. Bartlett 21359 (P).

OTHER SPECIES OBSERVED (Plate 19e-m).—The seeds of all collections of the more widespread B. fischeri Schrank are narrowly ellipsoidal with an obtuse micropylar end and with a sunken hilum and an extended chalazal end. They resemble the similar seed type of B. cucullata; however, they are somewhat longer, with a mean seed length of 795 μm. The anticlinal walls are mostly somewhat more strongly undulated, with pockets at their bases. The cuticular pattern is less prominent, and the outer walls sometimes reflect underlying pits. Begonia fischeri var. klugii Irmscher differs in its relatively longer micropylar end, it being one-third of the seed length, whereas this is about one-fourth the seed length in the other collections.

The seeds of B. alchemilloides Meisner ex A. DC., B. balansae C. DC., B. descoleana Smith & Schubert, B. meridensis A. DC., B. per-dusenii Brade, B. schmidtiana Regel, and B. subvillosa Klotzsch, mainly from Brazil and/or Paraguay and Argentina, resemble the elliptic seed type of B. cucullata in shape, undulated anticlinals, and in the granular to short linear cuticular pattern. The species vary somewhat in seed length, with a mean from 345 μm in B. subvillosa var. leptotricha (C. DC.) Smith & Waschhausen to 430 μm in B. descoleana. They also may show some differences in testal pattern, e.g., B. perdusenii with broad anticlinals and B. alchemilloides with a less-pronounced cuticular pattern.

Specimens Examined:

B. fischeri var. klugii, PERU: G. Klug 3389 (MO, isotype). B. fischeri var. macroptera (Klotzsch) Irmscher, BRAZIL: B.B. Pickel 2466 (US).


B. per-dusenii, BRAZIL: L.B. Smith, Klein, & Schnorrenberger 11728 (K).

B. schmidtiana, BRAZIL: B.K. Boom 15916, cult., Hort. Gent (L).

B. subvillosa var. leptotricha, PARAGUAY: K. Fiebrig 5334 (P, isotype).

B. subvillosa var. subvillosa, BRAZIL: G. Hatschbach 21525 (L); L.B. Smith & Reitz 1269 (US).

Ungrouped Species

Begonia organensis BRADE (Plate 18n).—Seed Structure and Micromorphology: The seeds of this species conform to the ordinary seed type and cannot be linked to either of the above-described groups. The mean seed size is 555 μm × 255 μm, with a length:width ratio of 2.2. The anticlinal walls are straight or slightly curved and sometimes are locally undulated. The distinct cuticular pattern consists of linear to undulated striae of varying length, continuous across the anticlinals.

Specimen Examined:

B. organensis, BRAZIL: D. Sucre c.s. 3005 (MO).

6.3. Section Knesebeckia (Klotzsch) A. DC.

PLATES 20, 21a-g

Section Knesebeckia was formerly considered a subsection of section Begoniastrum A. DC. by Warburg (1894). The section now includes the former subsection Rachia Klotzsch of the former section Magnusia Klotzsch (Irmscher, 1960) and the monotypic section Quadriperigonia Ziesiennhene, which was eliminated by the synonymy of the type species, B. abaculoides Ziesiennhene, with B. boissieri A. DC. (Smith and Waschhausen, 1983).

The species of this section are very diverse. Some show a close resemblance to species of Begonia, others are similar to species of Eupetalum, Ruizopavonia, and some other sections with bifid placentas. The section is characterized by anthers that are globose or obovoid and are much shorter than the filaments, which often are monodelphous. Some species are tuberous, and several also produce bulbils in the leaf axils. The section comprises about 67 Neotropical species, with a concentration in Mexico (Burt-Utley, 1985), and according to Barkley and Golding (1974), also includes about 10 Asian species.

The seeds of the species observed all conform to the ordinary begonia seed type; however, the section is not homogenous in seed structure and shows variation in micromorphological characters.

TYPE SPECIES.—Begonia incarnata Link & Otto (Plate 20a.d).


Seed Micromorphology: Anticlinal boundaries flat. Cuticular structure mainly short linear.

Specimen Examined:

B. incarnata var. incarnata, MEXICO: Liebmann 177 (US).
OTHER SPECIES OBSERVED (Plates 20b, c,e–n, 21a–g).—Seed structures vary between the Central American and the Mexican species.

Seed Structure and Micromorphology: *Begonia kellermanii* C. DC. and *B. peltata* Otto & Dietrich resemble *B. incarnata* in the thin, undulated anticlinal walls. The seeds of *B. boissieri* and *B. ludwigii* Irmscher resemble each other in the straight to curved anticlinal cell walls and in the short zigzag to granular cuticular ornamentation.

The seeds of *B. gracilis* H.B.K. and *B. sandtii* Ziesenhenne strongly resemble those of some species of section *Doratometa*, especially *B. wallichiana*, in the relatively small seed size (mean seed length 300 μm in *B. gracilis*; 340 μm in *B. sandtii*), straight or curved anticlinal walls, and the dense cuticular pattern, consisting of a mainly granular ornamentation. The seeds of *B. angustiloba* A. DC., *B. falciloba* Liebm., *B. ignea* Warzewicz ex A. DC., and *B. unilora* S. Watson resemble one another in thicker, straight or curved anticlinal walls and a mainly short zigzag cuticular ornamentation.

The seeds of the South American species studied deviate from the above-mentioned ones. The seeds of *B. maynensis* A. DC. and *B. oellgaardii* L.B. Smith & Wasshausen resemble one another in their short lengths, 280 and 295 μm, respectively, and a length:width ratio of 1.5. The seeds have broad anticlinals caused by thickening of the outer periclinal walls bordering the anticlinal walls. Anticlinal boundaries are locally sunken. The cuticular pattern is mainly granular to short linear to almost granular and short zigzag striae.

Almost all seeds studied show differentiation between collar and other testa cells, characteristic for *Begonia*. The only exceptions are found in species *B. antioquensis* and *B. hexandra*.

6.4. *Section Donaldia* (Klotzsch) A. DC.

This section, comprising seven species, is characterized in part by pinnate leaves and by male flowers with two (sometimes four) tepals and ellipsoid anthers that are about as long as the filaments. No seeds were available for *B. burlemarxii* Brade or *B. egleri* Brade.

Type Species.—*Begonia ulmifolia* Willdenow was described in 1805. It has a wider distribution than other species in the section, being found in Venezuela, Guyana, and Trinidad, and it has been introduced and is naturalized in Sri Lanka (Jayasuriya, 1983).

Seed Structure: Seeds ellipsoid, mean size 290 μm × 190 μm, length: width ratio 1.5. Testa cells polygonal, with curved anticlinal walls. Sample from Sri Lanka differs by more slender seeds with thinner, straight anticlinal walls. Seeds resembling those of *B. gracilis* (section *Knesebeckia*).

Seed Micromorphology: Cuticular pattern consisting of short linear to almost granular and short zigzag striae.

Specimens Examined:


OTHER SPECIES OBSERVED.—Two of the other species observed are limited to Bolivia, and two are limited to Brazil (see “Specimens Examined,” below).

Seed Structure and Micromorphology: The seeds of the other four species studied also are relatively small, not exceeding 400 μm, and conform to the ordinary begonia seed type. They differ in anticlinal walls, from straight in *B. dasycarpa* A. DC. to undulated in *B. chaetocarpa* Kuntze var. *chaetocarpa*. They resemble the seeds of *B. ulmifolia* in cuticular pattern except for *B. dasycarpa*, which has long zigzag striae.

Specimens Examined:

*B. bangii* Kuntze, BOLIVIA: A. Miguel Bang 406 (K).
*B. chaetocarpa* var. *chaetocarpa*. BOLIVIA: O. Kuntze s.n. (B, isotype).
*B. chaetocarpa* var. *glabriflora* Smith & Schubert, BOLIVIA: H.H. Rusby 690 (US, isotype).
*B. dasycarpa*. BRAZIL: A. Glaziou 15388 (P).
*B. jairii* Brade, BRAZIL: G. Pedro do Cavalo 752 (US).

Discussion

SEED MORPHOLOGY

The seeds of about 235 Neotropical *Begonia* species, representing 39 sections, were studied using SEM. No seeds were available for study in the monotypic sections *Cylindrobegonia*, *Parietoplacentaria*, *Plurilobaria*, and the dubious monotypic section *Dasystyles*.

Almost all seeds studied show differentiation between collar and other testa cells, characteristic for *Begonia*. The only exceptions are found in species *B. antioquensis* and *B. hexandra*.
of section Casparya, the seeds of which show neither a distinct collar nor a borderline with the operculum.

As is the case in African and Asiatic begonias, the seeds of the Neotropical species exhibit an appreciable diversity in seed size and structure. This diversity is not as wide as in the African begonias (de Lange and Bouman, 1992), in which all sections are distinguishable from one another on the basis of seed characters.

The seeds of Neotropical begonias vary in shape from almost globular to narrowly ellipsoidal. The lowest length: width ratio (1.2) is found in B. hexandra; the highest one (8.1) is found in B. fruticosa (section Trendelenburgia). Seed shape may be determined by flattened, extended, or swollen chalazal ends. A flat chalazal end is caused by contact with the ovary or fruit wall. Most seeds have a mean length between 300 μm and 600 μm; the shortest, with a mean length of 225 μm, are found in B. correoradana (section Ruizopavonia), and the longest ones, with a mean length of 1450 μm, are found in a collection of B. fruticosa.

The mean number of collar cells in the seed circumference is mostly between 10 and 12; however, this may be as low as eight in a collection of B. glabra (section Enita) and as high as 23 in a collection of B.pectennervia (section Casparya). The collar cells are mostly distinctly elongated; their mean length varies from 100 μm in B. wallichiana (section Doratometra), to 290 μm in B. maculata (section Gaerditia), and to 325 μm in B. fruticosa. The mean collar-cell length: seed length varies from 1.9 in B. maculata to 5.7 in B. urticae (section Casparya). The other testa cells are mostly polygonal, sometimes elongated near collar cells. Their anticlinal walls are straight (as in sections Pritzelia or Ewaldia) or curve or undulate (as in sections Casparya or Hydristyles). The anticlinal boundaries are mostly flat but are sometimes sunken or locally sunken (as in section Warburgina).

The cuticular ornamentation varies greatly in pattern, thickness, and roughness. The cuticular pattern may be granular, linear, undulated, or zigzag. The surface of the cuticle may be smooth (section Urtiformia), faint, pronounced, or even forming a net-like structure of pleats (section Trachelocarpus). The roughness varies from fine and dense (section Latistigma) to rough, as in many species of section Casparya. Sometimes the structure of the underlying periclinal wall is reflected, showing pits or pockets at the bases of undulated anticlinal walls. A cuticle with a double structure, i.e., with more elevated, scattered foldings next to a regular cuticular pattern, is especially found in section Casparya.

DELIMITATION AND INTERRELATIONSHIPS OF NEOTROPICAL SECTIONS

Within the Neotropical begonias, a number of sections show a special seed structure characteristic at the sectional level. All these sections have a relatively restricted geographical distribution; one or more of such sections are found in each of the three main areas in which Neotropical begonias are found. The sections with a specialized seed structure have a limited number of species, with the exception of sections Casparya and Gobenia.

Of the Brazilian or mainly Brazilian sections, the following five sections have a characteristic seed structure.

In section Trachelocarpus the seeds are relatively large, with a rather unique cuticular structure consisting of upright or folded-over pleats. The seeds of section Solanthera are long because of their extended chalazal end. The long seeds in section Trendelenburgia have both extended micropylar and chalazal ends. In section Enita (Wageneria) the micropylar and/or chalazal cells of the seeds are uncollapsed and air-filled, resembling balloons. In section Scheidweileria the surface of the flattened chalaza is pronounced because of deep, collapsed testa cells and an often broadly nipple-shaped operculum.

The other Brazilian or mainly Brazilian sections do not have a characteristic seed structure at the sectional level, and most of their species have seeds that conform to the ordinary begonia seed type. In some cases one or more species within a section may deviate from this ordinary type.

The possible relationship between sections Ewaldia and Scheidweileria, as suggested by the successive numbering of the two sections in Die natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien (Warburg, 1894; Irmscher, 1925), is supported by seed structure. The seeds of the type species B. lobata of section Ewaldia resemble those of section Scheidweileria.

The section Pritzelia is quite diverse in seed morphology. Within the section, a number of species observed deviate by having a more pronounced and coarse zigzag cuticular striae.

Seed structure does not provide arguments for a separate section Bradea as proposed by Toledo (1946). The seeds of the type species B. rufosericea closely resemble those of B. arborescens of section Steiniera.

The seeds of species of section Latistigma conform to the ordinary begonia seed type and resemble the seeds of some species of section Gireoudia, e.g., B. cardiocarpa.

Of the sections mainly confined to the Andean and Guianan regions, five have characteristic seeds. In section Casparya the seeds are recognizable by a combination of characters, especially the roughness of the testal surface, the mostly undulated anticlinals, the flat operculum, and sometimes the double structure of the cuticle. On the basis of a combination of these characters, several species groups can be discerned, but they do not match the subsectional classification of Irmscher (1925). Unfortunately, we cannot contribute to the discussion on the status of the former sections Begoniella and Semibegoniella because no seeds of these taxa could be examined.

Section Rossmannia is the only Andean section having narrowly elliptic seeds with a swollen micropylar and an extended chalazal end. The seeds of B. rossmanniae resemble those of the B. cucullata—B. fischeri group (section Begonia) in shape and size, but they differ in the presence of straight anticlinal walls.
Seed structure in section Hydristyles is quite diverse. Seed micromorphology provides arguments for the inclusion of section Warburgina in section Hydristyles. The seeds of B. comata resemble seeds of species of section Hydristyles, like B. andina and B. unduavensis, in their elongated testa cells with strongly undulated walls.

The seeds of section Gobenia are characterized by an irregular seed shape, a broadly nipple-shaped operculum, and an often flattened chalazal end with more elevated anticlinal walls. The seeds of section Gobenia resemble those of section Scheidweileria. Seed micromorphology supports the opinion of Smith and Wasshausen (1986) that B. sodiroi belongs to section Gobenia. The synonymy of B. sodiroi with B. oaxacana (section Hexapetra) as stated by Barkley and Golding (1974) is not supported.

The other mainly Andean sections all have seeds that conform to the ordinary seed type and only differ in details. Seed micromorphology does not contradict a relationship between sections Lepsia and Tittelbachia and supports the inclusion of section Huszia in section Eupetalum, as proposed by Smith and Wasshausen (1979, 1986). The seeds of the section type, B. geringiifolia, resemble those of a number of species of the former section Huszia. The placement of B. micranthera in section Australes (Smith and Schubert, 1941) also is supported by seed morphology. Begonia exalata, of the monotypic section Apteran, differs in fruit structure and growth form, but the general morphological characters as well as the seed structure indicate a relationship with section Eupetalum. Begonia trjvillensis was initially placed in section Apteran by its author on the basis of the regularly two-parted styles (Smith, 1973; Barkley and Golding, 1974). Seed micromorphology clearly shows that this species belongs to section Casparya.

The seeds of the type species of section Barya, B. monadelpha, and to a lesser extent the seeds of B. soror, agree with those of section Gobenia in their somewhat irregular shape and the broadly nipple-shaped opercula.

The elimination of the monotypic Colombian section Sauaria by synonymy of its type species, B. sulcata, with a species of section Prizetalia, is supported by seed morphology.

Of the sections mainly confined to the Central American and Caribbean regions and Mexico, only the seeds of the monotypic section Urniformia show special characters. Begonia heydei is the only Neotropical species having seeds with a smooth cuticle.

The seeds of the large section Gireoudia all conform to the ordinary begonia seed type and do not show a distinct grouping of the seeds. The inclusion of section Auriformia is not disproved by seed micromorphology. The seeds of the former type species B. bakeri (= B. cardiocarpa) resemble those of other collections of B. cardiocarpa and of B. involucrata. Seed morphology does not provide arguments for or against a separate section Dissepogonia. The section most probably should be included in section Knesebeckia, as the kind of placentation also is found in some species of this section (Doorenbos et al., 1998).

The seeds of the other three sections all have relatively small seeds and do not show special characters.

The majority of the seeds of all seven sections not restricted to one of the main geographical areas conform to the ordinary seed type. Seed micromorphology generally only provides restricted arguments for delimitation of sections or relationships between these sections. The sections Ruizopavonia, Doratometra, and Begonia are mutually difficult to delimit (Irmscher, 1949). All three sections are rather heterogenous in seed structure and have species or a group of species with a deviating seed structure. The transfer of B. filipes, B. humilis, and B. hirtella from section Begonia to section Doratometra as referred to by Barkley and Golding (1974) is supported by seed micromorphology. The conspecificity of B. filipes and B. hirsuta as suggested by Burt-Utley (1984) is not supported by seed micromorphology. The seeds of B. prieurii and B. steyermarkii of section Doratometra deviate from the seeds of the other species of this section by the presence of knobbles on the outer pericinal walls and by thicker, distinctly undulated anticlinal walls. The seeds of B. steyermarkii resemble those of some species in section Casparya.

The seeds of the species of section Ruizopavonia are rather heterogenous. The seeds of a number of species, for example, B. bracteosa and B. suprafestigia, resemble those of some species of section Begonia. The scobiform seeds of B. cuatreastana resemble those of section Rossmannia, and seeds of B. estrellensis resemble those of section Hydristyles. Seed micromorphology does not support the synonymy of B. udisilvestris with B. carpinifolia (Barkley and Golding, 1974). Begonia udisilvestris most probably does not belong to section Ruizopavonia. Doorenbos et al. (1998) placed B. oaxacana of the monotypic section Hexapetra together with B. udisilvestris in section Parietoplacentia. This opinion is supported by the resemblance of the seeds of B. udisilvestris to those of B. oaxacana.

Seed micromorphology could not provide arguments for or against the inclusion of B. thiemei and B. corredorana in section Gireoudia as indicated by Burt-Utley (1985).

Within section Begonia, the B. cucullata—B. fischeri group is characterized by a testal pattern of undulated anticlinal walls, a granular to short linear cuticular structure, and, partly, a narrowly ellipsoid or obovate seed shape.

The inclusion of section Cyathocoimensis in section Begonia is supported by seed structure.

POSSIBLE INTERCONTINENTAL RELATIONSHIPS

Our knowledge of the intercontinental relationships of begonias is rather meager. The great majority of Begonia sections have a distribution that is restricted to one continent. Warburg (1894) classified all Begonia species into African, Asian, and American sections; however, Irmscher (1925) was of the opin-
ion that section Begoniastrum was intercontinental, comprising species of American and Asian origin. Baranov and Barkley (1972) changed the name of section Begoniastrum to Begonia, in accordance with the ICBN, and split off a separate section Knesebeckia. According to Barkley and Golding (1974), sections Begonia and Knesebeckia comprise about 12 and about 10 Asian species, respectively. Serious doubts, however, exist about the validity of the delimitation of these sections. Doorenbos et al. (1998) moved the Asian species of both section Begonia and section Knesebeckia to section Diplolcinium.

As shown in this study, the seeds of the American representatives of section Knesebeckia are quite diverse in structure. Seeds of the Asian section Diplolcinium observed by us also conform to the ordinary Begonia type: they are mostly relatively small and show some variation in anticlinal walls and cuticular structure. Seeds of the Asian Knesebeckia species also show appreciable variation in seed morphology and do not closely resemble the American species of section Knesebeckia or those of section Diplolcinium. Of the Asian species of section Begonia, only B. labordei Léveillé could be studied by us. The seeds of this species conform to the ordinary begonia seed type and do not show any specific character that points to or against a relation with the American species.

A. De Candolle included in his section Casparya a number of Indo-Malaysian species, such as B. multingua Blume, B. robusta Blume, and B. silletensis (A. DC.) C.B. Clarke, now belonging to the Asian section Sphenanthera A. DC. The seeds of species in section Sphenanthera are relatively small and have a mainly granular structure. The seeds of the above-mentioned species fit well with those of section Sphenanthera. There are no arguments for a direct relationship of section Casparya with Asian species.

As far as we know, no suggestions have been made about intercontinental relationships between Neotropical and African begonias.

**SEED STRUCTURE IN RELATION TO DISPERSAL AND GROWTH FORM**

Field observations on the dispersal of Begonia seeds are rare. The great majority of the Neotropical Begonia species seems to be wind dispersed (anemochory; see van der Pijl, 1972). Seed dispersal is mostly anemoballistic, i.e., the winged fruit is shaken by wind and the seeds are gradually released through pores or slits. This means of dispersal holds for the majority of the Neotropical sections, including large sections, such as Begonia, Gireoudia, Knesebeckia, and Pritzelia, which generally grow in a more open and often dry vegetation. Capsular motion may be promoted by elongated frutescences exposed above the leaves, enlargement of the median wing into a vane, or by persistent bracteoles. The seeds of these species are medium-sized and conform to the ordinary seed type.

Special adaptations to wind dispersal are the increase of the surface to volume ratio as seen in narrowly ellipsoid fusi- or scobiform seeds, the decrease of specific gravity (mass) caused by uncollapsed, air-filled testa cells, as in balloon seeds, and promotion of laminar air flow by surface roughness. These adaptations also may occur in varying combinations. Adaptations in seed shape in combination with inflated cells are known in sections Rossmannia, Solanthera, and Trendelenburgia and in the B. cucullata—B. fischeri group of section Begonia. Typical balloon seeds also are found in section Enita, whereas a more pronounced surface caused by more raised anticlinal walls is seen in seeds of sections Scheidwelleria and Gobenia. Wind dispersal, however, seems neither likely nor effective in species from humid and/or closed-forest vegetations.

On the basis of fruit and seed morphology, it is rather speculative to suggest other types of dispersal in Neotropical begonias. Secondary seed dispersal by rain-wash may occur in the majority of the begonias, including the wind dispersed ones. Rain-wash is supposed to be the most important means of dispersal for most species of the African sections Filicibegonia, Loasibegonia, and Scutobegonia, growing in the sheltered environment of the tropical rain forest where wind is an ineffective vector in dispersal. Their fruits do not open but rot away. Seeds of species in these sections are small and are often provided with a thick, pronounced, cuticular ornamentation (de Lange and Bouman, 1992). Such a combination of fruit and seed characters is not found among the Neotropical begonias.

A number of Neotropical Begonia sections have fruits and seeds that are not adapted to wind dispersal. The species of the epiphytic section Trachelocaropus are characterized by solitary, subsessile fruits with narrow wings somewhat hidden underneath the leaves, as expressed by the name B. rhizocarpa (= B. depauperata), and large seeds with a very pronounced cuticular pattern. The means of seed dispersal is unknown. A combination of accidental dispersal by rain and by adhering to animals (epizoochory) seems to be the most probable way of dispersal.

The species of section Casparya act as rattleburrs; their fruits have horns instead of wings, and the seeds are provided with striking cuticular patterns, such as prominent, sometimes plicate foldings or a double structure that might function in dispersal by rain wash. Seeds seem to be dispersed in different ways. Passing animals may catch the horns and shake the fruits, scattering seeds (zooballistics), or seeds may adhere to animals.

None of the Neotropical begonias have fruits adapted to rain ballistics as in the Asian section Platycenbrum, where the two shorter wings form a cup to catch raindrops. Moreover, none of the Neotropical begonias have fruits or seeds that seem adapted to frugivores or to ant dispersal. Animal-dispersed begonias with fleshy, often colored fruits are known in a number of African sections. These sections show trends toward bigger seeds, loss of cuticular ornamentation, and a thick exotesta, and they may have aril-like appendages (de Lange and Bouman, 1992).

In the Neotropics, seeds without cuticular ornamentation are known only from B. heydei (section Urniformia). This species, from the wet montane zone of Central America, deviates from
all other begonias by a one-celled ovary with three long, hollow, fleshy horns. Fruit dehiscence and seed release have not been described in detail.

The wingless fruits of *B. exalata* (section *Apteron*) suggest another means of dispersal; however, the seeds are of the ordinary begonia type, and seed micromorphology does not provide an indication for dispersal.

The means of seed dispersal often seems to be related to habitat and growth form (Burt-Utley, 1985). Begonias with special adaptations to wind dispersal are mostly climbers and/or epiphytes or have a tendency to do so. For example, this holds in sections *Enita*, *Rossmannia*, *Solanthera*, *Trendelenburgia*, and in species of section *Gobenia*. The rattleburrs of section *Casparya* grow in the wet montane forest, where wind is less effective.

Seed dispersal of the Neotropical begonias, and most probably that of the Asian ones, distinctly differs from seed dispersal in African begonias. In the Neotropical begonias wind dispersal is predominant, and alternative types of dispersal are restricted to a limited number of sections. In Africa only about one-fifth of the *Begonia* species are wind dispersed, almost two-fifths are animal-dispersed, and over two-fifths are dispersed by a combination of rain-wash and epizoochory (de Lange and Bouman, 1992).
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PLATE 1.—Seeds of sections Trachelocarpus and Solananthera: a, B. herbacea (Lisedecceales s.n.), ×125; b, B. herbacea var. ellipticifolia (Ule 4240), ×110, c, detail testa, ×500; d, B. solananthera (cult.), ×130; e, B. depau- perata (Campos Goer 140), ×130; f, B. lanceolata (Smith & Pereira 15343), ×100; g, B. radicans (Luederwaldt s.n.), ×80; h, B. integerrima (Pereira 606), ×95.
PLATE 2.—Seeds of sections Trendelenburgia and Scheidwileria: a, B. fruticosa (Martins 8380), ×100, f, detail testa, ×490; b, B. pentaphylla (Maguire c.s. 44596), ×120, c, detail testa, ×480; d, B. luxurians (Hoehne 2370), ×130; e, B. digitata (Martinelli & Maas 3271), ×120; g, B. incisoserrata (Hatschbach & Kummran 45532), ×170; h, B. parviflora (Killip 7837), ×210.
PLATE 3.—Seeds of sections Ewaldia and Enita: a, B. lobata (Hatschbach 30073), x 130; b, B. scharffii (Pala- cios-Cuezzo 2930), x 160; c, B. tomentosa (Brade 18572), x 160; d, B. rigida (ABS Seed Fund), x 190; e, B. con- volavalacea (Schenck 858), x 120; f, B. epibacterium (Scott Mori c.s. 12856), x 140; g, B. fagifolia (Brade 19144), x 120; h, B. glabra var. glabra (Irwin c.s. 54738), x 180, k, detail chalaza, x 280; j, B. glabra var. glabra (Laurito 8172), x 120.
PLATE 4.—Seeds of section *Prizelia*: a, *B. dietrichiana* (Duarte 378), ×180; b, *B. crispula* (Boone-Hahn 13), detail testa, ×510; c, *B. sanguinea* (Bailey & Bailey 706), detail testa, ×450; f, seed, ×150; d, *B. coccinea* (Burchell 219A), detail testa, ×860; g, seed, ×120; e, *B. grisea* (St. Hilaire B 2027), ×95; h, *B. angulata* var. *angulata* (Hatchbach 8831), ×120; j, *B. itaguassensis* (Lourteig 3236), ×150; k, *B. dichotoma* (Boone-Hahn 29), ×140; l, *B. acida* (cult., Liège), ×180; m, *B. paranaensis* (Hatchbach 8941), ×110; n, *B. olsoniia* (Pereira 307), ×110.
PLATE 5.—Seeds of sections Pritzelia, Philippomartia, Steineria, and Bradea: a, B. bradei (cult.), \( \times 140 \); b, B. hispida (Bailey & Bailey 710) \( \times 130 \); c, B. membranacea (Curran 170), \( \times 200 \); d, B. leptophylla (Mo 4331), \( \times 170 \); e, detail chalaza, \( \times 440 \); f, B. hookerana (Occhioni 4788), \( \times 140 \); g, B. arborescens var. arborescens (Grisebach s.n.), \( \times 190 \); h, B. polyandra (Herb. Hieronymus s.n.), \( \times 140 \); i, detail testa, \( \times 760 \); j, B. arborescens (Grisebach s.n.), \( \times 190 \); k, B. polyandra (Herb. Hieronymus s.n.), \( \times 140 \); l, B. oxyphylla (Inh. Vien s.n.), \( \times 190 \); m, B. rufosericea (Oswaldo Hanro s.n.), \( \times 160 \); n, B. bidentata (Peckolt 75), \( \times 160 \).
PLATE 6.—Seeds of sections Bradea, Tetrachia, Gaerdia, Latisigma, and Pereira: a, B. dentatiloba (L.B. Smith 1935), ×160; b, B. parvifolia (d’Alleizette s.n.), ×130; c, B. egregia (Santos Lima s.n.), ×120, detail testa, ×720; d, B. corallina (Boone-Hahn 114), ×125; e, B. maculata (Maas & Carauta 3149), ×115, detail testa, ×1140; f, B. undulata (Gaudichaud 1067), ×140; g, detail testa, ×140; h, B. edmundoi (Pereira 366), ×150; i, B. aconitifolia (Glaziou 13369), ×150; j, B. leathermaniae (Moraes 1056), ×180, detail testa, ×560; k, B. platanifolia (Hatschbach 46298), ×150; l, B. edmundoi (Pereira 366), ×140.
PLATE 7.—Seeds of section Caspary: a, B. urticae (Harling et al. 20465), ×105, b, detail testa, ×340; c, B. fuchsiiflora (Scott Hoover 515), detail testa, ×620, f, seed, ×120; d, B. urticae (Bohlin 975), ×120; e, B. longirostris (Harling & L. Andersson 11608), ×130; g, B. gamolepis (Killip & A.C. Smith 16037), ×130; h, B. ferruginea (Langenheim 3387), ×85; j, B. ferruginea var. dilatata (Garcia-Barriga 12053), ×115, k, detail testa, ×370.
PLATE 8.—Seeds of section Caspary: a, B. trispalulata (Tillett 739-583), × 130; b, detail testa, × 770; c, B. brevipetala (Steyermark & Mehlin 109955), detail cuticle, × 1690; d, detail testa, × 580; e, seed, × 120; e, B. trujillensis (Tillett 739-611), × 125; f, B. mariae (Goldsmith 163), × 130; g, B. formosissima (Ruiz-Teteran & Figueiras 9306), × 90; h, detail testa, × 400; i, B. lipolepis (Goldsmith 167), × 110; j, B. toledana (Steyermark & Dunsterville 10604), × 125; k, B. pectennervia, seed (Holm-Nielsen 26792), × 125; l, detail testa (Holm-Nielsen 26438), × 620.
PLATE 9.—Seeds of section Casparya: a, B. colombiana (Schultes & Villarreal 7758), ×120; b, B. killipiana (Scott Hoover 27), ×95, c, detail testa, ×280; d, B. trispathulata (Steyermark 103480), detail testa, ×550, g, seed, ×140; e, B. longirostris (Lugo 4699), ×115; f, B. antioquensis (Luteyn 12265), ×140; h, B. hexandra (Core 1500), ×110; j, B. diversistipulata (Giacometto 11) ×150; k, B. umbellata (Killip & Hazen 9165), ×105; l, B. montana (Funck & Schlim 1044), ×115; m, B. formosissima (Lopez-Figueiras & Dugarte 29409), ×100; n, B. raimondi (Raimondi 2982), ×85.
PLATE 10.—Seeds of sections Rossmannia, Hydristyles, and Warburgina: a, B. rossmanniae (Holguer Lugo S. 4824), ×170, b, operculum, ×440 (Holguer Lugo S. 4824), c, detail testa, ×510 (Vogelmann c.s. 1297); d, B. santarosensis (s.n.), ×150, e, detail testa, ×400; f, aff. B. bridgesii (Dereims s.n.), ×150; g, B. subcaudata (Beck 9253), ×160; h, B. juntasensis (Moore, Salazar, & Smith 8601), ×180; j, B. unduavensis (Mandon 1089), ×150; k, B. andina (Williams 1366), ×140; l, B. comata (Beck 12651), ×160.
PLATE 11.—Seeds of sections Gobenia, Meionanthera, Lepsia, and Titelbachia: a, B. maurandiae, seed (Camp E 4974), x130; d, detail chalaza (André 3315), x260; b, B. pululahuana (Davis 500) x115; c, B. secunda (Gentry & Shupp 26630), x150; e, B. holtonis, detail testa (Uribe Uribe 3878), x590; h, seed (Holton 723), x170; f, B. ynesiae (Mexia 7706), x115; g, B. sodiroi (Holm-Nielsen & Jeppesen 1276), x110; j, B. foliosa var. australis (Matthias & Taylor 5905), x200; k, B. foliosa var. putezsiana (Killip & Smith 19817), x120; l, B. foliosa var. rotundata (McDougal & Roldan 3540), x145; m, B. microphylla (Breieter 4643), x125; n, B. fuchsiiodes var. fuchsiiodes (Killip & Smith 20532), x140.
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PLATE 12.—Seeds of section Eupetalum, including former section Huszia: a, B. octopetala (Holm-Nielsen c.s. 3404), x190, c, detail testa, x790; b, B. pastoensis (Lehman 5404) detail cuticle, x3340, d, seed, x180; e, B. erythrocarpa (Wasshausen & Salas 1194), x180; f, B. pleiopetala (Buchtien 653), x150; g, B. macbrideana (Weberbauer 2011), x130; h, B. geraniifolia (Lourteig 3117), seed, x170, k, detail chalaza, x350; j, B. geraniifolia (Dowbev s.n.), detail testa, x690; l, B. cinnabarina (de Michel 16), x160; m, B. hydrophyloides (Idrobo & Evans Schultes 560), x200; n, B. serotina (Camp E 3716), x200; o, B. pearcei (van Veldhuizen 580), x170.
PLATE 13.—Seeds of sections Eupetalum (including former section Hussia), Apteran, Barya, Pilderia, and Austrole: a, B. tumbezensis (Weberbauer 76854), ×220; b, B. monophylla (Pringle s.n.), ×190; c, B. novogranatae (Dawe 272), ×190; d, B. exalata (Sódiro 397), ×190; e, cuticle, ×1970; f, B. boliviensis (Hawkes c.s. 3620), detail testa, ×740, g, seed, ×170; h, B. monadelpha (Weberbauer 6174), ×120; j, B. soror (Wurdack 1627), ×130; k, B. buddeljofolia (Holguer Lugo S. 5042), ×220, n, detail cuticle, ×2380; l, B. tafiensis (Venturi 3093), ×140; m, B. micranthera var. micranthera (Petersen & Hjerting s.n.), ×160; o, B. micranthera var. foliosa (West 6216), detail testa, ×550.
PLATE 14.—Seeds of sections *Urniformia* and *Gireoudia*: a, *B. heydei* (Haber & Bello 7645), x115, b, detail testa, x870; c, *B. plebeja* (Taylor 17303), x170, d, detail cuticle, x2460; e, *B. jenmannii* (Maguire & Fanshawe 23087), x190; f, *B. multinervia* (van Veldhuizen 661), x180; g, *B. sericoneura* (van Veldhuizen 392), detail cuticle, x2710, h, seed, x180; i, *B. urophylla* (van Veldhuizen 655), x140; j, *B. sartorii* (Bourgeau 2100), x150; k, *B. crassicaulis* (Steyermark s.n.), x160; l, *B. involucrata* (Standley 34241), x190; m, *B. conchifolia* (Wilbur 24349), x160.
PLATE 15.—Seeds of sections Gireoudia, Hexapera, Dissepbegonia, Podandra, and Weilbachia: a, B. barkeri (Smith 690), ×160; b, B. cardiocarpa (Utile 5917), ×180; c, B. heracleifolia (Bourkeas 1583), ×190; d, B. oax-acaica (Davidse et al. 26139) ×140, e, detail testa, ×510 (McVaugh 10266); f, B. palmeri (Mexia 219), detail testa, ×560, g, seed, ×190; h, B. decandra (Krug & Urban 1121), ×180, j, detail testa, ×590; k, B. aridicaulis (van Veldhuizen 529), detail testa, ×830, l, seed, ×190; m, B. purpusii (Matuda 3406), ×140; n, B. imperialis (DTH 5397) ×145; o, B. alice-clarkiae (van Veldhuizen 497), ×170.
PLATE 16.—Seeds of section Ruizipavonia: a. B. alnifolia (Mocquerys 1219), ×180, b. detail cuticle, ×2620; c, B. peruviana (Sandeman 4378), detail testa, ×400, f, seed, ×190; d. B. corredorana (Stutch 4733), ×260; e, B. carpinnifolia (Kappelle & Monge 3635), ×140; g. B. thiemei (Calderon 2258), ×200; h. B. bracteosa (Ellenberg 815), detail cuticle, ×1640, k, seed, ×180; j. B. udisylvestris (Burger & Stolze 5250), detail testa, ×490, m. seed, ×115; l. B. seemanniana (Seemann 1661), ×200; n. B. suprafasciata (Weberbauer 7907), ×145; o. B. cuatrocasiana (Forrero-Jaramillo 2403), ×180.
PLATE 17.—Seeds of sections *Ruizopavonia* and *Doratometra*: a, *B. estrellensis*, ×130 (Zamora c.s. 512), b, ×145 (Liesner 1023); c, *B. steyermarkii* (Cowan & Soderstrom 1841), ×200; d, *B. wallichiana* (Stanford c.s. 972), detail cuticle, ×2610, g, seed, ×180; e, *B. prieurii* (Irwin c.s. 48113), detail testa, ×420, f, seed, ×200; h, *B. filipes* (Thiébaut 41), ×240; j, *B. humilis* (Egger 1404), ×210; k, *B. tondazii* (Grayum 8132), ×220; l, *B. hirsuta* (Herb. Spligergerianum), ×190; m, *B. hirtella* (Lourteig 2308), ×210.
PLATE 18.—Seeds of section Begonia: a, B. obliqua (Duss 973), x170; d, detail testa, x1890; b, B. roupellifolia (cult., Liège), x180; c, B. glandulifera (Van Steenis 20304), x200; e, B. plumieri var. barahonensis (Miguel Fuertes 432), detail testa, x1150; h, seed, x160; f, B. odorata (Morton 5066), x160; g, B. retusa (Stoffers 3116), x200; J, B. guaduensis (Maas & Westra 3677), x150; k, B. cubensis (Ziesenhenne s.n.), x160; l, B. cyathophora (Mexia 8128), x180; m, B. altoperuviana (Weddell 4556), x170; n, B. organensis (Sucre c.s. 3003), x130.
PLATE 19.—Seeds of section Begonia: a, *B. cucullata* var. *cucullata*, ×125 (Irwin c.s. 19961), b, ×125 (Bartlett 21359), c, detail cuticle, ×1730 (Bartlett 21359); d, *B. cucullata* var. *arenosicola* (Pedersen 10232), ×190; e, *B. fischeri* var. *fischeri* (Steyermark & Rabe 96605), ×100, f, detail testa, ×470; g, *B. alchemilloides* (Irwin c.s. 34478), ×190; h, *B. balansae* (Balansa 3281), ×150; i, *B. descoleana* (Hatschbach 9944), ×160; j, *B. fischeri* var. *klugii* (Klug 3389), ×115; l, *B. per-dusenii* (Smith, Klein, & Schnorrenberger 11728), ×190; m, *B. subvillosa* var. *leptotricha* (Fiebrig 5354), ×180.
PLATE 20.—Seeds of section Knesebeckia: a, B. incarnata (Liebm. 177), ×180; d, detail testa, ×610; b, B. kollermannii (Ziesenhenne s.n.), ×140; c, B. peltata (Boom 14288), ×160; e, B. gracilis (Pringle 11452), detail testa, ×970; h, seed, ×200; f, B. boissieri (van Veldhuizen 747), ×180; g, B. ludwigii (van Veldhuizen 618), ×140; j, B. sandfii (Ziesenhenne s.n.), ×170; k, B. angustirolba (Diguet s.n.), ×190; l, B. falciloba (Bourgeau 649), ×170; m, B. ignea (Pittier & Durand 1299), ×140; n, B. uniflora (Roybal 647), ×150.
PLATE 21.—Seeds of sections Knesebeckia and Donaldia: a. B. oelgaardii (Baker 6396), ×190; b. B. maynensis (Prance c.s. 7409), ×220; c. detail testa, ×780; d. B. olbia (van Veldhuizen 434), detail testa, ×610; g. seed, ×140; e. B. wollnyi (van Veldhuizen 433), ×240; f. B. dichroa (Ziesenhenne s.n.), ×140; h. B. ulmifolia (Hekking 1428), ×210; k. detail chalaza, ×420; j. B. dasycarpa (Glaziou 15388), detail testa, ×760; l. seed, ×160; m. B. chaetocarpa var. chaetocarpa (Kuntze s.n.), ×210; n. B. chaetocarpa var. glabriflora (Rusby 690), ×180; o. B. bangii (Bang 406), ×180.