



'Siberia Lemon': A new cultivar from Finca Siberia in Adjuntas

By Bob Castro, HSPR Member

When we first developed an interest in heliconias we started buying from various sources. Some were rhizomes, some potted plants. In keeping with my science training, I kept (and still keep) records of every plant in the collection.

One of the plants (a potted one) was obtained at Vivero Anones, Sherry's farm, as *Heliconia champneiana* 'Maya Gold'. On flowering (Figure 1), Sherry noticed that it was not a 'Maya Gold', but probably a seedling of *Heliconia latispatha* 'Mexican Gold' (the flower is very similar to another 'Mexican Gold' seedling, 'Bleeding Heart', but without the cherry colored rachis). Sherry is almost certain that she must have misread the old label when pulling out the plant, being that the names 'Maya Gold' and 'Mexican Gold' are so similar.



Fig. 1. Bright lemon yellow inflorescence of 'Siberia Lemon'.

The inflorescence has a very bright lemon yellow color with bright green true flowers and the keel of the lower bracts have a greenish tint (Figure 2). The inside of the basal bracts has reddish blotches like *Heliconia caribaea* 'Gold' (Figure 3). The bracts are short and stubby, with a large cheek that covers the rachis as in *H. caribaea*.



Fig. 2. Two inflorescences of 'Siberia Lemon', showing the greenish tint on the lower bracts.



Fig. 3. Reddish blotches on the bract interior of 'Siberia Lemon'.

It is interesting to note that this cultivar comes from the same parent that produced other new cultivars, such as 'Coral Surprise', 'Bleeding Heart', 'German's

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Dates to Remember

- HSPR Meeting, 10:00 am, Sunday, December 9, 2007. Farm of Frank Lopez, Aibonito, PR.
- Heliconia Society International Conference, June 22-27, 2008, Iquitos, Peru.

'Siberia Lemon' - A new cultivar (continued)

Luck' and 'Doña Aida' (see December 2006 HSPR Newsletter). Sherry suggested and we accepted the name 'Siberia Lemon' for this cultivar, due to the lemon yellow color and the name of our farm.

We should place more emphasis in growing heliconias from seed because with so many plants growing close to each other there is a great possibility of cross breeding and development of new cultivars. *Heliconia latispatha* 'Mexican Gold' seems to be especially desirable as a parent.

Zingiberales in Trinidad: A photo album *By Bryan Brunner, HSPR Member*

In May of this year I was happy to have a work-related meeting on the Caribbean island of Trinidad, which I had not had the pleasure of visiting before. Although it was a short trip, I was able to spend a great day with Sandra Barnes, Heliconia Society International board member, who graciously showed me around a tiny part of that beautiful country. Besides the great food and interesting culture, which is a melting pot of British, Indian and African traditions, I was able to visit some great farms and meet heliconia and ginger enthusiasts. The following are some photos from the trip. Thanks, Sandra!



Erle Rahaman-Noronha, owner of Wa Samaki Farm, with cut flowers waiting to be delivered to local customers.



George deVerteuil, Sandra Barnes, and Erle Rahaman-Noronha, Wa Samaki Farm, Freeport, Trinidad.



Gorgeous white *Alpinia purpurata* that is quite common in Trinidad but very rare in Puerto Rico.

Zingiberales in Trinidad: A photo album
(continued)



Peter and Chauncy Moll, owners of San Antonio Nursery, Port of Spain, Trinidad.



Sandy Gibson with the new Grenadian cultivar *Heliconia psittacorum x spathocircinata* 'Johnson Beharry V.C', Santa Cruz, Trinidad.



Beautiful new orange *Heliconia bihai* cultivar (still unnamed) from San Antonio Nursery.



The newly registered pale greenish yellow cultivar *H. psittacorum x H. spathocircinata* 'Lucille Gibson', named by Sandy Gibson for his wife.

HELICONIA SOCIETY OF PUERTO RICO, INC.

www.heliconiasocietypr.org

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HSPR

*Promoting Zingiberales in
Puerto Rico since 1996.*



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

President's Corner

We wish to express our extreme gratitude to Edgardo Varela for hosting our last meeting at his beautifully landscaped farm in Caguas. We had a very good attendance and several new members joined us. Arnaldo Astacio gave us a most informative and enjoyable lecture on raising orchids and everyone had a good time at the raffle after a sumptuous meal. Our December meeting will be held at the farm of Franklin López in Aibonito where Frank will donate a roasted pig for our Christmas banquet. Arnaldo Astacio will give us another lecture on how to tell the difference between *Heliconia bihai* and *Heliconia stricta*. Please try to attend this December meeting, on the second Sunday in December. Historically it has been one of our most enjoyable meetings. Be sure to bring lots of plants for raffle and for sale. A good lively raffle always makes the meeting more enjoyable.

Remember that the December meeting will be when we elect all new officers for the next two years. Have candidates in mind for nominations. Remember, if you are nominated and elected to a position, as a member in good standing in our society it is your duty to give of your time and service as one of our society officials. We all have to take responsibility for serving our society in whatever way we can. Being and serving as an officer is one of our duties as a member of the society. We have to share and rotate these responsibilities to keep our society growing and functioning in a wonderful manner. We will need to elect a new president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and three officers at large.

I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Melania Rivera for substituting as our secretary when Enilda Cabrera had to resign her post. Yolanda Reyes has done a great job as a treasurer, and Bryan Brunner and Bob Castro have done fabulous jobs in producing and mailing out first class bulletins for our society. I would also like to especially thank Bryan Brunner for the tremendous amount of time and labor he has put in our newsletter, on building and updating an internet website for our society, and

for now compiling a registry of heliconia cultivars for the Heliconia Society International.

My wife, Migdalia, and I have been very honored for me to be your president for the last four years. Your friendships and our fellowship together have been cherished events that will be remembered all of our lives. During my term as president of HSPR, our co-op HSPR Conservation Group has been accepted by the HSI as one of its international heliconia conservation centers. I believe that, collectively, we have the largest collection of heliconias of any Conservation Center anywhere in the world. Since I have all records for our Conservation Center in my computer, I will be happy to continue keeping up with making additions and deletions to our collection, and yearly making a report of such to central HSI headquarters, unless someone else in our society would like to take over this job. We have also had three international heliconia experts visit us and give us slide show/lecture presentations for our members and the public, as part of our "Meet the Experts" lecture series. So far we have had José Abalo, Carla Black, and Bruce Dunstan as our experts. We have all been able to increase our collections inexpensively through our raffles and plant sales. Overall I think we have had a marvelous four years during my presidency, and I wish to thank each of you for your continued support and friendships throughout my period of office.

During our last meeting it was decided that, from henceforth, our newsletter will publish articles both in Spanish and English, and the secretary's minutes of the last meeting and the treasurer's report will appear in each bulletin, rather than taking meeting time for these reports.

Best regards always,

Ray Jerome
President, HSPR

Minutes of September's meeting *Melania Rivera, Secretary*

The Heliconia Society of Puerto Rico met last September 16, 2007, at the Centro Comunal Hormigas, adjacent to the farm of Edgardo Varela. The meeting started at 10:30am, presided by Ray Jerome. On behalf of the society, Ray gave special thanks to Edgardo for hosting the meeting. There were no minutes from the previous meeting since it was a conference given by Bruce Dunstan. In order to save time, Arnaldo made a motion that the minutes and the treasurer's report be sent with the mailing. The motion was seconded, voted on, and the motion was carried.

Yolanda indicated that she had not had time to verify the society's current bank account due to her graduate studies. She did, however, indicate that the IVU had been paid because there is a fine for nonpayment.

Under old business, Ray mentioned that the last "Meet the Experts" conference was well attended by the Heliconia Society of Puerto Rico members, but not by outsiders. He also indicated that Bruce Dunstan enjoyed the Puerto Rican hospitality and was told by Bruce that Puerto Rico has the largest collection of heliconias in the world.

Ray said that the members of the HSPR Conservation Center need to send a list of their plants with deletions and additions of heliconias. If a member does not remember what they previously submitted, he/she can ask Ray what was submitted. Ray has copies of the list that was sent to the Heliconia Society International. Ray suggested that members continue to label their plants. Judy suggested what she recently used, plastic labels which are made for cows' ears. They come in different colors. Ray volunteered to continue to keep a record for the conservation unless there is any opposition.

Roberto Castro made a motion that the newsletter be bilingual. Potential contributors are intimidated by the fact that newsletter articles are currently in English. The newsletter needs contributors. Roberto's motion was seconded, voted on, and approved by the membership.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 9th. It will be held at Frank Lopez's place. Frank is donating the lechón to the society for the party. A map and instructions on how to get to Frank's house will be sent later. At this meeting Arnaldo will give a conference regarding the difference between *H. bihai* and *H. stricta*.

Ray announced that in the December meeting there will be an election for the new board. Sergio, who is the current vice president, will be unable to fill the position of president. Ray wants the membership to think of candidates for this election.

Ray turned the meeting to Arnaldo, who gave a conference on the different types of orchids. The meeting adjourned at 12:14 pm.

Heliconia Society International 2008 Conference, Iquitos, Peru



Images of the Cuzco vendor and Machu Picchu courtesy of Dave Schlessler, Nature's Images, Inc.



Make plans to attend the 2008 Conference of the Heliconia Society International June 22-27 in the heart of the Amazon jungle, in Iquitos, Peru!!! We will have an exciting pre conference tour to the ancient Inca city of Machu Picchu, one of the wonders of the world, and a post conference tour of the majestic Amazon River. For more details, please go to: www.amazonriverexpeditions.com/hsiconference2008

