

***Begonia bimaensis*, a new species of *Begonia* from Sumbawa Island, Indonesia**

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ABSTRACT. A new species of *Begonia* sect. *Reichenheimea*, *B. bimaensis* Undaharta & Ardaka, is described from Mt Muria in Bima District, Sumbawa Island, Indonesia. The species is a narrow endemic, currently known from only one population, and has been assessed as Vulnerable using IUCN criteria.

Keywords. *Begonia*, Sumbawa, new species

Introduction

The pantropical genus *Begonia* L. is one of the largest genera of flowering plants, comprising more than 1700 species (Hughes, 2008 and the many species described since then). Southeast Asia is a hotspot of species diversity for *Begonia* (Hughes, 2008), with Indonesia being particularly rich in species and with many species still being discovered (Hughes, 2008; Thomas & Hughes, 2008; Girmansyah, 2009, 2012; Girmansyah et al., 2009; Hughes et al., 2009; Thomas et al., 2009, 2011; Ardi & Hughes, 2010; Wiriadinata, 2011; Ardi et al., 2013, 2014; Ardi, 2014; Lin & Peng, 2014). From these works the current estimate for the total number of *Begonia* species in Indonesia is 213 species.

There are only a few *Begonia* species recorded for Nusa Tenggara Barat (West Nusa Tenggara), and currently only two species have been reliably recorded from the largest island, Sumbawa (*B. multangula* Blume – Hughes & Pullan, 2007; and *B. muricata* Blume – Hughes, 2008). Examination of herbarium specimens shows that several endemic species remain to be described from the region. The lack of records for widely distributed species, such as *Begonia longifolia* Blume, may also reflect the poor documentation of the *Begonia* flora of Sumbawa, since we have seen herbarium material of this species from the surrounding islands of Bali, Lombok, Sumba and Timor.

During a fieldtrip to Sumbawa Island, a small population of an unknown *Begonia* from Mount Maria was found. Two living specimens were brought to the Bali Botanic Garden where they were cultivated. As these specimens could not be identified, the new species *Begonia bimaensis* is described here. *Begonia bimaensis* is placed in *Begonia* section *Reichenheimia* (Klotzsch) A.DC. as it exhibits the characters typical of the section: rhizomatous or tuberous stems, protandrous inflorescences, and three locular ovaries with entire placentae (Doorenbos et al., 1998).

All available *Begonia* specimens from the Herbarium of Bali Botanic Garden, BO, E, K, L and SING have been consulted and hence it must be assumed, at least until more intensive collecting in Sumbawa reveals otherwise, that the species described here has a very restricted range.

Species description

Begonia bimaensis Undaharta & Ardaka **sp. nov.** § *Reichenheimia*

Similar to *Begonia sendangensis* Ardi but differs in the dense white, long hairs on the adaxial surface of leaves (versus glabrous), female flower with four tepals (versus three) and the ovary with 3 wings, reddish, equal or subequal, locules 3, placentation axillary. Ovary characters for *Begonia sendangensis*, pinkish, equal, rounded at base, placentae axile. – TYPE: Cultivated at Bali Botanical Garden from vegetative material collected in the wild from Indonesia, West Nusa Tenggara, Sumbawa Island, Bima, Wawo, Ntori, Mt. Maria, 08°29'55"S 118°52'41"E, 525 m elev., 4 October 2010. Cultivated material vouchered and selected as type material on 11 December 2012 under *I Made Suja HK 1276* (holotype Herbarium Bali Botanic Garden; isotype BO). (Fig 1)

Perennial, tuberous, monoecious small herb, less than 10 cm tall. **Stems** very reduced, an elongated tuber 1.5–1.8 cm long, diameter 3–4 mm, internodes c. 1 mm long; stipules ovate to elliptic, c. 3 × 1–2 mm, pale green, apex projecting up to c. 6 mm long, persistent. **Leaves** alternate; petioles 3.5–7.5 cm long, red, sparsely covered with long pilose hairs c. 2–5 mm long; lamina basifixed, 4–6.5 × 2.5–5 cm, ovate to broadly ovate, asymmetric, base cordate, lobes not or rarely overlapping, apex acuminate, margin shallowly to moderately lobed, ciliate with a fringe of hairs; adaxial surface green to reddish green, densely covered with white pilose hairs, abaxial surface red, glabrous; venation palmate, red, primary veins 5–6, adaxially green to brownish, abaxially pale red. **Inflorescence** a simple dichasial cyme, few-flowered, axillary, protandrous, bisexual; peduncle 3–6 cm long, pink, glabrous; bracts minute, sub-orbicular, margin slightly fimbriate, deciduous. **Male flowers**: pedicels 15–18 mm long; tepals 4, pink, glabrous, two outer tepals ovate to suborbicular, 8–14 × 8–11 mm, apex rounded, two inner tepals narrowly obovate, 5–12 × 4–6 mm, tip slightly obtuse, androecium yellow, symmetric, globose; stamens c. 40, filaments fused at base into short column c. 1 mm long, anthers c. 0.5 mm long, obovate, dehiscing through lateral slits more than half the length of the anther, apex slightly retuse. **Female flowers**: pedicels 2.5–4 mm long, bracteoles present, with hairs, ovate, c. 2 mm long, persistent; tepals 4, pink, glabrous, two outer tepals suborbicular, c. 9.5–12 × 7.5–12.5 mm; glabrous, two inner tepals elliptic, c. 8–10 × 3.5–5 mm; ovary 3–4 × 4 mm (excluding wings), ellipsoid, glabrous, greenish white, locules 3, placentation axile, wings 3, equal or sub equal, reddish green triangular, widest point at the middle of the ovary, c. 1.5 mm long; stigma 3, U-shaped, stigmatic surface twisted. **Fruit**: pedicel 2–5 mm long, capsule ovoid, 4–5 × 5–6.5 mm (excluding wings), dehiscent, splitting along the wing attachments, wing shape as for

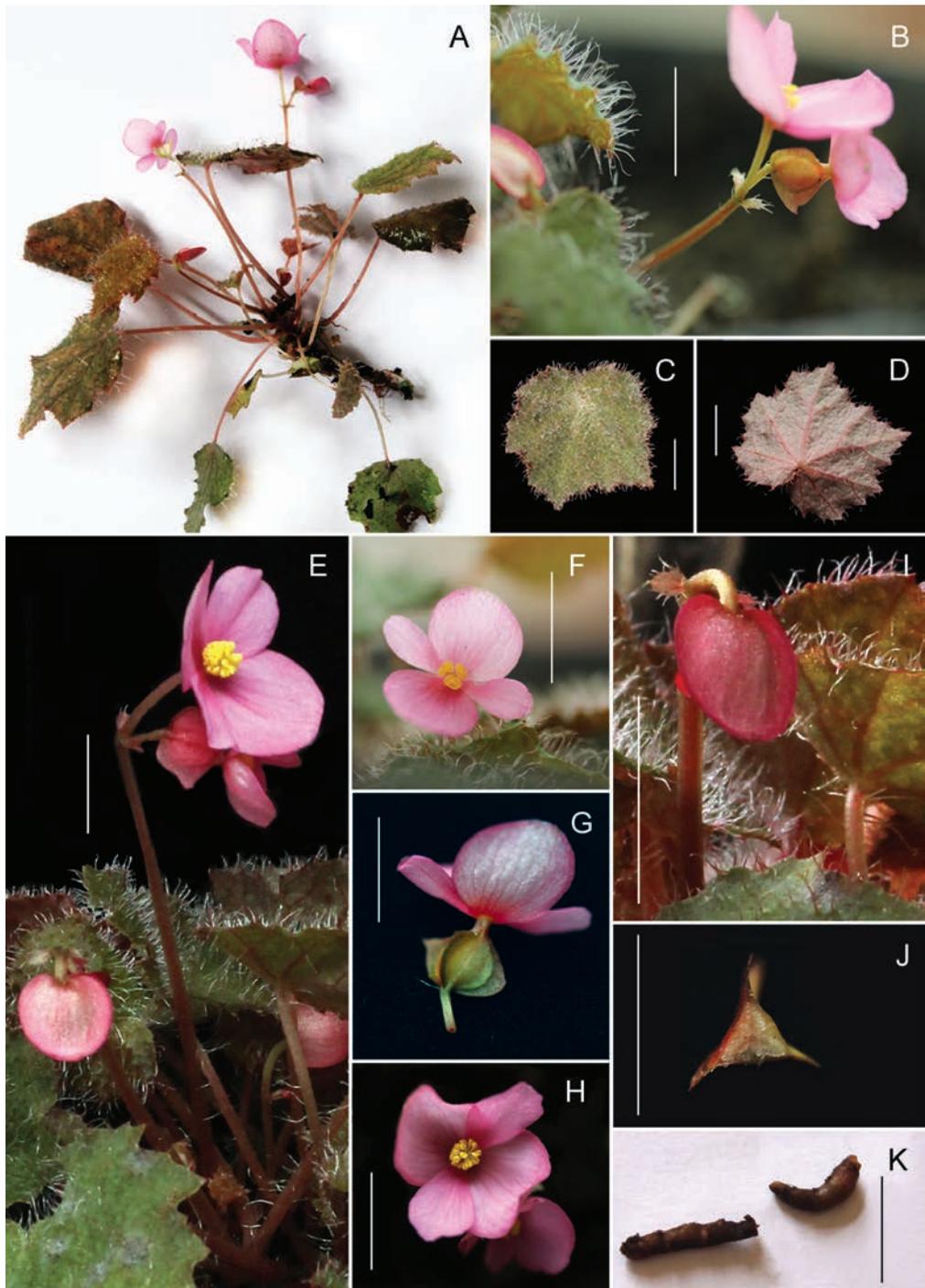


Fig. 1. *Begonia bimaensis* from cultivated material in Bali Botanic Garden. **A–B.** Habit; **C.** Leaf, adaxial surface; **D.** Leaf, abaxial surface; **E.** Inflorescence; **F.** Female flower; **G.** Female flower; **H.** Male flower; **I.** Bracts; **J.** Ovary transverse section; **K.** Tubers; Scale bars: 1 cm. (Photos: Gede Wawan Setiadi)

the ovary, wings widest subapically, 8 mm. *Seeds* numerous, brown, widely ellipsoid or ellipsoid, c. 0.35 mm long, 0.2 wide.

Distribution. Endemic to Mt Muria, Bima district, Sumbawa, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia.

Habitat. This species grows on steep rocky cliffs in shade, at c. 525 m altitude.

Preliminary IUCN conservation assessment. *Begonia bimaensis* is probably a narrowly endemic species, restricted to Mt Muria which is not formally protected. As the species is known only from a single population with a small number of individuals, a provisional IUCN category of CR D is appropriate (IUCN, 2012).

Notes. The epithet '*bimaensis*' refers to the Bima district from where the type material was collected. *Begonia bimaensis* is unusual in *Begonia* section *Reichenheimia* in Indonesia on account of its tuberous habit, which is similar to *Begonia sendangensis*, a species recently described from the neighbouring island of Lombok (Ardi et. al, 2014). However, apart from the presence of tubers, the two species are morphologically dissimilar and *Begonia bimaensis* can easily be distinguished by the dense white long hairs on the upper surface of the leaves. The number of tepals in the female flower and the shape of the ovary wings provide further differences: The female flowers of *Begonia bimaensis* have four tepals whereas the female flowers of *B. sendangensis* have three tepals; in *B. bimaensis*, the shape of the wings in the ovary is very distinctive, being triangular and mostly cuneate at apex (versus rounded at base and truncate at the apex), reddish.

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