Begonia species ‘Borneo B’

This plant was grown from seed collected in Borneo by Scott Hyndman. It was reported to be growing near Begonia metallicolor, which it somewhat resembles, other than being ten times taller, with bigger leaves of a different color, and having less-showy flowers.
Top View

You might see it from this angle if you were walking in Borneo, or if you were standing on a ladder looking down into a terrarium.
Leaves
The leaves grow to 8 inches long and 3.5 inches wide (so far). They are a deep green and look hairless at a quick glance. They are puckered upward between the veins.
Red at Base of Leaf

The leaves have a red stripe at the base, along the main vein and extending a bit to the sides.
More Leaves

This picture gives a good impression of the texture, raised between veins.

You can also see a young leaf, lighter green, with more conspicuous edge treatment.
Leaves, Closer

You may notice tiny white dots on the leaf surface, especially on the right. These are thorn-like projections.
Thorn-like Projections

The leaves superficially look hairless, but you can feel occasional projections. They are found on the top and bottom surfaces, tending to form lines halfway between the veins. They also occur on the veins on the underside.

They are multi-cellular and are too broad to be thought of as hairs. They are apparently solid; I haven’t seen a matching indentation on the opposite surface.
Veins

The leaf veins on the reverse side of the leaf have small red dots. At least some of the dots are hairs.
Leaf Reverse

The back side of the leaf is a lighter green.

Notice the irregular teeth along the edge.
Decay Spots

For me, the older leaves tend to get decay spots along the edges and between the veins. It is probably a form of fungus.

I sometimes pick off the old leaves and stick the base into the medium around the base of the plant. They often propagate despite the spotting.

This picture also gives a view of the stipules.
Plant Habit

The plant has gotten almost two feet tall (60cm) (so far). It tends to drop lower leaves.

I am growing it in a tall hexagonal terrarium (a former aquarium from a yard sale).

The plant is reaching almost to the top, so I may need to try it in the greenhouse soon. It might very well work; I have a small plant of Begonia metallicolor out there, and it hasn’t died yet.
Stem Habit

The plant has been forming a horizontal stem along the surface of the moss, with vertical branch stems that carry the leaves. It readily forms roots along the stems.

This distance between nodes along the stem is about 6cm, a little over two inches.

Behind the stems, you can also see where I have put a leaf base down to root.
Male Inflorescence

The male inflorescences are relatively short, and the flowers are relatively small. The tepal on the open flower is about 0.25" (6mm) wide.
Female Inflorescence

This is also small and short. Notice the greenish color of the tepals.
Fallen Female Flowers

This picture includes a metric ruler for scale. Notice the small teeth on the tepals.
Begonia metallicolor

For comparison, this species from the same habitat has similar leaf texture on slightly smaller leaves. These leaves also have “spines” along the ridges, red and somewhat thinner than on “B”. The leaves are much darker. It is about ten times shorter in stature. The flowers are far showier.