

# New subspecies of *Begonia* reported from Philippines

August 23 2022, by Zhang Nannan

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*Begonia bangsamoro* subsp. *Bagasa*. Credit: Mark Arcebal K. Naive

Mt. Timolan Protected Landscape is one of the declared protected areas of the Philippines and is characterized by a variety of habitats. The presence of various microhabitats is reflected in the diversity of flora

and fauna found there. However, limited information is available and biodiversity studies are scarce up until at present.

In ongoing taxonomic studies of the genus *Begonia* in the island of Mindanao, researchers from the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and their collaborators collected a population of peculiar *Begonia* section *Petermannia* species. After meticulously examining its [morphology](#) and comparing it with protologues and available digitized type specimens from across the Philippines and neighboring countries, they confirmed it as a subspecies of *Begonia bangsamoro* that is new to science.

The new subspecies was named as *Begonia bangsamoro* subsp. *Bagasa* and published in *Phytotaxa*. It is the 17th representative of the genus *Begonia* for Zamboanga peninsula, Philippines.

The new subspecies is a terrestrial, monoecious, perennial herb, up to 30 cm long. It differs from *Begonia bangsamoro* subsp. *bangsamoro* in having staminate and pistillate flowers with much narrower and elongate tepals.

The new subspecies is endemic to the Zamboanga Peninsula. It was found in deeply shaded lower montane forest with damp soil growing along the trail with an elevation of 700–900 m a.s.l. It was also found growing as a terrestrial, lithophyte and as a climber on tree ferns.

The conservation status of the new [subspecies](#) is proposed as "Least concern" (LC), following the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Standards.



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**More information:** Mark Arcebal K. Naive et al, Taxonomy of the genus *Begonia* (Begoniaceae) in Mindanao, Philippines IV: *Begonia bangsamoro* subsp. *bagasa* (*Begonia* section *Petermannia*), a new subspecies from Zamboanga del Sur, *Phytotaxa* (2022). [DOI: 10.11646/phytotaxa.559.1.10](https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.559.1.10)

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