
HOW THEY'RE NAMED WHAT THEY'RE NAMED

Begonia blancii, named for person – Patrick Blanc

By Sally Savelle

Begonia blancii is a stunning species with many forms, from the Philippine island of Palawan. *B. blancii* is endemic to one locality, although it is common there. It grows on sides of small boulders in shade of primary forest. The rocks there are almost bare of soil and moss, with plant roots growing directly on the rock surface. It is trailing scandent. There are several forms of *B. blancii* including light green, mottled, and dark green.

The researchers who published *B. blancii* consider this species to belong to the Least Concern IUCN category, as although it is only known from the one collection site, "there are likely to be other populations in the as yet unexplored neighbouring forests... Any increased degradation of the forest habitat will instantly lead to this species becoming liable to listing under the Vulnerable category."



In the publication, the authors state that the "new species is named after Patrick Blanc, who first brought this interesting plant to our attention." [Patrick Blanc](#) is a French botanist and works at the French National Centre for Scientific Research while specializing in plants from tropical forests. He is described as a modern innovator of "green wall" (the vertical hydroponics garden), and has a lively reputation for being an adventurous plant explorer.



Topmost photo: Patrick Blanc and a mottled form of ***B. blancii*** in its habitat El Nido, Palawan, Philippines, March 2014; Above, left: ***B. blancii*** male and female flowers; lower left: ***B. blancii*** blackish form exhibiting leaf shade avoidance through indefinite petiole elongation, El Nido, Palawan; immediately above: ***B. blancii*** spotted and green forms.

All photos: www.verticalgardenpatrickblanc.com, copyright Pascal Heni