

*Impatiens
niamniamensis*



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Taxonomy

- Scientific name: *Impatiens niamniamensis*
- Family: Balsasminaceae
- Common names: Parrot Plant, Parrot Billed Impatiens, Congo Cockatoo, Cuckoo Flower, Red Cockies Beak (Eng.)
- Named in 1909 by Ernest Friedrich Gilg.



Geographic Distribution



- Continent(s): Africa
- Latitudinal Ranges:
15°S - 5°N
- Countries: Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Angola
- Altitude:
350-2450 m (1148-8038 ft)
- Tropical
- Invasiveness: no reports
 - Spreads by seed, creeping rhizomes



Native Habitat

- Moist, densely shaded areas in bushland, swampy and riverine forests.
- Along rivers, streams
- Cool ambient temperatures
- May grow as epiphyte on moss-covered trees, stumps.

Taxonomic Description

- Erect perennial herb up to 1 m tall
- Stem succulent, becoming woody below
- Lateral branching.



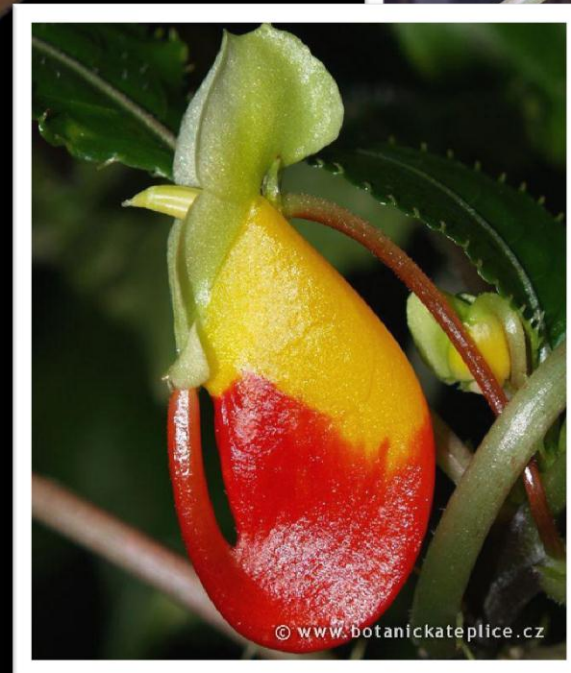
Taxonomic Description

- Leaves
 - Spiral
 - Simple, petiolate
 - Broadly ovate to lanceolate.
 - Margin crenate, usually overlapping
 - Glabrous or scattered hairs above
 - Glabrous or pubescent on midrib and lateral veins below.



Taxonomic Description

- Flowers
 - Axillary
 - 2–6-flowered fascicles at the base of leaves
 - Zygomorphic, perfect, complete
 - Lower sepal spurred; lateral petals paired, dorsal petal cucullate (hood-shaped).
 - Variable in color
 - Petals often white/yellow-green.
 - Lower spurred sepal purple, red, or yellow. Sepal often bicolor.



<http://www.tropicamente.it/home/catalogo/cata/g-h-i/g-h-i.htm>

Taxonomic Description

- Cross pollinated
 - Fused column of stamens covers stigma and ovary
 - Stamens shed as single unit before stigma is ripe



<http://www.obg.uni-bayreuth.de/images/monatspflanze/impatiens.jpg>

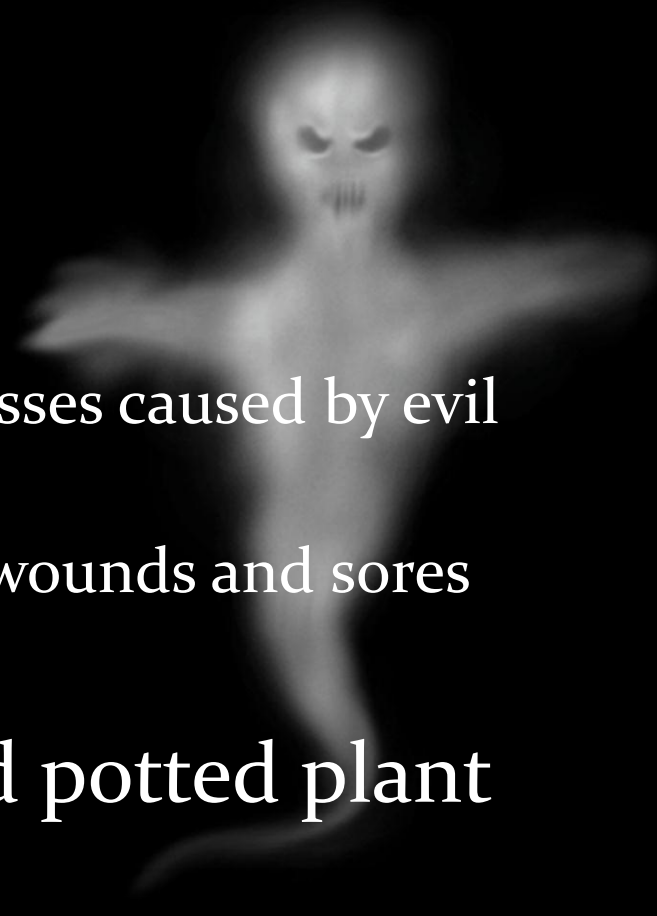
Taxonomic Description

- Fruit
 - Fleshy, 5-valved, fusiform capsule, 14–16 mm long.
 - Explosively dehiscent



Uses

- Uses by indigenous people
 - DR Congo and Congo
 - Vegetable
 - Cure for heart troubles and illnesses caused by evil spirits
 - Poultices and dressings to treat wounds and sores
- Other uses: Ornamental and potted plant throughout native region



Cultivars

'African Princess'



'Pink Princess'



'African King'



'Congo Cockatoo'/'African Queen'



'Golden Cockatoo'



Propagation Methods

- Vegetative cuttings: root easily in almost any media, even water.
- Seed: less successful, but possible
- Propagation method
 - 1" cuttings in soilless media
 - 75°F
 - high humidity, constant moisture
 - No need for IBA – can promote root rot
 - Transplant 1 – 2 weeks

Crop Ideotype

- Mature plants with mounded branching and profuse blooms.
- Market in decorative containers for use on patios and container gardens, which can then be brought indoors in winter.
- ‘Bonsai’ look.

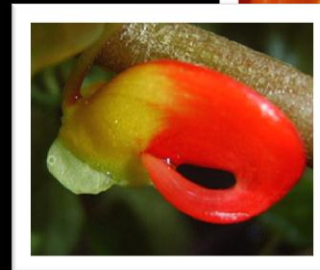
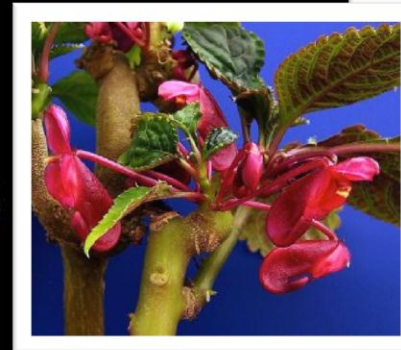
Crop Story

- “Bring the color and excitement of a tropical rainforest to your home year-round.”



Market Niche

- Year round plant – houseplant in winter, container or garden plant in summer
- Christmas
 - red/green; ornament-like flowers
- Halloween
 - candy corn flowers



Limitations



- Flowers well hidden by dense foliage
 - Especially when viewed from above



Competition



Production Schedule

- Cuttings to transplant
 - 10 days
- Flower bud initiation immediate and continuous
- 4 weeks to 8" plant
 - Moderately branched
 - 1/4 - 1/2 inch main stem
- 12 weeks to sale
 - Well branched
 - Thick, strong main stem
- Pinch to promote branching
- 68°F day/65°F night ideal for FBI/FD
- Hard cutting back on mature plants = profuse branching and flowering

Sources

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