

Espinas y Flores

BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

XIX, Number 2

February 11, 1984

FEBRUARY MEETING

Saturday February 11, 1984

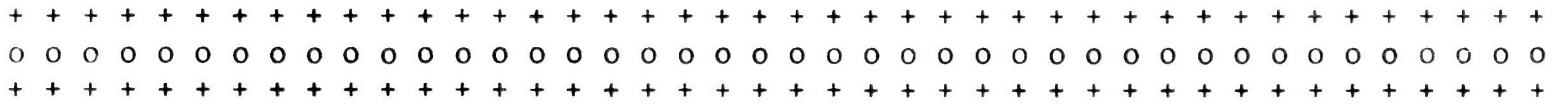
1:30 PM

Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

PROGRAM

Jim Dice, a member of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society will present a slide show on the succulents of Cedros Island, Baja, California.

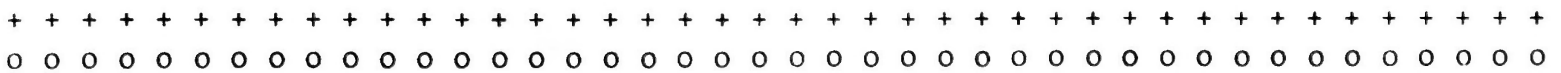
Jim is the curator of the Desert Gardens at the Huntington Garden in Arcadia. His trip to the Cedros Islands was made in conjunction with his work at Huntington.



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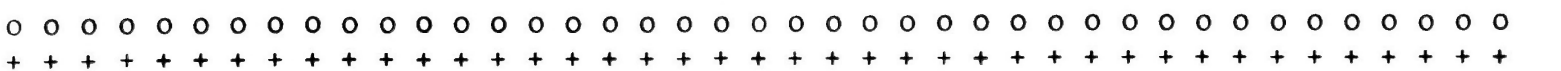
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DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE - FEBRUARY 25, 1984 -

Mary



SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH

PACHYPODIUM

ADENIUM

Family - APOCYNACEAE

Madelyn Lee

The spiny Pachypodium and its spineless relative the Adenium are both native to southern Africa and Madagascar. Plumeria and Oleander are also related to these interesting succulent plants.

ADENIUM

This genus consists of from six to eighteen species and varieties depending on what book you are reading at the time.

The 'Desert Rose' is indeed well named. Perhaps the most striking feature of these plants is their large, red, pink, or white flowers. The two inch plus, tube shaped flowers appear on the bare branches in great profusion from May to July. Then the glossy, green leaves appear on the plant.

The large caudex can have grey, green or light brown bark and reach a height of nine feet. Under cultivation it is best to trim the branches during the dormant period from November through March. The milky sap is high in toxalbumin and very poisonous, so care should be taken when cutting the plant.

Very loose, well drained, rich soil is necessary as the caudex will rot out if kept in a wet heavy medium. Water well when leaves are on the plant and use less water during the dormant period.

PACHYPODIUM

This genus consists of 26 species and varieties. Twenty are from Madagascar and six from southern Africa. Some species grow to thirty feet in height and others are fat, broad caudiciform shapes three to six feet tall and equally broad. Each species has a totally different personality and eye appeal.

Once established these plants are not difficult to grow. Most species seem to prefer a low, wide pot but the tree like types do better in a deeper container. Pachypodiums are almost totally grown in a warm greenhouse. If you live in a frost free area P. geayi, P. lamerei, and P. lealii saundersii become magnificent when planted in the ground. All species require a rich, well drained soil.

The main period of growth in San Diego is August through January. The various species usually bear white, pink, or yellow flowers from February through June and then have a short dormant period from July to August. P. namaquanum and P. brevicaule especially resent too much water during this time.

For more information read:

Succulents of Southern Africa by B. Barkhuizen

Lexicon of Succulent Plants by H. Jacobson

Cactus & Succulent Journal (U.S.) many articles

Key to the Succulent Apocynaceae

Cactus & Succulent Journal (U.S.) Vol. XLVI, p. 160. 1974

CACTUS-OF-THE-MONTH

THE CEPHALOCEREUS - PILOSOCEREUS GROUP

By Dorothy Dunn

Some of the most outstanding and appealing columnar cerei are contained in the Cephalocereus - Pilosocereus group. Originally most of these plants were simply classified under Cephalocereus, or even Cereus, but present-day botanists, Backeberg in particular, have separated them into distinct but closely-related genera such as Austrocephalocereus, Azureocereus, Pilosocereus and Pseudopilocereus, with the differences based primarily on detail of flower and cephalium. So, whereas Cephalocereus (according to Borg) once contained about 80 species (or 59, according to Britton and Rose), it has now been reduced to one - or possibly two - species. These are Cephalocereus senilis, the familiar and immensely popular 'Old Man' of Mexico, and the not so well-known C. hoppenstedtii, also from Mexico.

Cephalocereus are slow-growing, and in time form enormous unbranched columns, eventually reaching heights in nature of 30 to 40 feet. (A 40-foot Cephalocereus specimen would probably be at least 200 years old.) C. senilis, at about 20 feet, develops a dirty-white cephalium from which are produced the white, nocturnal flowers. These are foul-smelling, and are pollinated by vampire bats. C. senilis grows in habitat on hot, slaty cliffs; its principal requirements in cultivation are a very porous, well-drained soil, very careful watering, particularly in winter, and a minimum winter temperature of about 40 degrees F.

Most of the "displaced" species - (those possessing a pseudocephalium) - have been shifted into the genera Pilosocereus and Pseudopilocereus, which have an extremely wide geographical distribution ranging from Mexico through Central America and the West Indies to northern Peru and central Brazil. (Incidentally, this range is almost completely identical with that of Melocactus). Although tropical in nature, most Pilosocereus are very vigorous and easily-cultivated plants; once established they are relatively fast-growing and can tolerate generous amounts of sun and water. Their main requirement is protection from the coldest weather in winter. Probably the best-known species is Pilosocereus palmeri from the warm valleys of eastern Mexico. This is a branching cereus which may eventually reach a height of about 15 feet, but will usually begin flowering at about 3 feet. The flowers are pale pink, nocturnal, and also pollinated by bats. They are produced on only one side of the plants, from the pseudocephalium.

It might be helpful at this point to attempt to clarify the differences between cephalium and pseudocephalium. A cephalium is a mass of hair or wool which originates from the growing point

of a cactus, and in which the flowers, fruit, and seed are formed. The most distinctive examples of this occur in Melocactus and Disco-cactus, but is also applies to Cephalocereus. A pseudocephalium is derived from ordinary areoles which later develop tufts of hair, and, when used in the strictest sense, applies only to the genus Pilosocereus, where varying degrees of this "tuft" or hair development occur.

Other species of Pilosocereus and Pseudopilocereus often met with in cultivation include Pilosocereus alensis (Mexico), P. coeruleus (formerly P. aurisetus), P. azureus and P. bradei, all from Brazil, P. chrysacanthus and P. leucocephalus (Mexico), P. maxonii (Guatemala), Pseudopilocereus pachycladus and P. pentadrophorus (Brazil), and the Caribbean species Pilosocereus royenii from the West Indies. More recently-introduced species include Pilosocereus magnificus and P. glaucescens, and Pseudopilocereus fulvilanatus and P. superfloccosus, all from Brazil. These plants are all extremely attractive, being usually a very intense blue and developing copious white wool with age. The "maverick" in this group is Pseudopilocereus saxatilis var. densilanatus which more nearly resembles an Espositoa with its green body and long white wool.

The genus Austrocephalocereus was set up by Backeberg to cover the species of Cephalocereus found in South America. These plants tend to branch from the ground, and never attain the heights of Cephalocerei. There are at present only 6 species in the genus: these are Austrocephalocereus albicephalus, A. dybowskyi, A. purpureus, the lesser-known A. lehmannianus, and two outstanding recent discoveries, A. estevesii and A. dolichospermaticus. A. albicephalus is a handsome gold-spined plant from Brazil where it generally grows on and between rocks at an elevation of slightly more than 3,000 feet. With age it develops a striking cephalium of dense silky white wool, hence the specific name albicephalus. It was discovered as recently as 1972 by Leopold Horst. A. dybowskyi is another beautiful Brazilian species; even very young plants are densely covered with soft white hair. It branches freely from the base, and in its native habitat may reach a height of about 12 feet. None of the species of Austrocephalocereus are yet common in cultivation, but all are very beautiful plants.

Azureocereus, while not strictly related to the foregoing genera, deserves to be mentioned here. It is a very small genus (two species only) of startling blue, strongly-spined South American plants which eventually reach tree-like proportions (about 30 feet high). Their flowers are also nocturnal. A. hertlingianus, from Peru, has brilliant blue stems and long stout spines, and A. viridis (also from Peru) has greener stems, especially when young, and shorter spines.

Stephanocereus is another genus which is not closely related to Cephalocereus or Pilosocereus, although Werdermann at one time referred it to Pilosocereus on the basis of its fruit. It is a monotypic genus: its sole species, S. leucosteles, is from Brazil where the plants occur only as scattered individuals. It is a

spectacular single, unbranched, very slender columnar plant; relatively fast-growing, it may easily reach a height of 10 feet. Its unusual growth habit is similar to Arrojadoa in that it develops a tuft of bristles at the apex on reaching flowering age; new growth continues through this zone and then another similar apical tuft develops, and so forth. Its flowers are white and also nocturnal. It is still fairly rare in cultivation.

All of the above-mentioned plants have somewhat the same cultural requirements, with Cephalocerei probably being the most temperamental of the lot. They are all tender to frost, nocturnal flowering, and all make outstanding landscape specimens as well as being suitable for pot culture for many years.

Literature consulted

Backeberg, Curt:	<u>Cactus</u> <u>Lexicon</u>
Borg, J.	<u>Cacti</u>
Britton, N.L. and Rose, J.N.	<u>The Cactaceae</u>
Martin, Auger, and Chapman:	<u>Cacti</u> <u>and</u> <u>their</u> <u>Cultivation</u>

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FROM THE BOARD

Since the regular part of the meeting lasted so long the only thing discussed was the possibility of our club publishing a booklet on *Sclerocactus*.. This is dependent on printing costs. I was to get some estimates. Hopeful to have the book ready for the National meeting.

We will be discussing the survey taken at the December meeting this month and also how the plant exchange will be handled.

TREASURER'S REPORT DECEMBER 1983

| | Current
Month | Year
to Date | Notes |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| <u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u> \$6965.44 | | | |
| INCOME | | | |
| Interest | 28.56 | 333.65 | |
| Dues | | 1296.50 | Includes \$310.50 from N&D |
| Library Receipts | | 22.54 | |
| Gifts | | 28.56 | |
| | 28.56 | 1652.69 | Includes \$310.50 from N&D |
| Plant Table Sales | | 6529.90 | |
| Regalement Donations | 17.42* | 162.84 | * October |
| EVENTS Income | | | |
| CHRISTMAS Party 1982 | | 38.28 | Rebate |
| Benson "CACTI" | | 1050.00 | Includes \$770 from N&D |
| Gentry "AGAVES" | | 1025.00 | |
| Annual Show & Sale | | 7439.93 | |
| July Picnic | 28.00 | 444.50 | |
| Palm Springs Bus | | 280.00 | |
| East African Euphorbias | 67.50 | 67.50 | |
| CHRISTMAS Party 1983 | 225.75 | 225.75 | |
| MISCELLANEOUS Income | 6.0 | 27.60 | |
| | 373.23 | 17863.49 | Excludes all 1982 Income |
| DISBURSEMENTS | | | |
| ESPINAS y FLORES | 119.50 | 1797.72 | Includes \$436.72 Typewriter |
| Programs | | 646.71 | |
| Library Expense | 27.00 | 235.00 | |
| Gifts & Prizes | | 100.00 | |
| | 146.50 | 2779.43 | |
| Plant Table Expenses | 89.40 | 5799.82 | |
| Regalement Expenses | 16.50* | 158.69 | * October |
| EVENTS Expenses | | | |
| CHRISTMAS Party 1982 | | 2438.05 | Paid in Dec. |
| Benson "CACTI" | | 1038.00 | Paid in Dec. |
| Gentry "AGAVES" | | 1007.96 | |
| Annual Show & Sale | | 4375.58 | |
| July Picnic | | 438.34 | |
| Palm Springs Bus | | 370.00 | |
| East African Euphorbias | | 134.51 | |
| CHRISTMAS Party 1983 | 2769.71 | 2769.71 | |
| MISCELLANEOUS Expense | | 602.30 | |
| Stamps-Corresp. Sec. | 4.00 | | |
| Life Member Materials | 26.52 | | |
| | 3052.63 | 18436.34 | Excludes all 1982 Disburse. |
| <u>ENDING BALANCE</u> \$4286.04 | | | |

1983 Net -\$572.85

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JW Buckner

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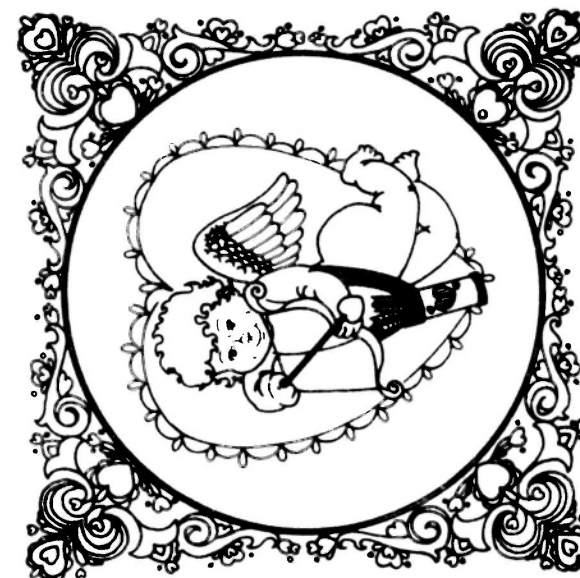
Dorothy Dunn, Phyllis Flechsig, Madelyn Lee
Joe Clements, Bud Aubuchon, Verna Pasek

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S.D. Floral Association - Verna Pasek
Liaison & Publicity: Robert Kent
Orientation:

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing cacti, other succulents and exotic plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 1:30 pm in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held after the general meetings. Annual dues are \$8.00 per single member per year, \$2.00 for each additional member of a household within a family. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are 60 cents.

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