



Espinas y Flores

MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

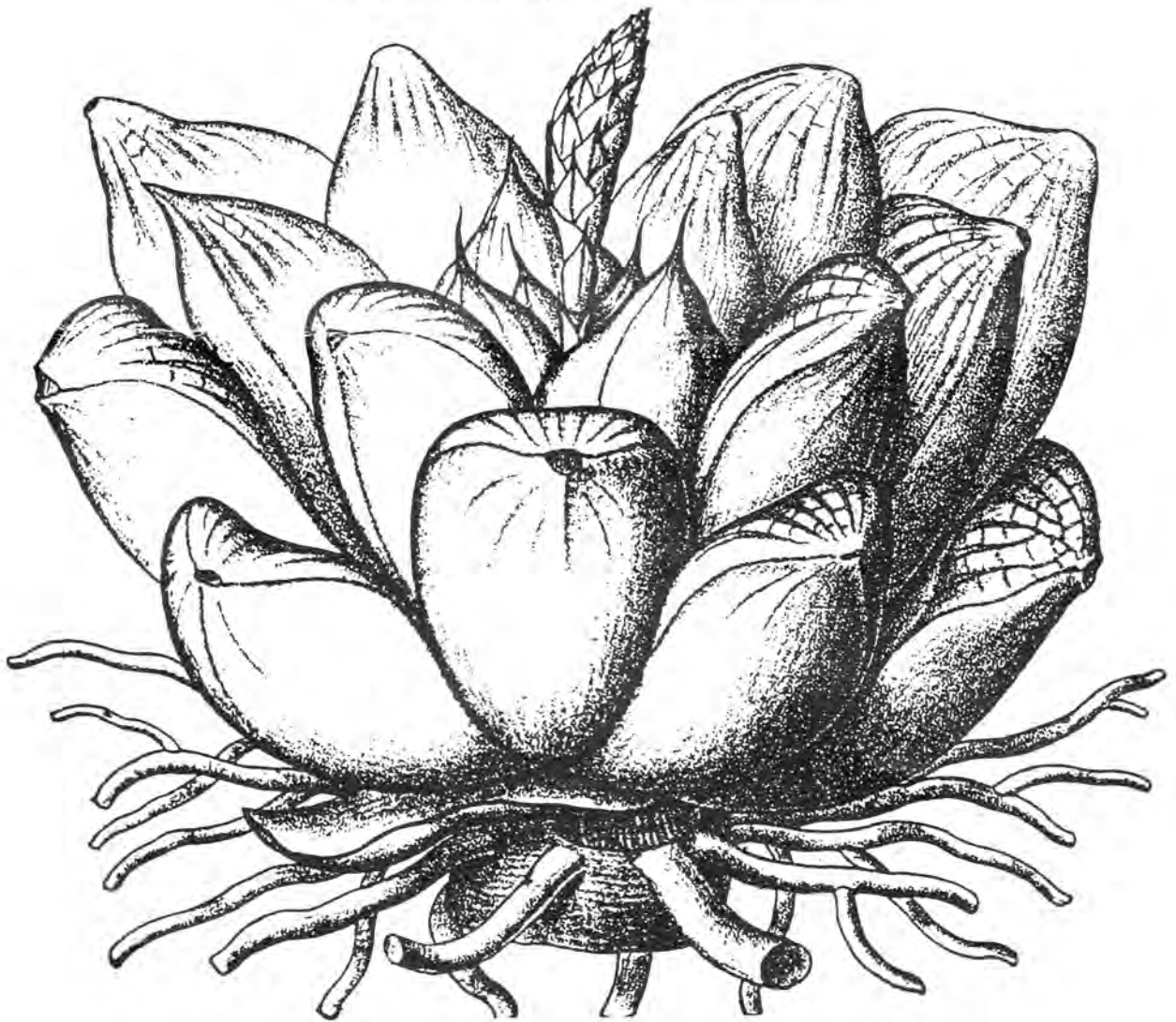
NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

VOLUME XXX NUMBER SEVEN, SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1995 @ 1:00PM

WORTHY HAWORTHIAS

Haworthia cymbiformis Haw.



Haworthias, "They don't all look alike", is our July program by specialist Bob Kent. Illustration from Das Pflanzenreich, Liliaceae-Asphodeloideae-Aloineae, by A. Berger, 1908, a rare source book - collection of the editors.



**FORTY PLUS SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY "DUES PAYING"
OR LIFE MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN THE TUCSON CSSA CONVENTION JUNE 19-24:**

Miles & Janice Anderson, Duke & Kaz Benadom, Joey Betzler, John Bleck, Michael & Joyce Buckner, Cynthia Carlson, Juan Chahinian, Joseph Clements, Chuck Everson, Bill Feldman Ph.D, Phyllis Flechsig, Jim & Roberta Hanna, Dylan Hannon, Mark Issenberg, Sol & Mary Kleinman, Thomas Knapik, Rick Latimer, Ellen Low, Mike & Catherine McCammon, Woody & Kathy Minnich, Dr. Larry Mitich, John & Dorothy Pasek, Kitty Sabo, Herman Schwartz MD, Steven & Rowena Southwell, Paul Steward, Leo van der Houven, Brigitte Williams, Jerry Williams, Monte Woodworth, Joe & Carol Wujcik, Stan Yalof, and last but by no means least brand new members: Lynn & LaWilla Wiison from Tulsa, Oklahoma. LaWilla is CSSA secretary and Lynn is a tall bearded handsome male cactus and succulent nursery owner!

The editors had a terrific time in Tucson. The natives were friendly, the skies were blue, and the climate pleasantly warm. The Tucson C&SS did a terrific job. We would like to particularly acknowledge: Gene Joseph, who was ever present in the sales area, eloquently and efficiently handled a multitude of requests, demands, and potential disasters! Good job Gene and Jane! All that hard work over the past two+ years paid off. Jeri Ogden (Desert Breeze - TC&SS Newsletter editor), Dick Wiedhopf (TC&SS President), and many other helpful club members consistently manned the registration and information tables. There was always a friendly face who could answer questions and assist attendees as much as possible. Miles & Janice Anderson treated us daily to pristine affordable grafted beauties. The entrance of the Doubletree was adorned with a formidable display of Mark Dimitt's show quality specimen plants — they grow'em big in Arizona! Gary Davies was always helping someone carry plants or other objects too heavy for one. And Mindy Fusaro was everywhere — it would not surprise me in the least to find out she has an identical twin working with her; she definitely performs the job of two people twice her size! Accolades to the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society and Host Society Chairman Chuck Hansen - a job well done. Thanks for all the good memories.

The 1999 CSSA convention will be in Las Vegas. Hosted by Las Vegas C&SS members Deni & Steve Plath and David & Chris Turner it is sure to be an exciting event. At the Tucson convention the Turner's brought along all modern conveniences (steam iron, blender, kitchen sink) which they gladly shared with all; David poured shots from a never empty bottle of El Patron, while Chris blended poolside Margarita's for all. The conversation was thick with tales of new species and sightings, seeds that got away, caudiciform "glob" envy, and the latest in skin-care SPF statistics and wives' tales. Thank you Las Vegas friends — we'll be there with bells on!

The SDC&SS September Picnic & Plant Auction will be held on the third Saturday, September 16th. The Huntington Succulent Symposium is on the 9th and there are many of us who wish to attend both of these events.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

☼ Please remember to bring refreshments to the July meeting ☼
COOKIES, CAKE, CRACKERS, CANTALOUPE, CARAMELS, CHOCOLATES,
CORN CHIPS, CHEDDAR, CREAM CHEESE, CACTUS COOLERS

WORTHY HAWORTHIAS

After many years of studying different succulent and cacti groups, our July speaker, Bob Kent, of Poway developed an acute appreciation and focus for one very special group: **The Haworthias.**

This double projector /screen presentation will knock your mental socks off and have you running home for another look at your own plants (*Everybody has some haworthias in their collection — but they are often relegated to the back bench!*). Bob's wonderful slides portraying his skillful hybrids of imaginative crosses and backcrosses will astonish even the most jaded Jade Plant collector, showing this splendid genus as they truly are: living art objects.

Again, this is a not-to-be-missed educational and entertaining program. We will see you all there — bring that neighbor along — the one who enjoys receiving snips of this and clippings of that.

Enthusiasm is infectious.

BRAG TABLE WINNERS FOR MAY 1995: JUDGED BY EDWARD NOLAN PH.D.

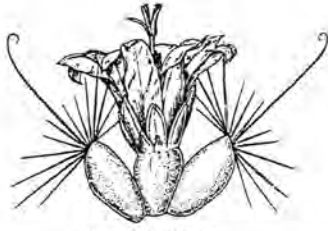
CACTUS:

- FIRST PLACE: Ric & Marilyn Newcomer's *Mammillaria matuda*
- SECOND PLACE: Don Patterson's *Copiapoa hypogaeae*
- SECOND PLACE: Ric & Marilyn Newcomer's *Weingartia aediniana (sp. Nova)*

SUCCULENT:

- FIRST PLACE: Ted & Marilyn Alford's *Haworthia cymbiformis*
- SECOND PLACE: Mike Parvin's *Haworthia hybrid*
- THIRD PLACE: Stefy Mangold's *Tillandsia latifolia*
- THIRD PLACE: Stefy Mangold's *Tillandsia argentea*

Bob and Beverly Kent hardly need an introduction here in San Diego: just take a look at how many times their names (entering separately in different categories) appear on our own SDC&SS Show Trophies. Walk right up and introduce yourself. And if you have an interesting Haworthia worthy of the Brag Table - please bring it in, we'll see if we can get Bob to comment on these glistening, cryptic, diminutive, and colorful plant gemstones.



Mammillaria thornberi

San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

P.O. Box 33181, San Diego, California, 92163-3181

Presidents Message for July 1995

The 1995 Show and Sale was a great success this year! Thanks for the help to the following people: George Plaisted, Charles Davis, Ed Nolan, Tom and Laura DeMerritt, Rudy Lime, Brent McCowen, Marylyn Henderson, Elibet Marshal, Chris Guerrero, Susan Hopkins, Phyllis Flechsig, Rick Plant, Paul Steward, Sara Schell, Jillian Belding, Tom Birt, Ed and Debe DeLollis, Beverly Kirkegaard, John Williams, Carol Jean Wolcott, Michelle D. Heckathorn, Elizabeth Athy, Elizabeth and Wilbur Glover, Cathy and Sandy Frost, Curt Hammel, Jim and Roberta Hanna, Floyd Gable, Michael and Joyce Buckner, Mille and Jim Williams, D'erdra Smothers, Monte Woodworth and John Trager. Thanks to all of you Tom Knapik and I had a much easier time arranging the entries this year. The plant labeling went better this year also.

The show had around 600 different entries this year, a little less than last years 615 entries. The award winners were as follows: Best Cactus - Ed & Karla Nolan, Best Epiphytic Cactus Plant - Rowena & Steve Southwell, Best Mammillaria - Steve & Rowena Southwell, Best Opuntieae - Phyllis Flechsig, Best Succulent - Dick & Lupe Hulett, Best Agave - Sara Schell, Best Aloe - Dick & Lupe Hulett, Best Echeveria - Marylyn Henderson, Best Euphorbia - Michael & Joyce Buckner, Best Mesembryanthemum - Joe & Kay Quijada, Best Pelargonium or Sarcocaulon - Rowena & Steve Southwell, Best Sansevieria - Joe & Kay Quijada, Best Graft - Rudy Lime, Best Mexican Plant in Show - Steve & Rowena Southwell, Best Plant From Seed Grown by the Exhibitor - Beverly Kirkegaard, Best San Diego County Succulent - Michael & Joyce Buckner, Best Pachycaul or Caudiciform - Michael & Joyce Buckner, Best Succulent Bonsai - Rudy Lime, Best Educational Display - none this year, Best Exhibit - Rudy Lime, Most Artistic Display - Rudy Lime, High Points 50 or fewer entries - Joe & Kay Quijada and Sweepstakes Trophy - Joe & Kay Quijada. Please bring in you plants if possible for the July meeting.

Special mention needs to be made to Rowena and Steve Southwell, as well as Dick and Lupe Hulett, they drove from San Jose and San Pedro, respectively. They graced our show with many beautiful plants. Also, they were both vendors involved in the plant sales. We had a total of 19 vendors this year, Michael Buckner made arrangements with them and worked in the sales area this year. All of these people worked very hard both days setting up and putting their plants out each day. Thanks to all of you and our members we made about eight thousand dollars for the club at our 1995 sale!

This notice just barely made it into the July newsletter... the biannual CSSA convention just ended, sponsored by the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society and held in their city. I serve on the CSSA board of directors and just about have to go, but there were nine other SDCSS members as well: Phyllis Flechsig, Tom Knapik, Dylan Hannon, Paul Steward, Stan Yaloff, Rick Latimer, Michael and Joyce Buckner and Monte Woodworth. Dylan Hannon and I were co-speakers at different talks at the convention. I accepted the gavel in the name of the SDCSS and for Martin Mooney, the Host Society Chair, for our 1997 CSSA convention to be held in San Diego at the Town and Country Hotel. The 1995 Tucson convention will be a hard act to follow.

The Del Mar Fair display went well this year thanks to: John Williams, Herb Stern, Susan Hopkins, Tom and Laura DeMerritt. We put it together in about five hours. Though it was not very fancy it gave us a place to advertise the club and the Baja Hill at the Wild animal Park. We usually gain members from this display. To date we have over 350 members in our society!

Thanks for all of your help.

The Kindness of Strangers: *Kalanchoe synsepala*

BY FRED KELLER

In looking over my plants recently, I was pleased to note that *Kalanchoe synsepala*, a Madagascan native, had apparently survived two "one hundred year" rains in the space of a month without harm. Although I have never provided ideal growing conditions for this plant, and have not achieved the robust specimens sometimes seen, I still take considerable pleasure in viewing it because of its pleasant associations.

I had first seen *Kalanchoe synsepala* illustrated in my 1955 edition of Succulents for the Amateur written by J. R. Brown. The illustration showed a well developed plant sending out four offsets on arching overhead runners which kindled my avarice. Unfortunately, the plant did not seem to be available from any of the plant sources open to me at the time.

In the course of the 1969 CSSA Convention, held in Pasadena, California, I visited the nearby Beahm Epiphyllum Gardens and viewed their collection of epiphytic cacti as well as an extensive offering of Haworthias, many of the latter originating from the J. R. Brown collection. In the course of my visit, Mr. Beahm showed me through his propagation house with pans of newly germinated epis (they were among the foremost hybridizers of their day) as well as their personal collection including a small plant of the recently introduced *Aloe suzanne*, some rare grass Aloes, and several small plants of *Kalanchoe synsepala*! I expressed an interest in purchasing the *Kalanchoe*, but was told that the plants were for stock — not for present sale. Ill concealing my disappointment, I purchased a few Epiphyllums and Haworthias from the sale stock. In the course of further conversation I learned that Gertrude Beahm, the translator of Phyllocacti by Curt Knebel, had lost her eyesight, but could still identify the Orchid Cacti from their form by touching them to her lips — truly a

devastating loss to someone specializing in plants reknowned for their flamboyant colors. As I took my leave, and rejoined the convention, I determined that I must revisit the Beahms in another year to check on the availability of the coveted *Kalanchoe*.

Later that afternoon, I visited the plant sale area and observed Mr. Beahm engaged in conversation with one of the sales staff. I checked the offerings and discovered one plant of *Kalanchoe synsepala* bearing Mr. Beahm's labels. I immediately purchased it and could only conclude that Mr. Beahm had sensed my disappointment, relented, and donated one of his stock plants.

Some time ago, at a Member's Night meeting of the Santa Barbara Cactus and Succulent Society, I chose to speak on *Kalanchoe synsepala*, but was reluctant to display my rather ratty specimen. Accordingly, I asked Lem Higgs of Abbey Garden if he had a good looking plant, which I intended to buy for the presentation. On mentioning that I planned to speak on the plant, he went back into his stock area and brought out a huge specimen which he loaned me. Lem also generously gave me the sales plant which I had first selected.

As mentioned in the title, when it comes to this plant I am reminded of the line in Tennessee William's "Streetcar Named Desire" wherein Blanche DuBois says, "I have always depended on the kindness of strangers."

I have always felt remiss about not having gone back to Mr. Beahm and thanking him for his kindness. Now in noting the announcement of the relocation of Abbey Garden and its change to mail order only, I wish to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge my debt to Lem and Pat Higgs for past kindness and to wish them well. Too often, we take for granted the many wonderful people who we meet in our hobby.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH: LOBIVIA

BY DYLAN P. HANNON

Although most cactus enthusiasts know a *Lobivia* when they see one, the limits between lobivias, *Trichocereus* and *Echinopsis* are rather fuzzy when all of the species are taken into account. *Lobivia sensu stricto* (in the narrow sense) has been defined or refined as plants having diurnal flowers with a short floral tube. Other characters, such as a prominent ring of stamens in the throat of the flower, or a flower tube that is scaly and woolly externally, are shared by all of the species assignable to *Echinopsis sensu lato* (in the wide sense), which would include *Lobivia* and *Trichocereus*. Body shape is also quite variable. As pointed out by Cullman, Goetz and Groener ("CGG") (1986), uniting these three fairly well-defined groups under *Echinopsis* "cannot be rejected out of hand, but this does not solve the problem of dividing the group into natural subsections."

Geographically, the lobivias (here taken in the narrow sense) are an Andean phenomenon centered in Bolivia (the name "Lobivia" is an anagram of "Bolivia") and extending into northern Argentina and southern Peru. They are all mountain dwelling plants and in cultivation appreciate a significant difference in temperature between day and night and between summer and winter. Bright light is also a prerequisite for growing compact plants with normal spine formation.

Lobivias are well-known for their variation in flower color and spine morphology, even amongst a single population of plants. Red and yellow color forms of the same species are not uncommon. Even with such exciting variety and form to choose from, certain species of *Lobivia* are currently being used in sophisticated hybridizing programs in Germany and the United States. Some of the latter work, being carried-out by Dr. Mark Dimmitt of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson, Arizona, promises hardy, free-flowering plants with large flowers in bright red and other hues.

Although lobivias seem to be more popular in Europe and elsewhere than in our area, in part because they are floriferous under dreary climates, in Southern California a handful of species are to be seen which are quite deserving of cultivation. These are mentioned below; an excellent overview of other popular species, though they can be difficult to find in U.S. catalogues, is given in CGG (1986).

Lobivia amblayensis. What we grow as this species is very similar to the photograph designated in CGG as *Lobivia densispina* var. *rebutioides* on page 195. The plant bodies are up to about 8cm tall and 3-4cm in diameter, purplish tinged and with small, tight spines. The flowers are 6-7cm in diameter and soft, satiny orange in color, and the stigma ranges from pale yellow to a strikingly contrasting dark maroon.

Lobivia winteriana. This is one of the most attractive and floriferous species. The plant body is solitary, about 7cm tall and 4-5cm diameter, with small, closely arranged gold-tinged spines and the green skin slightly tinged blue-gray. The flowers are produced in pulses of gaudy color, normally a bright hot pink. These may often be arranged in a whorl which entirely encircles the plant; some clones have flowers tinged salmon or with a strikingly pronounced white throat. Best of all, this species flowers repeatedly in spring and summer.

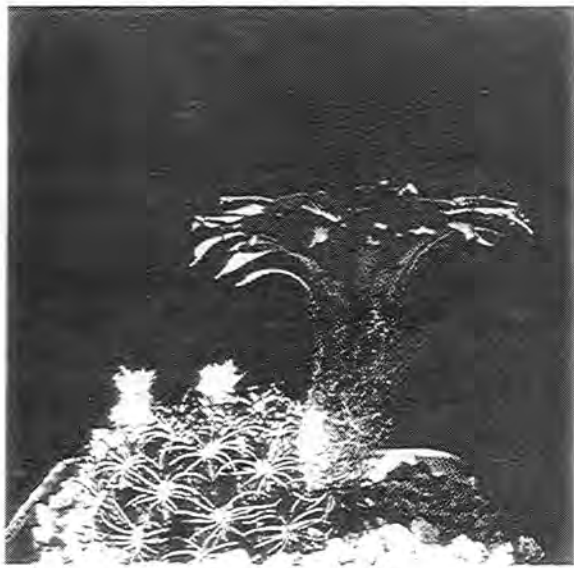
Lobivia famatimensis. One of my favorites, this plant has dense, minute spination which obscures the green-skinned, soft body underneath. It is a clustering species which is rather shy to flower, the flowers being deep yellow and about 5cm in diameter.

Lobivia rubescens. A species with elongate, dull green stems and ferocious, dark spines to 7cm long. The flowers occur in clusters and are goblet-shaped, deep yellow and tinged brown on the outer segments. The throat of the flower is near black. The various forms within the *Lobivia jajoiana* complex also have strikingly contrasting near-black throats.

Lobivia schieliana. A compact, clustering species with rather small bodies and short, curved spines which are perhaps unique in the genus in being minutely pubescent. The medium red flowers, about 4cm wide, have rather slender petals. This species can be a little more fussy about excessive watering.

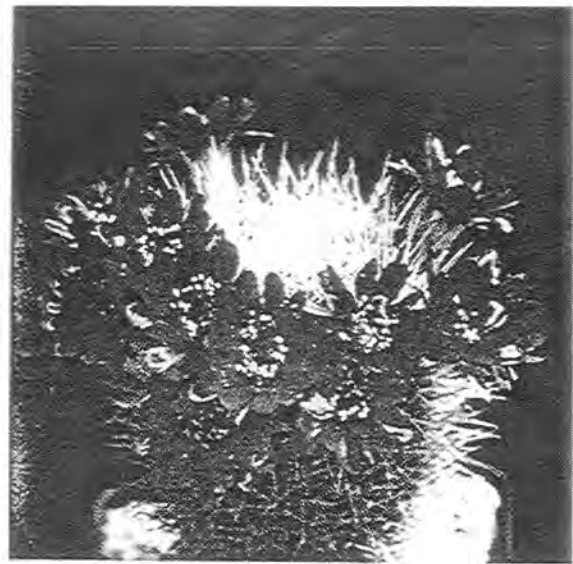
Lobivia tiegeliana. Many different forms circulate under this name and as various varieties thereof. One particularly desirable form is a solitary, slow-growing plant with dark red flowers. The taproot is large, but a plant of this variety (var. *ruberrima*?) can remain content in a five inch pot for many years. The body is a shiny dark green and the rather thin spines are brown or straw colored and slightly curved.

The cultivation of lobivias is not difficult. Though they can perform well when pot-bound, at least those species with a well-developed taproot appreciate some extra room. They can exhaust an organic-based mix rather quickly and enjoy both ample water and feeding during spring and summer. Bright light is required by all of the species, especially during the warm months. Lobivias love fresh air and do well outdoors in our area (provided they are sheltered from most of our rainfall) because of the year-round cool nights, though they also appreciate the daytime heat build-up of an unheated greenhouse. A stuffy, warm greenhouse designed for tropical plants (minimum 55 degrees F all year) does not suit these plants. Cross-pollinating clones is essential to set seed and not difficult; one must be more careful in guarding the ripening fruits from rodents, who place lobivias high on their list of collectable delectables. Standard procedure applies to growing the seeds, and if any trouble is experienced it is worth trying stratification (cold storage for one to three months) on remaining unsown seed. This method is used on many plants which experience cold winters, and lobivias are readily included therein.



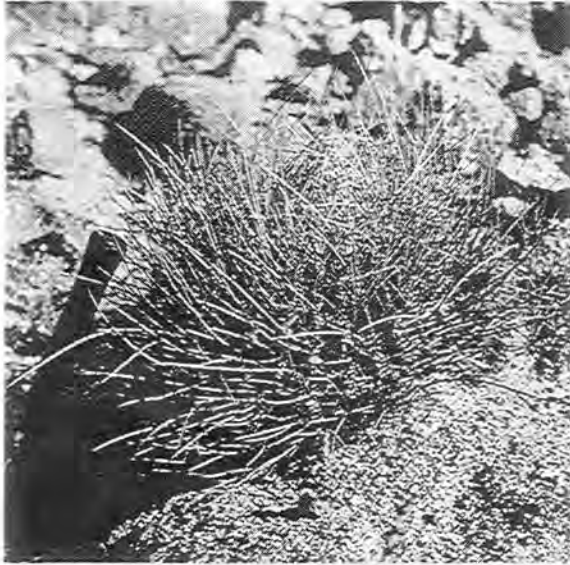
LOBIVIA TIEGELIANA Wessn.

A bright-green globular plant about 2½in in diameter with about 18 ribs. Areoles have four to six paired brownish-yellow radial spines with reddish-brown tips about ½in in length and one to three brown-pointed centrals. Mid-summer flowering, it is diurnal. The flowers are reddish violet, 1in long, about 1½in across. Needs good light; normal cactus compost; minimum temperature 50°F. *Bolivia (Tarija)*.



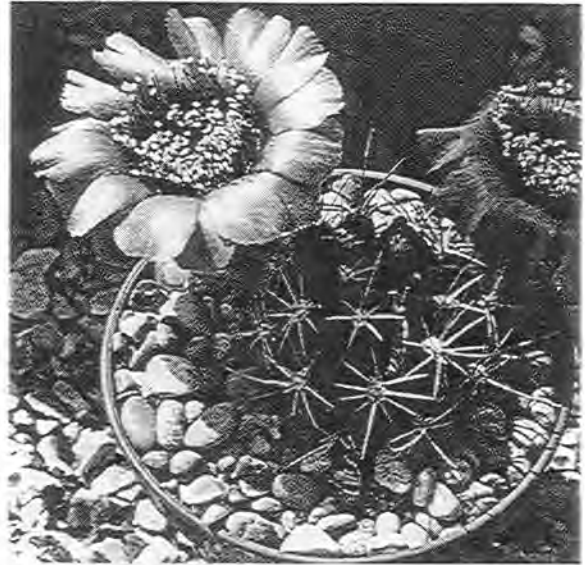
LOBIVIA OLIGOTRICH Card.
Syn: *Lobivia cinnabarina* (Hook.) Br. & R.
var. *oligotricha* (Card.) Rausch

Bright-green, globular plants around 3¼in high and in diameter. There are about 18 ribs with areoles set approximately ½in apart, bearing about 15 spines, some to 2½in in length. The flowers are bright red, just over 1in long, 1in across; flowering in summer, they are diurnal. Requires sun; normal cactus compost; minimum temperature 50°F. *Bolivia (Cochabamba)*.



LOBIVIA FEROX Br. & R.
 Syn: *Pseudolobivia ferox* (Br. & R.) Backeb.;
Lobivia longispina Br. & R.

Globular plants to 8in high and in diameter with 15–25 or more ribs. The spines are at first brown, later grayish, of which eight to twelve are radials and about three are centrals, up to about 4in long. Flowers are white, and bloom by day in summer. Requires a sunny position; an enriched mineral-based compost; minimum temperature 45°F. *Bolivia*.



LOBIVIA JAJOIANA Backeb.
 Syn: *Lobivia chrysantha* (Werd.) Backeb.
 ssp. *jajoiana* Rausch ex Rowley

These plants are solitary, rarely offsetting. The stem is oval or cylindrical, 2–2½in thick, deep or grayish green with 10–18 tuberculate ribs. There are eight to ten reddish-white radial spines about ½in long and one pale brown central to 1in in length. Flowers are diurnal in summer, varying considerably in size and color from yellow through to deep red. They are 2–2½in in diameter and are often scented. Requires partial shade; normal cactus compost; minimum temperature 50°F. *Argentina*.

Illustration from Cacti by Clive Innes and Charles Glass, Portland House, Oregon, © 1991.

References:

Cullman, Willy and Erich Goetz and Gerhard Groener. 1986 (English edition). **THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CACTI**. Timber Press. An excellent reference to have on hand, unusual in that it includes many identification keys. Excellent color photos and insightful discussions of problematic groups.

Rausch, Walter. 1975-6. ***Lobivia: die tagblutigen Echinopsidinae aus arealgeographischer Sicht***. 3 volumes. Vienna. The definitive work on lobivias, wherein many taxa are relegated to varietal and subspecific level. Well-illustrated with many lavish color photos of plants in habitat, close-ups, etc.

Succulent of the Month:

Commiphora

BY MICHAEL BUCKNER

If you like *Burseras*, *Pachycormis*, or other pachycaulescent elephant tree-like plants then *Commiphora* is a genus you will appreciate and should search out.

Everybody has some familiarity with commiphoras, even if they are not aware of it, because of their historical importance dating back thousands of years even before the birth of Christ. Indeed, the three wise men brought gifts of Myrrh (*Commiphora* resins) and the closely related Frankincense (*Boswellia* resin) to the baby Jesus.

Recorded on the walls of the temple of Hatshepsut, Deir El-Bahri, near Thebes, is one of the earliest recorded instances of exotic plant introductions and the actual culture of plants in containers, which was perhaps first practiced by the Egyptians 3500 to 4000 years ago. This temple relief shows myrrh trees growing in pots and being introduced from the Somali coast to Egypt to decorate the Great Temple of Queen Hatshepsut.

In the family Burseraceae, *Commiphora* are represented in the new world by trees and shrubs of the familiar and desirable genus *Bursera* in which it shares many characteristics especially its aromatic resins and unusual bark characteristics. Palmer and Pitman relate in The Trees of Southern Africa "commiphoras . . . are usually small to medium-sized trees, often spiny and many-branched, with bark that in many cases is so outstanding and so characteristic that the species may often be recognized by its bark alone. While one has a smooth white bark, another has a bark marked with bold, black, corky strips; another a bark that peels in thick, yellow, crisp sheets; a fourth peels in thin, papery yellowish flakes; and yet another has a silver-white bark peeling in creamy papery strips."

The name *Commiphora* is derived from the Greek, *Kommi*, meaning a sticky gum which of course is the reason for myrrh's fame. The precious resinous gum which when burned smells so wonderful.

The flowers usually bloom when the tree is bare of leaves. All commiphoras are deciduous. Flowers are inconspicuous, small, greenish to cream colored and unisexual — with each sex on separate plants. The fruit is a drupe sometimes being very decorative. The leaves of all commiphoras are alternate and usually crowded at the ends of the branches.

Various different species are found in the very hottest and driest bushveld, desert, savannah, and thornscrub. Some are associated with coastal climes and mangrove swamps, but most live on alluvial slopes and bouldered areas where they take on the very desirable swollen-trunked elephantine appearance so desirable to caudiciform collectors and photographers.

Succulent of the Month: *Commiphora*, M. S. Buckner continued . .

The native name "Kanniedood" means "never die" and relates to the fact that stems root easily. Often one can see living fence posts of cuttings similar to the living fences of burseras in Mexico or the ocotillo fences of the Southwest.

Culture is easy for these plants as long as you can protect them from the wet and cold of winter. They grow quite quickly but it is difficult to keep them in 'bonsai' character with desirable thick tapering trunks and dense short heads. The real difficulty with commiphoras is obtaining them. They are rarely offered in the trade — usually small seedlings and quite expensive. If you own any of these beautiful succulents, please bring them in and share them with us.

This is a remarkable and fascinating genus — worthy of our attention and study. Hopefully more species will become available to collectors as we broaden our education and knowledge.

References:

Naville, E.H. The Temple of Deir el Bahari, part III, Egypt. Exploration 16: 12-15, 17, plate Ixix, Ixxiv, Ixxix. 1913.

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Palgrave, Keith Coates. Trees of Southern Africa, Struik Limited, 1977.

Menninger, Edwin A. Fantastic Trees, Viking Press, © 1967.

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Van den Eynden, Vernemmen, and Van Damme. The Ethnobotany of the Topnaar (Hottentots of Southwest Africa), University Gent © 1992.

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Cactus experts from the Desert Botanical Garden are monitoring populations of two threatened cactus species in Texas to get a better idea of what is happening to them.

Dr. Edward "Ted" Anderson, senior research botanist at the Garden, and Patrick Quirk, horticulturist, are looking at *Echinocereus chisoensis* and *Sclerocactus (Neolloydia) mariposensis*. Both cacti are federally listed as threatened and *E. chisoensis* is under study by the Center for Plant Conservation.

E. chisoensis grows in small, cylindrical form. Soft and vulnerable to ravages of weather and predators, it almost always grows in the company of an opuntia species or some other nurse plant, Dr. Anderson said. He characterized its maroon-to-purple blooms as "gorgeous."

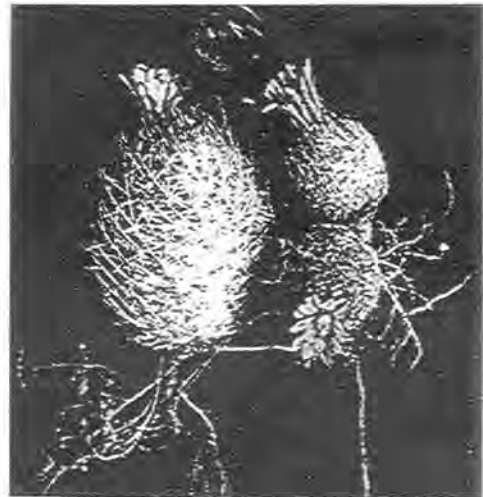
S. mariposensis (Lloyd's mariposa cactus) is almost round and is covered with white spines, resembling a tennis ball. It grows out in the open, blending quite well into its rocky, limestone soil.

The two men established study sites for both species early last autumn in Big Bend National Park in southwestern Texas.

The *S. mariposensis* study is funded by a \$15,000 grant from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and will last three years. DBG researchers will visit the sites twice a year to collect data. The *E. chisoensis*

Reprinted from the Sonoran Quarterly of the Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 North Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, AZ 85008.

DBG Cactus Experts Are Monitoring Two Threatened Species in Texas

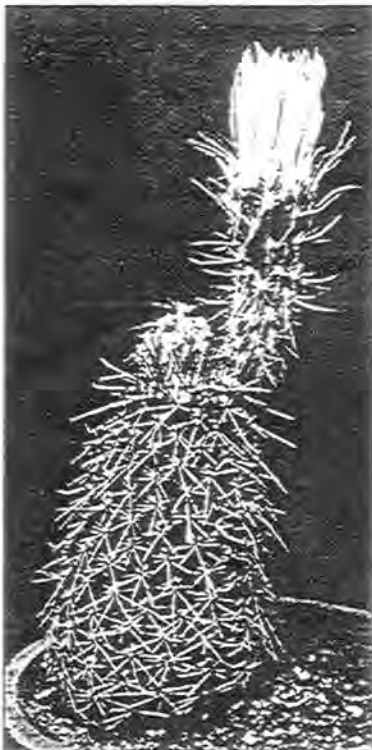


Sclerocactus mariposensis, photographed with a buffalo nickel, appeared in the April, 1945, issue of *Desert Plant Life*.

study was established with a \$1,000 grant from the National Park Service and will be continued by a Big Bend Park ranger, Mike Fleming, who helped set up the study sites. Other grants, from the Texas Organization for Endangered Species and from a Desert Botanical Garden member, helped establish the primary study sites.

Dr. Anderson, who had collected *S. mariposensis* specimens years ago in Mexican sites hundreds of miles south of Texas, said the team was delighted to see thousands of the cactus plants growing in the national park. "We were pleased with the large numbers of plants we encountered, and the plant does not seem to be on the verge of extinction," he said. If the study does confirm that *S. mariposensis* is not threatened, Dr. Anderson said the plant may be recommended for removal from the threatened-species list. "It's a matter of scientific honesty," he said, "in correcting earlier judgments based on faulty evidence or lack of evidence. This helps preserve the credibility of the Endangered Species Act's list of endangered plants."

The studies will look at the growth rates of the plants; whether they produce flowers, fruits or seeds; damage done by insects or rodents; and the impact of humans on the plants' environments. — Carol Schatt ♦



Echinocereus chisoensis, photographed by W. Taylor Marshall, the Garden's third director, appeared on the cover of the *Cactus and Succulent Journal* in January, 1940.

CONSERVATION

ONE WAY TO HELP PRESERVE CACTUS HABITATS

One of the best ways to conserve is to set aside cactus and succulent habitat -- this could be called "positive" conservation. Rather than blaming farming, people, development, or "progress," find a way to set aside habitat, where the plants (and animals) can live within their own ecosystem.

The home of the largest number of cacti by far is Mexico. It is also home to many other unique plants and of course animals. What can we do to set aside habitat? There is now an organization which is trying to set up land purchases, but they are just getting started and so need help. The name of the organization is CANTE, and its program is "Purchase to Preserve."

You may have heard about this program through Charles Glass, former CSSA Journal editor. He is working with CANTE, which is a "non-governmental, non-profit, Mexican association, supported by grants and private funds." Charlie says the word "CANTE" is a Chichimeca word for "'the water that gives life' or less poetically, a source or spring." The botanical garden under its auspices is called El Charco del Ingenio. CANTE is also concerned with research, such as population studies, and of course the program "Purchase to Preserve" ("Comprar Para Conservar").

To contribute to CANTE's "Purchase to Preserve," or any other of their projects, such as the botanical garden, a check on an American bank is acceptable. Charlie writes that the check can be, "for tax deductible purposes: simply made out to the San Miguel Educational Foundation." However, it can be made out directly to "CANTE: Purchase to Preserve" if a tax deduction is not involved (many groups are not set up for tax deductions). Either way, a note designating the desired use could be attached (such as, for cactus habitat preservation). And groups such as this society aren't the only possible contributors. Individuals can contribute too.

"Purchase to Preserve" is proud of its buying land to set aside the habitat for *Mammillaria herrerae albiflora* (a plant hard to grow in cultivation). They look forward to more habitat purchases.

While habitat protection won't keep out wandering goats, natural catastrophes or even the various individual actions of man, it is certain that not helping to set aside these special places where our plants grow will invite the bulldozing we all dread. Although we individually may never visit some of these areas of Mexico, it is important, if we love these plants, to help work and donate towards the conservation of plant populations in order to protect genetic diversity. In this way the species involved can, we hope, survive and develop and, when appropriate, have seed harvested and so help ensure distribution of the species, another way to conserve it.

I propose the group consider contributing an amount to CANTE's "Purchase to Preserve" for the protection of cactus and succulent habitat.

-- Carol Wujcik

P.S. CANTE is building a botanical library, and those of you wondering what to do with botanical books you wish to donate to a library may want to contact Charlie Glass regarding this.

The following is from the CSSA Newsletter, v. 65, no. 6, Dave Tufenkian, editor. An updated address is included with the text:

COMPRAR PARA CONSERVAR

A recent note from Charles Glass (Curator of Plants at El Charco del Ingenio, San Miguel de Allende) gives news that the purchase of 5 hectares of land is concluding. This is the locality of *Mammillaria herrerae v. albiflora*, written up in the November - December, 1992, issue of the CSSA Journal. The land was put on the market for farming and it is probable that the plants would have been plowed under with the change in land use from grazing to agriculture. It will now be a preserve to save the plant in the wild.

More help is needed to preserve land and pursue populational and ecological studies over time. If you would like to contribute to this tax deductible cause; send a check, made out to 'The San Miguel Foundation':

Charles Glass
c/o CANTE, A.C.

Mesones 71, San Miguel de Allende
Guanajuato, 37700, Mexico

WISE AND OTHERWISE

by Michael Buckner

Every exit is an
entry somewhere else.

TOM STOPPARD



The species *can* only be preserved in situ; the species *ought* to be preserved in situ. Zoos and botanical gardens can lock up a collection of individuals, but they cannot begin to simulate the ongoing dynamism of gene flow under the selection pressures in wild biome. The full integrity of the species must be integrated into the ecosystem. Ex situ preservation, while it may save resources and souvenirs, does not preserve the generative process intact.

...

It might seem that ending the history of a species now and again is not far out of line with the routines of the universe. But artificial extinction, caused by human encroachments, is radically different from natural extinction. Relevant differences make the two as morally distinct as death by natural causes is from murder. Though harmful to a species, extinction in nature is no evil in the system; it is rather the key to tomorrow. Such extinction is normal turnover in ongoing speciation.

Anthropogenic extinction has nothing to do with evolutionary speciation. Hundreds of thousands of species will perish because of culturally altered environments radically differing from the spontaneous environments in which such species were naturally selected and in which they sometimes go extinct. In natural extinctions, nature takes away life when it has become unfit in habitat, or when the habitat alters, and supplies other life in its place. Artificial extinction shuts down tomorrow because it shuts down speciation. Natural extinction typically occurs with transformation, either of the extinct line or related or competing lines. Artificial extinction is without issue. One opens doors; the other closes them. Humans generate and regenerate nothing; they only dead-end these lines.

From this perspective, humans have no duty to preserve rare species from natural extinctions, although they might have a duty to other humans to save such species as resources or museum pieces. Humans cannot and need not save the product without the process.

PHILOSOPHY GONE WILD – ESSAYS IN ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS by Holmes Rolston III, c.1986, Prometheus Books, Buffalo, NY

The Little Things

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There's a little of hell in every day, a little heaven, too
There's a little of good and bad in me and maybe a little in you
There's a little of beauty in everything, and ugliness here and there
There's a little of hope, and a little joy, and everyone knows where

There's a little girl, and a little boy, that dream the impossible dream
of the shining prince, and the lovely maid, and the cottage by the stream
There's a little man, with a little mind, who wants to rule the earth
and another man, with a little boy, who knows what his freedom's worth

The little things seem to balance out, and history shows this true
The little men, with the little minds, are buried the same as you
So, fear not for the woes we have, nor the tyrannies that mount
Be trusting, but ever ready, to defend the little things that count

Wisdom for a Westerner, Poetry by Ken Watson, c. 1994, Mayer, Arizona

WISE AND
OTHERWISE



*If the doors of perception were
cleansed, everything
would be seen as it is, infinite.*

— William Blake

"But the name of a bird is nothing but the opening of a door to knowledge; it is not knowledge; it is not knowledge in itself, and the pleasures of study consist in making one's self a Sherlock Holmes, intent upon every trace and detail of one's subject's life."

—An Almanac for Moderns

THINGS PRECIOUS & WILD – A BOOK OF NATURE QUOTATIONS, John K. Terres, © 1991, Fulcrum Publishing, Golden, Colorado

*"There is no other door to knowledge than the door Nature opens;
and there is no truth except the truths we discover in Nature."*

LUTHER BURBANK
(1849-1926)



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Inc. is open to all persons interested in growing cacti and other succulent plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month (except Sept. and Dec.) at 1:00 PM in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Executive Board meetings are open to all members; call any officer or director for the time and location. Annual dues are \$10.00 per single member per year, \$5.00 for each additional member within the same household. Single copies of *Espinas y Flores* are \$1.00 per copy sent within the USA; foreign subscriptions are \$20.00. Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc. Fax available - please call editor at (619)222-3216 for number.