

# Espinas y Flores

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

## October Meeting

Saturday, October 10, 1981

1:30 pm

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

### "The Sonoran Desert"

Woody Minnich will give a slide program titled "The Sonoran Desert" It will cover cactus and succulents as well as some reptiles of the great Sonoran Desert. Woody is well known for his photographic trips throughout the southwest and Mexican deserts. This program is outstanding in its educational value and photography. No one should miss this one.

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Monadenium ----family Euphorbiaceae  
Jatropha

MONADENIUM

Most of the 50 species of this genus are distributed across South east Africa with a few in west and central Africa.

The plants range in size from a few inches high to trees almost 20 feet high. The plant form varies from a crawling, leafy stem, to erect spined columns, to trees carved out of pale green soap. Except for the tree forms, most have tuberous roots.

The pale green to bright pink flowers vary from a bract cup that looks like a pettycoat, to paired bracts that look like the front view of a crab. Many of the flowers are green and often mistaken for leaves.

The species from low altitudes (M. stellatum, M. reflexum) require warm dry conditions. The others from 6000ft. or more (M. majus, M. montanum) do not require as much warmth. Plants with perennial tubers and annual stems require a long, dry rest period.

The monograph by P.R.O. Bally, "The Genus Monadenium" should be required reading for any collector of these plants.

JATROPHA.

Native to Tropical north and South America with some species in Africa and Madagascar. Of the 150 species about a quarter are caudex forming or have tuberous roots.

The red or yellow flowers are often in large bright clusters and are very attractive.

Keep warm and moist in summer and very dry in winter after leaves fall.

For more information read;

Lexicon of Succulent Plants: H. Jacobson

The Genus Monadenium: P.R.O. Bally

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



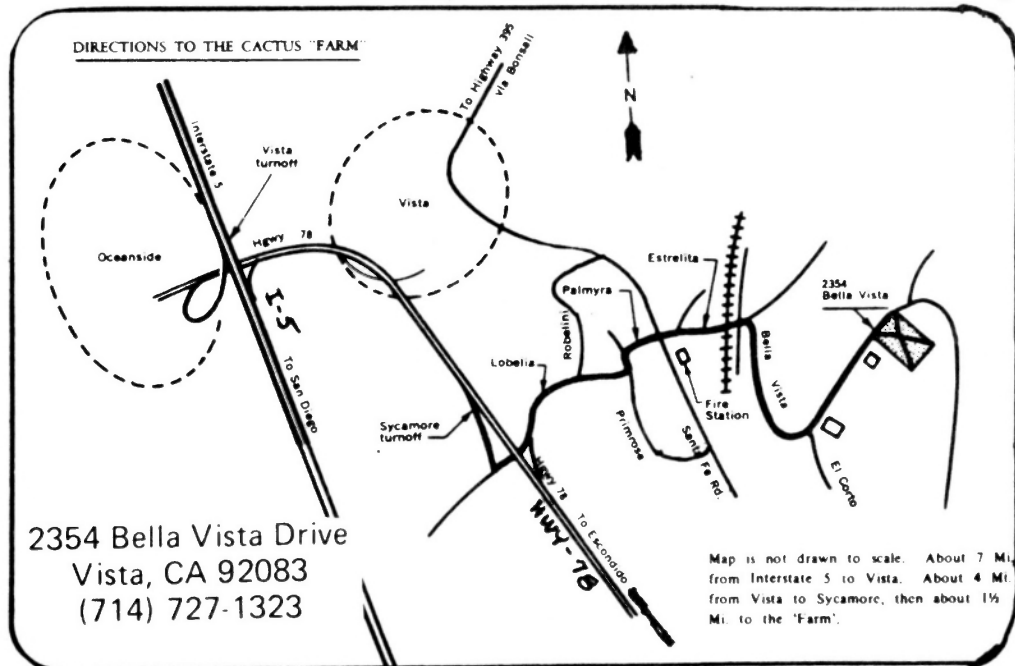
NOTICE TO ALL SAN DIEGO AND PALOMAR C.&S.S. MEMBERS

In appreciation of your support, Grigsby Cactus Gardens offers all members a 20% discount on all plants purchased during regular

nursery hours in the month of November. Your 1981 Membership card must be presented!

- Discount applies only to:
- Plants in our well stocked sales area.
  - Plants only. Not pots, books, pumice, etc.
  - Retail sales only.

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## Cactus-of-the-Month

### Copiapoa

Dr. Ronald E. Monroe

The genus Copiapoa (named for the town of Copiapo in northern Chile) is distributed throughout central and northern Chile from coastal cliffs to ca. 800 meters on cismontane hills. Their main source of water appears to be the rather persistent, heavy evening fog which covers the area for at least half of the year and wets the soil to nearly two inches. Even the extremely dry Atacama desert supports these beautiful cacti thanks to the fog. Thus, the soil receives moisture by night and it dries throughout the day, affording these unusual cacti their niche in a most trying habitat.

Britton and Rose (1937) erected the genus with the type species being Echinocactus marginatus (now Copiapoa marginata) and they recognized six species but mentioned another possible six to eight species as belonging with the original group. Borg (1959) recognized nine species and Backeberg (1977) lists ca. 55 species (many of which have never been described) and seven varieties. Current publications have changed this figure very little; however, the man most responsible for explorations in this area is F. Ritter and his forte at proliferating "new species" is well known. K. Knize has also introduced numerous "new species" in recent years; therefore, one must be very cautious about the names of their copiapos as being valid.

Copiapos are normally globose or subcylindrical and are frequently caespitose. Most species are strongly ribbed and stoutly spined (spines are beautifully colored -- blacks, browns, whites), and many produce copious quantities of apical white or cream-colored wool. The flowers are usually yellow in color and somewhat sweet-scented and it has been reported that the plants are self-fertile (Radwin, 1977). The epidermis of most species has a heavy, waxy, yellow or white coating. Some authors split these plants into ca. four groups based on their morphological structures (Radwin, 1977), but these groups have not been recognized yet as valid Sections.

Plants most often found in collections are C. cinerea, C. haseltoniana, C. humilis, C. tenuissima, C. alticostata, C. applanata, C. montana and C. krainziana. For the most part, the plants are collected for their brightly colored, stout spines set against an equally brightly colored epidermis rather than for the flowers.

Cultivation of these plants is rather simple providing that a complete winter rest period is given (usually October to April). Potting soil must be porous and water provided about once weekly when growth is evident. Occasional feeding with a low nitrogen fertilizer (2-10-10 or 5-10-10) and lots of bright light will reward one with a plant that appears hard-grown.

Propagation is via seed or cuttings and the usual pests (spider mite, mealy bugs, etc.) are easily controlled with Agro-Chem's Safer Soap or Cygon 2E.

References Cited

Backeberg, Curt. 1977. Cactus Lexicon. Blanford Press, England; pp. 104-110.

Borg, J. 1959. Cact. Blanford Press, England; pp. 265-267.

Britton, N.L. and J.N. Rose. 1937. The Cactaceae. Dover Publ., Inc., N.Y.; Vol. III, pp. 85-90.

Radwin, George E. 1977. Cactus-of-the-Month: Copiapoa. Espinas y Flores, XII: 4-5.

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We welcome the following new members for September:

Robert & Roberta Campbell	Jeanette Dutton
Ralph and Ruth Katz	Robert and Beverly Kent
Michael Masterson	Ed and Marcia Miller
Frank Mousseau	Mildred Jennifer and Carolyn Rich
Mrs. Walter Steidle	Robert Woods
Alfred Yorik & Alana Rillo	

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The following members have signed up to furnish refreshments at the October meeting:

Henrietta Jensen, Beverly Kirkegaard, Barbara Jolly, Ramona Huftill, Loretta Warner, Evelyn Chatham, Mary Aubuchon, Ralph & Ruth Katz, Janice Miller, Alana Rillo, Karl Zanker, Geraldine Garrelts, and Bruthilde Grothe.

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Bragging Table Winners for September were:

1st Place Madilyn Lee for her Seyrigia humbertii  
 2nd Place Lee Phelps for his Asclepiad (genus unknown)  
 3rd Place Donna Dixon for her Orbeopsis lutea

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Deadline for the November Issue is October 31

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# CACTUS AND SUCCULENT ACTIVITIES IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY...

## BEFORE THE CHARTER

### ...OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

#### Part IIa: Fifty Years Ago in the Journal

The first article from the Cactus and Succulent Society of America's Journal included here was in the August 1929 issue (I: 2, p. 15) and written by R. E. Willis:

The Flower Show held at Pacific Beach, near San Diego, California during the week of the Fourth of July was attended by four or five thousand people. The flowers and plants exhibited were most beautiful. The display of Glads and Dahlias was especially lovely.

The trend of the times was shown by the fact that the largest crowd was always to be seen around the Cactus and Succulent displays. A table eight feet by twenty feet was filled with the most exquisite and rare plants from the collection of Miss K. O. Sessions of Pacific Beach, Mr. W. I. Beecroft of Escondido, and Mr. James Stromquist of San Diego.

Miss' Sessions display consisted of 10 Aloes, 6 Mesembryanthemums, 4 Echeverias, a gorgeous Euphorbia splendens with hundreds of beautiful red blossoms, and an Echeveria metallica flammea in full bloom in a jar decorated to match the color of the foliage of the plant. This was considered by many as the most artistic exhibit in the entire show.

Mr. Beecroft's display consisted of the following: 3 Gasterias, 6 Haworthias, 1 Kalanchoe, 5 Mesembryanthemums, 1 Aloe, 4 Senecios, 2 Stapelias, 1 Pelecyphora, 4 Agaves, 2 Euphorbias, 1 Sansevieria cylindrica, 1 Echidnopsis (Echinopsis or Echidnopsis?), 1 Echeveria, 3 Opuntias, 1 Cereus, 1 Wilcoxia, 1 Rhipsalis, 2 Cephalocereus, 8 Mammillarias, and Neomammillarias.

Mr. Stromquist displayed 3 Agaves, 12 Echeverias, 2 Crassulas, 1 Dasylirion, 2 Euphorbias, 8 Sedums, 2 Semperviviums, 3 Stylophyllums, 1 Tradescantia, 1 Rochea, 1 Umbilicus, 1 Acanthocereus, 1 Chamaecereus, 2 Echinocereus, 1 Opuntia, and 1 Rhipsalis - all rare and beautiful plants.

The McCabe Cactus Gardens of San Diego, had a display of Cacti and Succulents, mostly from the deserts of California and the other border states, and also South American Cerei. This display was made to look very realistic with the aid of rocks and sand. A unique feature was the waxy nocturnal blossoms of a Cereus which had been removed from the plant at midnight and repositioned on the plant for the show.

All the cacti and succulents in the show were labelled. Each of the above exhibitors received an award of merit, as these exhibits were not entered for compe-

tition.

In Mr. Beecroft's display was a beautiful and perfect specimen of the newly discovered and recently named Mammillaria hahniana. This plant was an import from Mexico and was on exhibit in the United States for the first time. It was awarded a first prize ribbon and a silver cup. Miss K. O. Sessions was the sponsor and deserves much credit for her untiring work in putting over a successful show.

The next article is from the October 1930 issue (II:4, p. 338) and is entitled "The August Meeting in the San Diego Region" and was written by Jacolyn Manning, M. D.:

We arrived in San Diego at noon, and after an excellent lunch, drove out Imperial Avenue to the McCabe Cactus Gardens where we found seventy members and friends of the CACTUS SOCIETY already assembled. The group which had driven down from Los Angeles included: President Willis and party of four, Editor Scott Haselton, Col. and Mrs. Lawrence, Secretary, and Mrs. Boyd Sloane, Col. Perrie Kewen, Mr. and Mrs. Frick and sons, Dr. and Mrs. A. D. Houghton, Mrs. Holman, and Dr. Jacolyn Manning with a party from La Jolla, and many others.

The meeting was called to order by President Willis, proved to be both important and interesting. A motion was made and carried that the United States Department of Agriculture, Plant Quarantine and Control Administration of Washington, D. C. be requested to establish a quarantine station in southern California. By the present law, imported succulents must be examined in Washington, D. C. or San Francisco, if shipped by water on the Pacific Ocean. A member of the Society who had attended a five hour session investigation, related the testimony which exonerated a Los Angeles exporter of North American succulents from complicity in evading Federal law.

San Diego's distinguished woman horticulturalist, Miss Kate Sessions, gave an informal an instructive talk. Her present problem, she said, was the proper setting for cacti regarding sun and shade. She had discovered that these so called "children of the sun" weren't, and that many of them thrived and became more beautiful in partial shade. Even an "old burnt-out alooe improved wonderfully when removed to one-half shade". She advocated the planting of deciduous trees in a cactus garden, and recommended the European sycamore (bare of foliage from December 1 to March 1). Miss Sessions also commented on the increase in beauty and value of specimen succulents when allowed to develop to full maturity with no removal of offshoots or cuttings.

TO BE CONTINUED

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

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S. D. Botanical Garden Foundation - Elizabeth Glover

S. D. Floral Association - Verna Pasek

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 \$7.00 per family. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are 60¢.

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