

# Espinas y Flores

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

XIX, Number 3

March 10, 1984

## MARCH MEETING

Saturday March 10, 1984

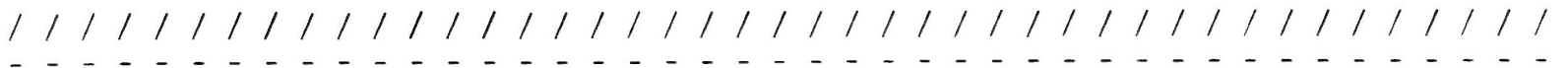
1:30 PM

Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

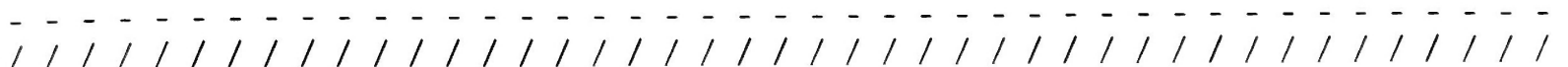
## PROGRAM

MYRON KIMNACH,

of Huntington Museum and Gardens, will present a slide program entitled 'Huntington Explorations in Mexico'. This will surely be an interesting and informative program.



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DEADLINE FOR APRIL - APRIL 1, 1984 -No April Fooling!

Mary

Welcome to new member Ruby King of San Diego

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Bragging plant winners for February

- 1st place Martin Mooney for his Adenium Obesum
- 2nd place Joe Clements for his Monadenium Spinesceus
- 3rd Place Beverly Kent for her Melocactus Intortus

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SPECIAL TRADE TABLE

Remember we are going to try a special trade table this month. Bring a special plant for trade. It will be handled similar to the December plant exchange. Do participate and bring success to something new to our format.

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FROM THE BOARD

Book, as voted upon, has been passed to be published - more from Frank below.

Jim Dice told us about a Symposium at Huntington Gardens on Cactus and Succulents in September. They would like a donation from our club to support this endeavor. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

The possibility of having a telephone committee to inform members about events that come up between meetings. Verna Pasek said she would chair.

Money was allowed to John Pasek for show in June.

No membership cards this year.

The possibility of Incorporating as a non-profit organization was brought up.

There was a discussion of where to hold the July picnic - a decision must be made soon.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The vote to proceed with the publication of the Booklet "Sclerocactus" was passed by the members. There was one member who believed that because there was not a discussion by the members, he could not give an honest yes or no vote. He therefore abstained from voting. The questions, in his view, that were not discussed were:

A. Does the SDC&SS want to be in the publication business.

B. Is the author of this proposed booklet qualified to do a taxonomic evaluation of the Genus Sclerocactus . or is the booklet for the purposed of horticultural interest.

Continued on page 7

## Cactus of the Month

### Echinocactus - Link and Otto

F. C. Thrombly

#### Echinocactus (ē-kī-nō-kāk-tūs)

A genus of cacti from Mexico and the United States. The name is derived from two Greek words meaning "Hedgehog" or "Sea Urchin" and "Prickly Plant". They are small to very large plants, some are the largest of all spherical cactus. The stem is globular or cylindrical, with prominent ribs, usually straight and continuous. The crown of the plant is woolly with large areoles. The areoles are very woolly at the top, and the flowers are born on the new areoles at the center. The flowers are often deeply embedded in the wool. All plants have yellow flowers, with two pink exceptions. The fruit is scaly and woolly. The seeds are chestnut brown to black, smooth, glossy and with a minute scar at the point of attachment to its base.

Lyman Benson, in his book "The Cactus of the United States and Canada", wrote that there are twelve (possibly more) species occurring from California to Texas and into Mexico. The listing that follows also gives their locality.

#### Mexican Species

1. Echinocactus grusonii - San Luis Potosi to Hidalgo.

This plant is widely cultivated as the "Golden Barrel".

2. E. ingens - Mexico - large range about Hidalgo.

This plant is by far the largest of the genus, growing to 6 ft. high with a diameter of 5 ft.

3. E. platyacanthus

var. platyacanthus - in eastern Mexico.

Commonly cultivated, the stem is dark green with purplish stripes.

var. visnaga - in the area of San Luis Potososi.

4. E. grandis - in the area of Puebla, Mexico.

This is another large plant - up to 6 ft. high by 3 ft. diameter.

5. E. palmeri - Coahuila to Zacatecas.

A very attractive plant with its purple bands about the circumference.

6. E. parryi - Chihuahua and probably into U.S.A. at El Paso, Texas.

7. E. myriostigma - North Central Mexico to San Luis Potosi.

This plant is spineless and is called "Bishops Cap" for its appearance.

8. E. capricornis - Northern Mexico.

Another "Bishops Cap".

Species in the U.S.A.

9. Echinocactus polycephalus

var. polycephalus - found primarily in California in the Mojave Desert of Kern and Indio Counties. San Bernardino Mountains in Riverside County and in the Chocolate Mountains in Imperial County. Reported in San Diego County - east of Clarks Dry Lake, parts of Nevada and Arizona and maybe in north western Sonora, Mexico.

This plant lives in extremely dry areas.

var. xeranthemoides - is found in dry areas of Nevada, Utah and Arizona at elevations of 3,800 to 5,000 ft.

10. E. horizontalonius

var. horizontalonius - usually found at the 3,000-5,000 ft. elevation of New Mexico into Texas west of Pecos River and near the Rio Grande in Val Verde County. Also in Mexico south to San Luis Potosi.

This is a blue-green plant with very strong spines. The flowers are a shade of pink.

var. nicholii - found in the desert mountains at approximately 3,500 ft. in Arizona.

These plants are taller than var. horizontalonius. They also tend to form dark grey cylindrical stems.

11. E. texensis - found in the great plains grasslands of Texas on the Edwards Plateau and Rio Grande plain. Also in Southeastern New Mexico into Brewster County Texas. Adjacent areas of Mexico in Coahuila, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas.

This plant is the horse nippler. The ring of bright red fruits of the size of small walnuts is most impressive.

12. Echinocactus asterias - found on the gentle slopes of the Rio Grande plain in Texas south to Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas, Mexico.

This is the smallest plant of this genus and is a little gem. Its circular form has very distinct and pretty symmetrical markings. It is also spineless.

Note: Three plants listed here: i.e. Echinocactus myriostigma, asterias and capricornis are described by most well known authors on this subject, as belonging to the genus Astrophytum. I have followed Lyman Benson's view, however.

## SUCCULENT-OF-THE-MONTH

### SANSEVIERIAS

Dorothy Dunn

Despite the recent burgeoning popularity of this genus, very little information on Sansevierias is to be found in the available literature. The generic name, established in 1774, was derived from Raimonde di Sangro, Prince of San Sevre (or Sanseviero), who was an Italian scholar. There are several common names in use, ranging from "Rhino Grass" to "Bowstring Hemp" to Snake Plant to "Mother-in-Law's Tongue".

The genus was originally placed in the family Haemadoraceae (which includes the Australian genus Anigozanthos, or "Kangaroo-Paws"), and more recently has been attributed to both Liliaceae and Agavaceae, depending on which authority you consult. Adding to the confusion, anywhere from 50 to 160 species have been described at one time or another. Sansevierias are native primarily to tropical Africa and its adjacent islands, with a few species occurring in Arabia, Ceylon, India, and Burma.

The plants are usually rosulate or fan-shaped, ranging in size from a few inches to several feet tall. The fleshy, leathery leaves may be flat, furrowed, channelled or grooved, or perfectly cylindrical; most enthusiasts consider the cylindrical-leaved species to be the most intriguing. A plant may have 30 or more leaves at maturity, or only one. They grow from creeping, usually underground rhizomes and will, if planted in the ground, eventually form clusters several feet in diameter. A few species are epiphytic. Sansevierias have the disconcerting habit of going through several different growth forms during their lengthy life cycles, so "what you see" (when you order from a catalog) may not necessarily be "what you get", as far as shape is concerned. The flowers appear on long stems, either branched or single, and are usually white, lavender, or greenish in color. They are often quite fragrant, particularly at night, which suggests moths as possible pollinators. The fruit is a yellow or orange berry which contains one to three seeds.

In habitat Sansevierias generally grow in the shade of larger bushes or trees, where they form large, dense colonies and, in turn, some species of Ceropegia and Caralluma find shelter under the fan-like masses of Sansevieria leaves. In cultivation they adapt readily to heavy shade or filtered sun. They prefer a rich, well-drained soil and a shaded warm location with a minimum temperature of about 50 degrees in winter, as they are rather frost-tender. They do not seem to like high humidity or stagnant moisture or air. They appear to flourish in the dry atmosphere of a centrally-heated house and its indirect light situations, so make excellent house plants. They do not seem

to mind being pot-bound, and will often bloom the better for it. Propagation is from seed, division of the clumps, or from leaves. However, in the case of variegated cultivars such as Sansevieria 'Golden Hahnii', plants grown from leaves will revert to the original plain green.

Sansevierias are slow-growing, tough, and highly fibrous, and it is easy to understand why some authorities place them in Agavaceae. In usage, they rival the New World Agaves in providing material for thread, mats, and rope (hence the common name "Bowstring Hemp" for some of the species). It is said that no stronger rope was ever made by industrial enterprise. The medicinal usages of Sansevierias are reminiscent of those of the Euphorbias; African natives used them for ear-ache and tooth-ache remedies, and some species were also used in the treatment of abdominal pains, diarrhea, hemorrhoids, worms, and miscarriages. However, the flowers, with their recurved petals and extruded pistils and stamens, are reminiscent of some of the cultivated garden lilies, so it is also not difficult to follow the reasoning of those who classify them as Liliaceae. However, until someone competent comes along and presents us with a factual, up-to-date, in-depth study of the genus, we are free to enjoy Sansevierias for what they basically are - yet another of Nature's bizarre and beautiful manifestations.

Literature consulted:

Barkhuizen, B.P.	<u>Succulents in Southern Africa</u> , pp. 196-199
Hargreaves, Bruce:	<u>Rations and Irration: Succulent Use in Kanye</u> ( <u>Cactus and Succulent Journal of America</u> , May-June, 1978)
Lee, Madelyn:	<u>Sansevieria</u> ( <u>Espinas y Flores</u> , Nov. 1981)
Martin, M.J. and Chapman, P.R.	<u>Succulents and their Cultivation</u> , pp. 46-47
Shetrone, H.C.	<u>The Genus Sansevieria</u> ( <u>Cactus and Succulent</u> <u>Journal of America</u> , March-April 1949)
Stover, H.	<u>The Sansevieria Book</u>

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SHOW SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

Mar. 17 & 18	Ikebana Internat'l Exhibit-Show	Sat & Sun: 11am - 4:30 pm
Mar. 24 & 25	San Diego Co. Orchid Show (Al Bahr Temple-Hiway 163 & Clairemont Mesa)	Sat:10am - 10pm Sun: 10am-5pm Admission \$1.50
Mar. 24 & 25	Wild Animal Park Cactus & Succulent Show	
Mar. 31, Apr. 1	Balboa Park African Violet Show	Sat: 1pm - 5pm Sun:10am-4pm



Index according to month of plant as printed in the Espinas Y Flores

Adenium & Pachypodium	June '81	Sarcocaulon & Pelargonium	Jan. '81
Agaves	Jan. '82	Sclerocacti	Feb. '82
Aloes, Miniature	Nov. '82	Sedum	March '82
Aloes, Nonminiature	Feb. '83	Sempervivum & Jovibarba	Aug. '83
Anacampseros	Apr. '82	Succulents of the Canary Islands	Jan. '83
Anacampseros, Ceraria & Talinum	March '81	Tephrocactus Lemaire	Jan. '83
Astrophytum	June '81	Thelocactus	Mar. '83
Bolivicereus Samaipatanus	Dec. '83	Turbinicarpus	Sept. '82
Borzicactus	Jan. '81	Weingartia	Apr. '81
Bromeliads	Nov. '83	Yuccas	Apr. '83
Bulbine, Gasteria & Bowiea	Apr. '81	Yucca schidigera	Feb. '82
Bursera, Fouquieria Pachycormus	Apr. '83		
Caralluma & Frerea	Spet. '83		
Caudiciform Succulents	Oct. '82		
Cephalocereus-Pilosocereus Group	Feb. '83		
Cereus	Nov. '81		
Cissus & Syphostemma	June '83		
Cleistocactus (Lemaire)	May '83		
Conophytum and Lithops	Feb. '82		
Copiapoa	Oct. '81		
Coryphantha	Apr. '83		
Cotyledon & Adromischus	Sept. '81		
Crassulas	June '82		
Dudleya	Mar. '83		
Didiereaceae	May '81		
Discocactus	Nov. '82		
Echinocereus Engelmannii	May '82		
Echinofossulocacti	Sept. '83		
Epiphytes	Feb. '83		
Espostoas & Thrixanthocereus	June '83		
Euphorbias	Sept. '82		
Faucaria (Mesembryanthemaceae)	Oct. '83		
Ferocactus	Aug. '83		
Frailea	June '82		
Gymnocalycium Pfeiffer	Jan. '82		
Haworthias and Astrolobas	May '82		
Hoodia	Aug. '82		
Kalanchoe	Jan. '84		
Lobivia	Jan '83		
Loxanthocereus	May '81		
Mammillaria Haworth	Mar. '82		
Mammillaria Magnifica	Nov. '83		
Mammillaria Nivosa	Aug. '82		
Monadenium	Oct. '81		
Neochilenia Backeberg	Oct. '83		
Natures Freaks	Dec. '82		
Neowerdermannia	Sept. '81		
Neoporteria	Mar. '81		
Notocactus	Aug. '82		
Pachypodium-Adenium	Feb. '83		
Parodia	April '82		
Sansevieria	Nov. '81		





# SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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

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Quail Botanical Garden - Phyllis Flechsig  
S.D. Botanical Garden Foundation - Elizabeth Glover  
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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