

MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

Donated to the San Diego
Cactus & Succulent Society by
Perlo S. Lewis (Founding Member)

Espinas y Flores

BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY (INCORPORATED)
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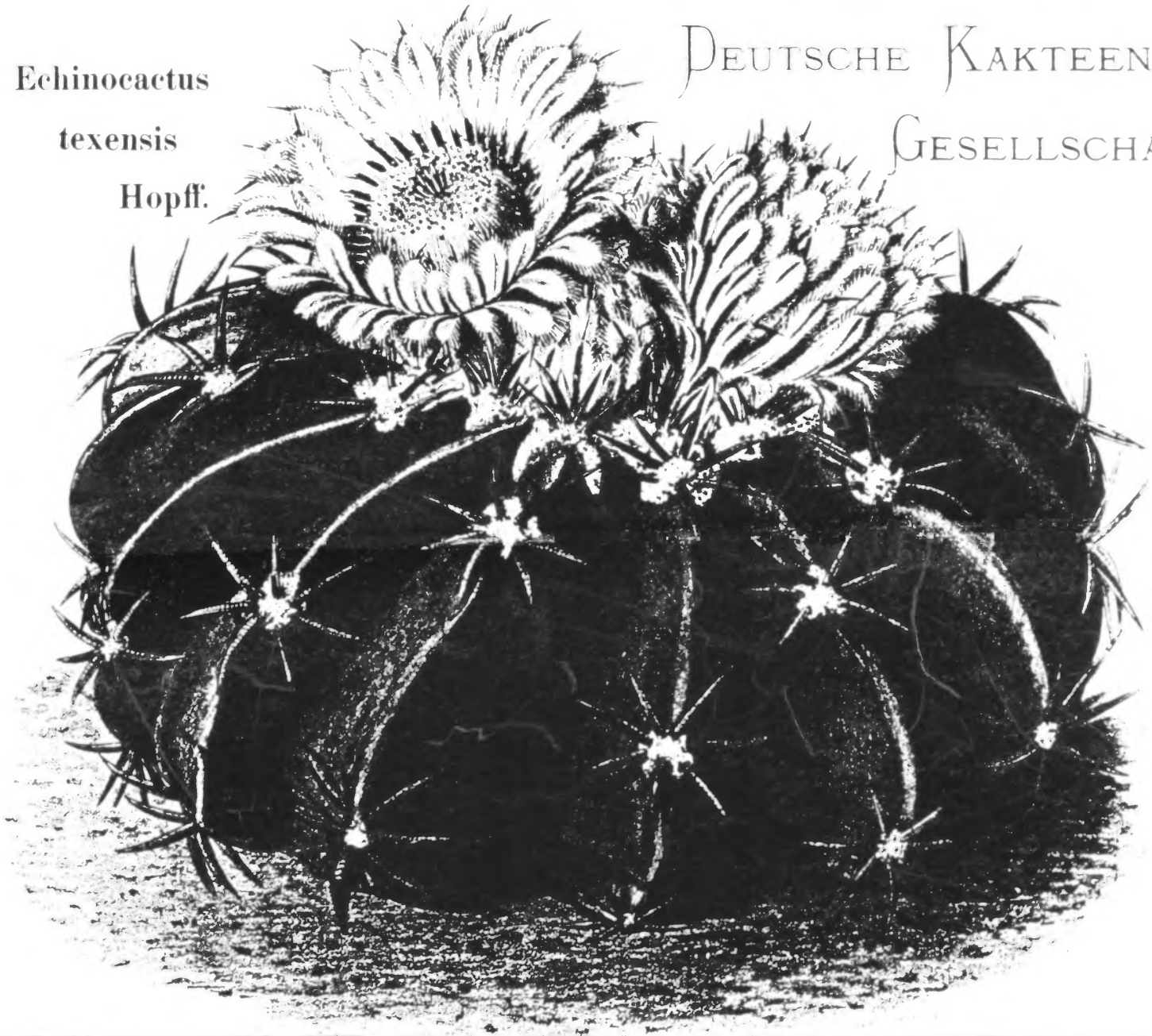
VOLUME XXVIII NUMBER TWO, FEBRUARY 8, 1992

Echinocactus

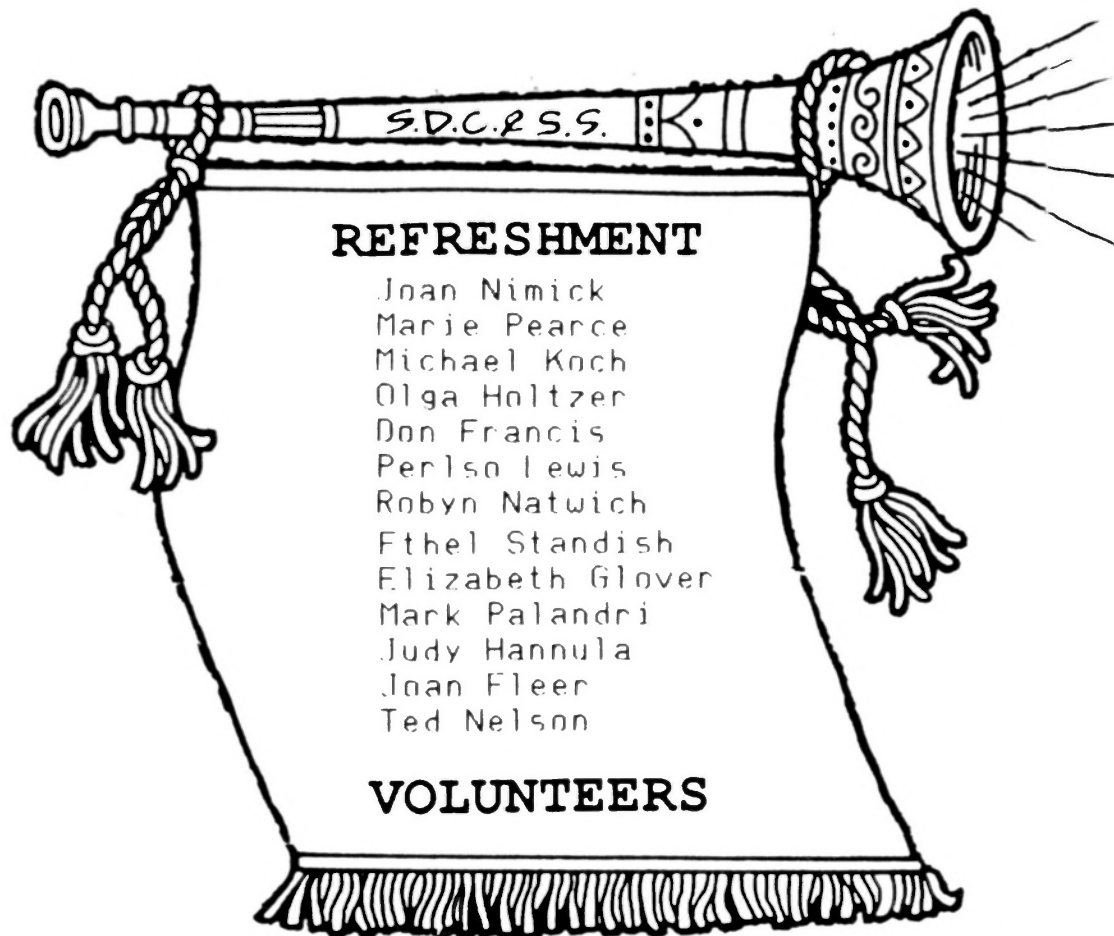
texensis

Hopff.

DEUTSCHE KAKTEEN-
GESELLSCHAFT



FEBRUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEXICAN GENERA OF CACTI BY WENDAL "WOODY" MINNICH. THIS WILL BE A DOUBLE PROJECTION SLIDE SHOW FEATURING THE REMARKABLE AND ODD WITH HABITAT PHOTOGRAPHS OF EPITHILANTHA, ARIOCARPUS, PELLASEPHORA, AZTECIUM, AND ASTROPHYTUMS AMONGST OTHERS. WOODY, FROM CACTUS DATA PLANTS, LITTLEROCK, CALIFORNIA, IS AN AVID PLANTSMAN AND EXPLORER AS WELL AS AN EXHIBITOR AND INTERNATIONAL JUDGE (WOODY IS ONE OF THE THREE DIRECTORS/PRODUCERS OF THE ANNUAL TRI-CITY SHOW). THIS PROGRAM THROUGH THE "LAND OF CACTUS", MEXICO, TAKES YOU ALL THE WAY SOUTH TO OAXACA AND WILL INCLUDE SLIDES OF WOODY'S VISIT WITH DR. ALFREDO LAU . DON'T MISS THIS ONE!!!

**BRAG TABLE WINNERS:**

First Place (\$5.00 in plant table script) went to Rudy Lime for his Othonna Idrioides Bonsai (Lavranos F.C.). All of his plants were very, very remarkable - he brought in all Firsts!!!!

Second Place (\$4.00) went to Rick Latimer for his Schlumbergia in full hot pink blossom.

Third Place (\$3.00) went to Dorothy Larberg for her magnificent Haworthia magnifica variety Whitesloaniana.

SORRY, BUT IF YOU HAVEN'T SENT IN YOUR DUES, THIS IS YOUR LAST COPY OF "SPINES & FLOWERS", SO NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD PEOPLE TO

CONGRATULATIONS TO RUTH AND AL RESNICK: FIFTIETH YEAR ANNIVERSARY! THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY RECEIVED A FIFTY DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION IN THEIR HONOR FROM RUTH & DAVE GILBERT. WE WILL BE PURCHASING A SPECIAL LIBRARY BOOK WITH BOOKPLATE COMMEMORATING ABOVE! THANK YOU!

ALSO CONGRATULATIONS TO LIFE MEMBERS: WARREN & VIRGINIA BUCKNER WHO WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH!!

WE ARE ALL SORRY TO HEAR THAT BOB TAYLOR HAD AN ACCIDENT AND FELL, PUTTING HIM OUT OF COMMISSION WITH A BROKEN KNEE AND FRACTURED RIB BONES. HE IS CONVALESCING IN A CAST AT HOME AND WOULD BE PLEEZED TO GREET VISITORS AND/OR CARDS. HIS ADDRESS IS 1051 TRES LOMAS DRIVE, EL CAJON, CA 92021. GET WELL SOON, BOB, WE LOVE & MISS!

HELLO AND HOWDY OUT THERE TO THOSE OF YOU WHO WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO VISIT WITH LATELY, ESPECIALLY DORIS RAKE, ELINOR LATIMER, RUSSELL EVANS, BOB TAYLOR AND JULIANNE RICE --- MISS YOU ALL!!!!

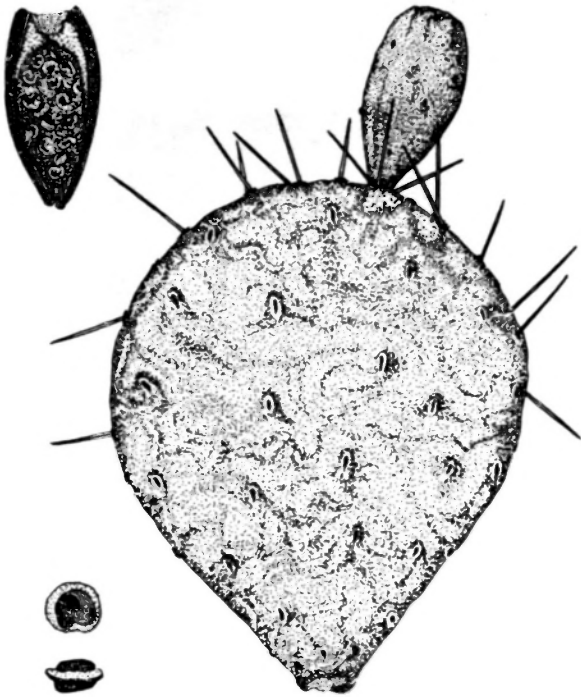
BOARD MEETING PRIOR TO REGULAR MEETING: 11:30; AGENDA: 1992 PLANS

Time to Set Our Goals

CACTUS OF THE MONTH

PLATYOPUNTIAS

by Rick Latimer



Opuntia humifusa (Raf.) Raf., central Southeastern variety; approx. X 0.5.

Like the Bromeliad family (last month's Succulent-of-the-Month) the cactus family is native to the Americas, again with one exception (although ranging thousands of miles further east). And like the Bromeliad family, the cactus family is split into three subfamilies. The most advanced one (Cereoideae) is the largest and includes those plants that this column most often devotes itself to. These plants have no leaves (except the seedlings), small seeds (relative to the other two subfamilies), no glochids, and

has plant shapes that are mostly spherical or columnar. In contrast to these species, the smallest subfamily (Pereskioideae) is also the most primitive one. These plants have large leaves (relatively speaking) that are deciduous, large seeds (with soft shells), no glochids, and the plants are marginally succulent shrubs, vines, or trees. The middle subfamily Opuntioideae includes those plants that have (usually small and ephemeral) leaves on the new growth, fairly large and hard shelled seeds, YES GLOCHIDS!, and plant shapes that are either grouped into the "pine cones" (Tephrocactus), the "chollas" (Cylindropuntia or Opuntia), and the "prickly pears" - the plants whose stems are made up of segments of flat disks (rather unique really in the plant kingdom) as seen in this month's genus Opuntia (per Benson) or genera Opuntia, Consolea, No-palea, and Brasiliopuntia (per Backeberg).

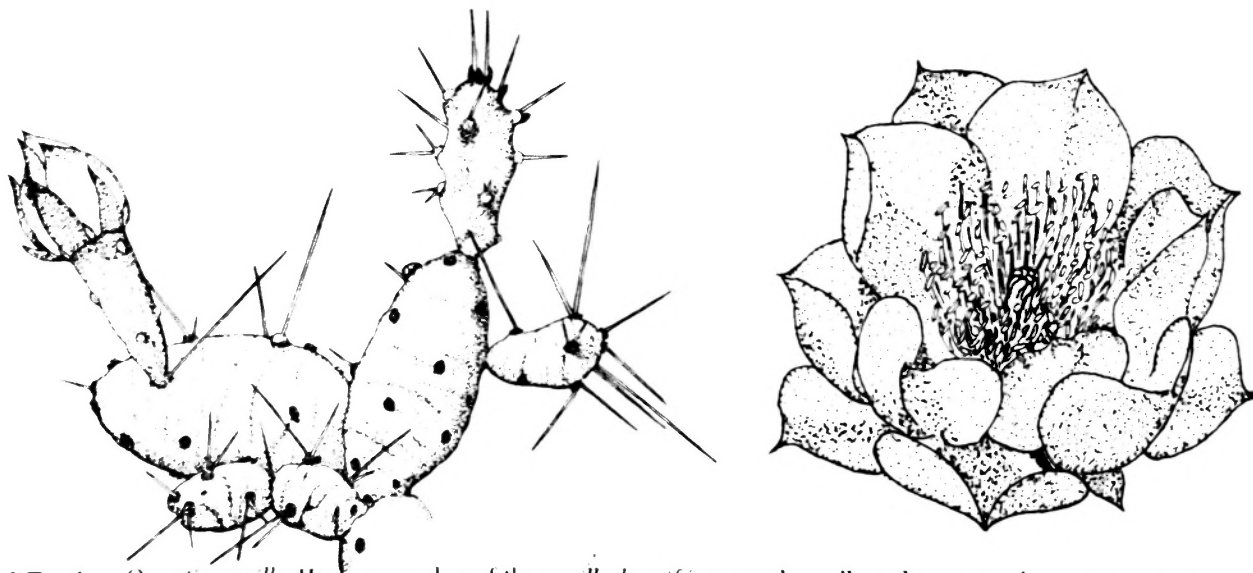
The most obvious distinguishing feature separating the "platyopuntias" from the other cacti is the flattened photosynthetic stem, also called a cladode. All plants in general have two types of growth: 1) "indeterminate" or 2) "determinate". With the first type, a plant grows as long as the environmental conditions are favorable and cease when they are not. Plants of this first type usually exhibit stems with a more or less continuous shape. The second type produces discrete growth shapes such as in the "holiday cacti" and the "platyopuntias". A platyopuntia cladode, for example, arises from a now dormant one and grows rapidly. Within a week or two, all the leaves and areoles of the new segment have formed, after which the new joint enlarges, fills up, and becomes "set in concrete". Changing environmental conditions have little effect upon the new segment. If environmental conditions remain favorable, an entire new cladode is then added on the other young one, but none of them grow larger than is typical of those of a particular species. Studies by P. Nobel indicate that plants in environments with winter rainfall tend to have terminal, unshaded cladodes that face in a north-south orientation (so the plants may take advantage of the lowness of the sun in the winter sky), while those plants (usually in cultivated environments) that grow throughout the year exhibit an east-west orientation (so both sides of the pads get sufficient sunlight during the growing period).

CACTUS OF THE MONTH

In Opuntia there are two types of spines: 1) thin, sharp, needle-like persistent spines and 2) the short, deciduous, barbed GLOCHIDS(ugh). Glochids are (if you did not already know) those nasty, irritating, and almost invisible when-in-your-skin pests that are these plants way of saying "To know me is not to love me"! (however I consider the sheathed cholla spine to be infinitely worse!) Many people have interesting tales about their first-hand experience with these plants. These two types of spines may or may not both appear in the same areole depending upon the species or variety. For example, O. violacea var. violacea has spines that are mostly restricted to the upper half of the pad, where one long central spine may reach 3 inches and shorter spines and glochids also reside in the areoles. Another variety O. violacea v. gosselinia has bristly long spines all over the pad. Then there is O. violacea v. santa-rita which has no persistent spines. The "friendlist" opuntia is probably O. ficus-indica, which is practically spineless. Plants may be used as grafting stock, or a source of food for both animals and people (pads = nopalitos and fruits = tunas or nopales).

Within a species there may be a considerable range of variability as to the plant's height flower color and fruit shape. For example, O.-lindheimeri has flowers that range from yellow to red and the fruits range from spherical to oblong and running in colors of various shades of green through yellow and orange to red and on to blackish-purple. The fruits in fact can be a longer lasting adornment than the flowers (both of which may change color over time - the flowers changing from day to day and the fruits changing as they ripen - up to two years in certain cases). Most species bear their flowers and fruits along the margins of the pads, although some species bear them on the flat surfaces. The skin on the pads is usually smooth, but some species have a velvety texture. Plants range from the low creeping plant I saw in the Canyon de Chelly National Park to the 25 foot trees of the Galapagos Islands.

The genus Opuntia has the widest north-south distribution in this plant family. O. fragilis (the "little prickly pear" - with a circular cross sectioned pad) grows in its northern limit as far north as the Peace River in British Columbia, Canada - and all the way south into southern Arizona. O. humifusa (almost alone among the cacti) lives from southwestern Wisconsin across to Massachusetts on the coast and down into Texas and Florida. The most southerly of the platyopuntias is native to northern Argentina. Of the several native San Diego County species, my favorite is O. basilaris with its bluish skin and rich magenta flowers. It ranges at least as far north as Mt. Whitney (where a dwarfish,



pink flowered var. whitneyana grows and sometimes is seen with white flowers), east across Nevada and into southwestern Utah (where var. aurea with yellow flowers grows), and south into Arizona and into Sonora and Baja in Mexico.

Since this is the second largest genus in the cactus family, if each member brought in at least one plant, we still would not have them all!

REFERENCES:

Guenther Andersohn, Cacti and Succulents

Curt Backeberg, Cactus Lexicon

Lyman Benson, The Cacti of the United States and Canada

Franz Buxbaum, Morphology of Cacti

E. Yale Dawson, Cacti of California

Arthur C. Gibson & Park S. Nobel, The Cactus Primer

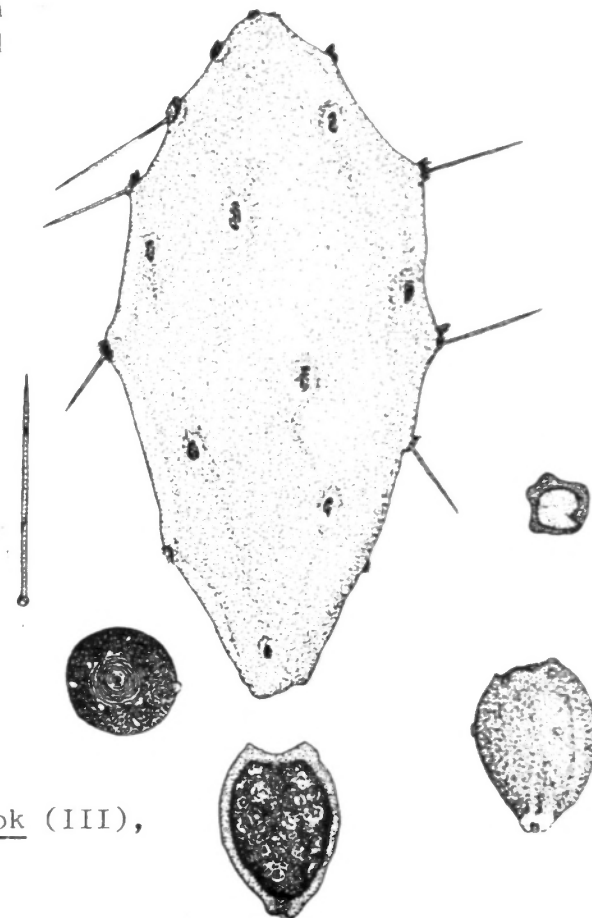
Helen Hegyi, "The Edible Fruited Cacti", California Rare Fruit Growers Yearbook (III), 1971 or Espinas y Flores 3-5/72

George Lindsay, Cacti of San Diego County

Barry L. Snow, "The History of the Cacti in the Southeastern United States", CSSA Journal (53) PP. 177-183

Joyce Tate, Cactus Cookbook

Opuntia stricta var. *stricta*
Haw., collected at Dauphin Island, Alabama, 1976; approx. X 0.5.



Notes

NOTES FROM THE CSSA BOARD MEETING: The CSSA board met December 7th in Arcadia, CA. Election results were reported: the unopposed slate of candidates was elected; the vote on whether to allow field collected plants in the CSSA annual show was defeated two-to-one. Chuck Ever-son, the new CSSA Librarian, distributed an inventory of the library's holdings. He announced that his predecessor, the late Fred Hutflesz, had bequeathed his personal library to CSSA. A book collector for many years, Fred had amassed an extensive collection, in-cluding complete runs of journals, dealers' catalogs, framed 19th century engravings, etc. The collection fills 100 to 150 big storage boxes and is currently held at Rainbow Gardens. The Huntington Library has offered CSSA space for a sizeable library in the botany building which they propose to build.

Charlie Glass, journal editor, circulated photos of two exciting new cactus discoveries--a new *Turbinicarpus* and a new *Aztekium*(!) This *Aztekium* grows to the size of a football, and is said to exist in masses of thousands of specimens. He also announced that Scott Haselton, founder of the journal, had died in September at the age of 96. Work is progressing on the supplement to the CSSA journal, *Haseltonia*, which will be published on an occasional basis. The column "Cacti & succulents for the amateur", written by Woody Minich and Fred Hutflesz, had been absent from the journal for some months, but will be continued by Woody and a new author. Charlie also announced that the long-awaited vols. 2 and 3 of "Cactaceas de Mexico" by Bravo-Hollis and Sanchez-Mejorada have finally been published. It may be awhile before they are available in the U.S., however.

Joe Clements, annual show chairman, reported that the 1991 show had realized a \$7000 profit for the Society.

THANKS TO FRESNO'S "CACTUS CORNER NEWS"
SUE HAFFNER, EDITOR FOR NOTES.

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH

Sarcocaulon and *Othonna*

PAGE 6

by Dylan Hannon

While representing two different and quite unrelated plant families, these genera were paired because most of their species are dwarf shrubs restricted primarily to the winter rainfall region of South Africa and Namibia. This distribution makes them automatic qualifiers for hassle-free cultivation in southern California, but they require sharp drainage and do best in small pots or a raised bed of well-drained soil or in the rock garden. Their native haunts are somewhat warmer than our climate, and as they do not appreciate the heavy downpours of cold water we experience on occasion they are excellent subjects for the unheated greenhouse.

Sarcocaulon, with 14 species in South Africa and Namibia, is one of five genera comprising the family Geraniaceae, or subfamily of Geranieae of the Geraniaceae sensu lato (along with an additional nine genera). All of the species share in common soft-woody stems which grow horizontally and are often armed with stout thorns. These stems are heteroblastic, i.e. produce two types of shoots: new leafy shoots extending the length of the branches, and short shoots along the stems which generate tufts of leaves from old leaf axils.

The leaves may be simple and shallowly or not at all lobed (*S. vanderietiae*, *S. l'heritieri*) to finely divided, as in *S. multifidum*, *S. peniculinum* and *S. herrei*. The disproportionately large and delicate flowers may be white, pink, yellow or salmon, with the last color represented by *S. salmoneum*, a rare and very choice species which seems to be more difficult in cultivation than the others.

The genus *Othonna*, with some 150 African species mostly confined to South Africa, is more varied vegetatively than *Sarcocaulon*, though the flowers share a common miniature daisy theme and are mostly yellow.

Among the more common species are *O. capensis*, used in hanging baskets and as ground cover, and *O. sedifolia*, a petit shrub-like plant of slow growth which resembles some species of *Sedum*. The more specialized life-forms in the genus are exciting examples of adaptation to a dry climate that few other plants can match. *O. lepidocaulis*, as its name implies, possesses rather large, smooth 'scales' along its thick stems, giving a very odd reptilian appearance. Two very dwarf shrubs, *O. euphorbioides* and *O. cacalioides*, resemble one another somewhat, the former amply supplied with branched thorns and the latter unarmed and of more compact habit. Along with the last three mentioned, *Othonna herrei* is another rare, choice species with knobby stems and larger, deciduous leaves. Shrubby species include *O. lobata* and *O. quercifolia*, though the application of some of the names is in doubt as *Othonna* has not been treated taxonomically for many decades. Other growth forms include geophytic types represented by *O. cuneata* and others.

In cultivation, both *Sarcocaulon* and *Othonna* are easy to grow for the most part as long as adherence is paid to their fall-through-spring growing requirements and good drainage is given. In the open ground, in a raised sandy bed or rock garden, they may even set seed and volunteer their own offspring, as has happened at UC Irvine Arboretum. Here, seedlings of *S. vanderietiae* thrive and attain respectable size quite rapidly.



Othonna euphorbioides HUTCHINS.



Othonna herrei



Othonna clavifolia MARL.

SUCCULENT PLANT OF THE MONTH

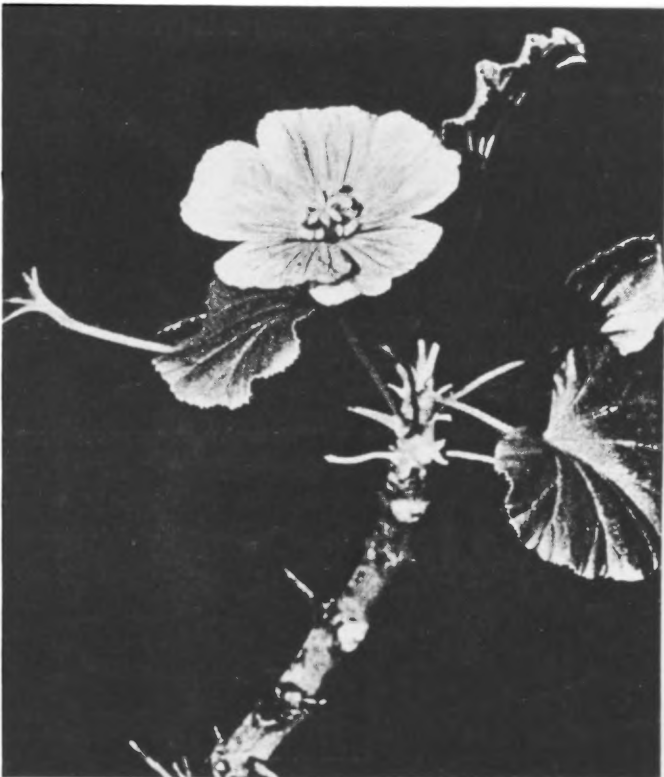
Sarcocaulon and *Othonna*



Sarcocaulon l'heritieri



Sarcocaulon herrei, showing thorn formation



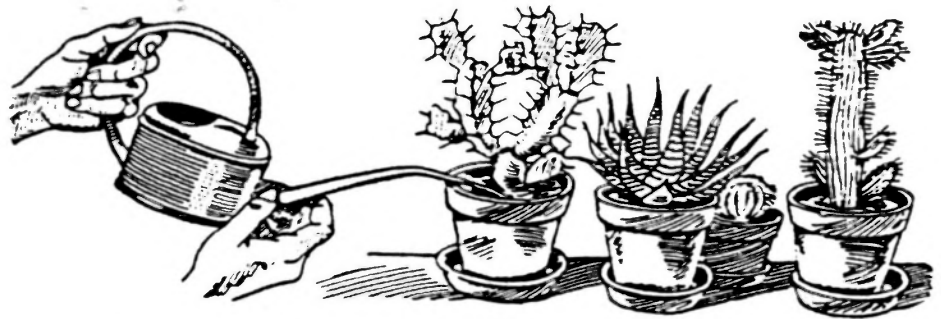
Sarcocaulon mossamedense
Flowering shoot of *Sarcocaulon herrei*



Sarcocaulon spinosum

"From All Corners"

by Shirley Berry



I have three plants of *Lobivia glauca* acquired consecutively as each previous one contracted the insidious scourge known as red spider mite. To my way of thinking, this plant has the most beautiful flower in all of the cactus family, but these could never be show plants because of the damage of this pest. While perusing the National Cactus and Succulent Journal (Great Britain), September 1977, a safe and effective cure for this pestilence was offered, translated from a German journal by Lois Glass.

"Dry conditions favor the appearance of a pest called red spider. These mites cannot be seen with the naked eye but a magnifying glass makes them visible. These mites have powerful jaws which they use for attacking the epidermis of cacti. The symptoms are seen as large areas of corky surface with a grayish, yellowish or reddish brown tinge.

The earliest victims are likely to be *Rebutia*, *Aylostera*, *Coryphantha*, *Mammillaria*, *Escobaria*, *Notocactus*, *Echinocereus*, and *Lobivia*.

As for the actual treatment, it is worth pointing out that these mites are able to keep their breathing organs closed for quite a long time which makes some of the commercially available pesticides unsuitable.

The best means is one I have used for many years, namely flowers of sulphur, obtainable from any chemist (pharmacy). The powder can be in nylon stocking and shaken over the area to be treated. Plant and soil are thus covered with a fine dusting of sulphur. The procedure is quite harmless to the cacti themselves and to human beings. Later, all traces of the sulphur can be removed by spraying. It is worth noting that this sulphur treatment also destroys ants which may be present."

MISCELLANEOUS

Dear Mary,

Hello & Happy Holidays to you.

Today I received my recent *Espinas y Flores* and couldn't let another issue pass without extending to you my sincere thanks for #1 the way it looks and #2 the written stuff.

The graphics/photos are super. It seems wonderfully "full" of pictures and interesting articles. I read it cover to cover.

I am a recent member of the SDC&SS and have, unfortunately, only been able to attend one meeting. I hope to be active during the 1992 year.

I also like the "Wise & Otherwise" and quotes regarding life, the planet and such.

Please keep up this fabulous work. You are enjoyed by me and I'm sure I reflect the sincere gratitude of the entire membership.

Thanks very much---

D.P.

Thank You!

"Elizabeth Athy donates \$82.00 to the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, with the stipulation that \$41.00 will be donated by the SDC&SS to the San Diego Botanical Foundation."

THANK YOU BETTY!!!

"Many thanks to the members of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society who donated plants to the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary for their sale at V.A. Hospital.... the Bazaar was a success and for another year we can do little things for our disabled Vets.... hope you will all participate next November!

Thanks again,
Ruth Richardson
VAVS Rep D.A.V. Auxiliary

Cactus and Succulent

CALENDAR

1992 SHOW SCHEDULE

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April 11 & 12: SOUTH COAST C & S SOC. SHOW & SALE at the South Coast Botanic Gardens on Crenshaw, Palos Verdes Peninsula. Setup Friday. Contact Bob & Carol Causey (213) 675-5843 or Jim Hanna (213) 920-3046. Open show (All interested -- not just club members -- may compete.

April 30, May 1 & 2, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden will have a symposium on California's horticulturally significant plants, titled: Out of the Wild & into the Garden. Sean Hogan will speak on succulents. Call 714-626-1917 for info.

May 2 & 3: SUNSET SUCCULENT SOC. SHOW & SALE at the Culver City Veterans Auditorium Bldg -- Garden Room. Setup Friday. You get two shows in one place -- the Brom. Soc. also holds its show here. Contact ? (Closed show.)

May 23 & 24: SANTA BARBARA SHOW & SALE at their usual venue. Setup Friday. No show chair yet. Contact President Nancy Bogart. Also, we don't know if this is a closed or open show. Weekend preceding Memorial Day.

May 30 & 31: GATES C & S SOC. SHOW & SALE, Redlands. Setup Friday.

June 6 & 7: SAN DIEGO C & S SOC. SHOW & SALE. Setup Friday. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Contact Chuck Adams (619) 530-2551.

June 13 & 14: ORANGE COUNTY C & S SOC. SHOW & SALE. Contact Show Chair. C.W. Elliott (714) 522-6996. Setup Friday. Open show?

July 4 & 5: CSSA NATIONAL SHOW & SALE, at the L.A. Arboretum on Baldwin in Arcadia (opposite Santa Anita racetrack). Setup Thurs. & Friday. Contact Show Chairmen are Joe Clements (213) 696-4154 & Duke Benadom (805) 526-8620. Open to all interested if they are affiliated with CSSA or an affiliated society. No collected plants allowed in competition.

Aug. 22 & 23: OUR INTER-CITY SHOW & SALE, at the L.A. Arboretum on Baldwin in Arcadia, with setup late Wed., also all day Thurs. & Fri. Contact Show Chairs Larry Grammer (213) 599-0856, Woody Minnich (805) 944-2784, or Charles Spotts (818) 341-7613. Open Show. One week later than usual due to Arboretum request.

COMPILATED BY CAROL WUJCIK LONG BEACH C&S "ROADRUNNERS"

IOS CONGRESS

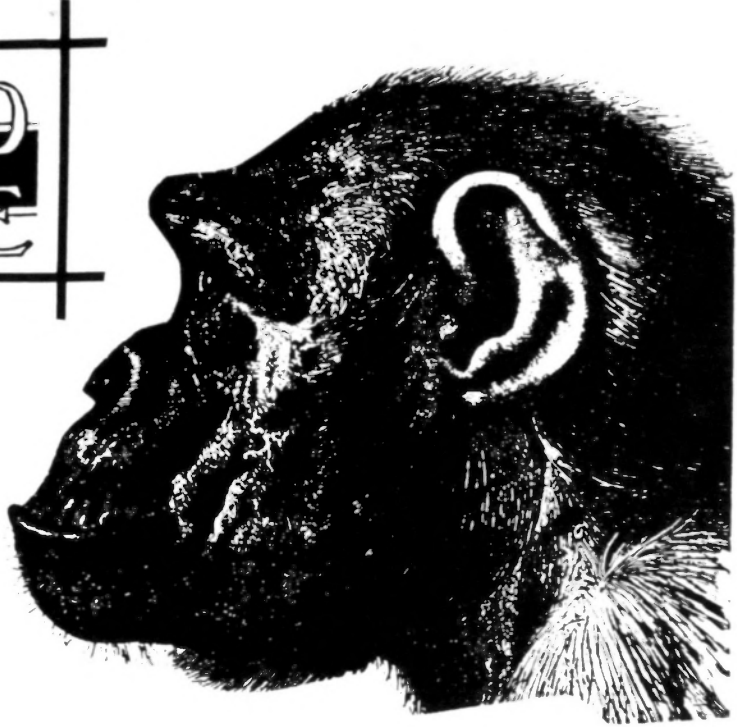
The 22nd Congress of the International Organization for Succulent Plant Study (IOS) will be held at the Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, on April 5-14, 1992. Included will be technical sessions, public lectures, workshops and field excursions. The Congress is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

MARCH MINI SHOW:

In lieu of our regular program and Cactus/Succulent of the month feature, we will have a mini show highlighting winter growing succulents (i.e. Cotyledons, Pelargoniums, Othonnas, Aloes, Crassulas, Oxalis, rare bulbs, Aeoniums, etc.) You can display any plant which is in showable form. This show will be expertly judged and explained outloud in an educational and informative manner. First, Second, and Third Ribbons will be awarded. Categories of entries will be arranged, combined when we see what participation we get, so we really need your participation to make the event a success. Groom your plants (check for insects, please!!) We are really looking forward to first time shower's participation!!!

Look for more particulars in next Espinas y Flores.

WISE AND OTHERWISE



by Michael Buckner

"SEE THE TREES LEAN TO THE WIND'S WAY OF LEARNING.
SEE THE DIRT OF THE HILLS SHAPE TO THE WATER'S WAY OF LEARNING.
SEE THE LIFT OF IT ALL GO THE WAY THE BIGGEST WIND AND STRONGEST WATER WANT IT."
Carl Sandberg

"The most graphic testimony to the importance of adaptation in evolutionary history is the phenomenon of convergence: organisms coming from separate evolutionary lineages may display remarkable similarities despite having evolved separately from ancestors that were quite unlike and that lived sometimes millions of years apart."

"Convergence tells us something of the limitations on design that govern the evolution of shape and size through time. There are often but a few, perhaps even a single, best ways to design an organism to perform a certain function. Some limitations are purely mechanical or even simply mathematical. For example, placing identical objects close together over a surface is best accomplished if each object, or cell, is six-sided, which yields optimal packing. Thus many colonial invertebrates, such as coral and sponges, have six-sided walls. The compound eyes of crustaceans and insects are likewise often six-sided - as are the cells of the honeycombs, which though not themselves organisms, are structures constructed by organisms - honey bees."

From FOSSILS: THE EVOLUTION AND EXTINCTION OF SPECIES" by Niles Eldredge, Abrahms Inc, c. 1991. Niles Eldredge is the curator, Dept of Invertebrates, American Museum Natural History. Introduction by Stephan Jay Gould of Harvard.

"GIVE FOOLS THEIR GOLD AND KNAVES THEIR POWER,
LET FORTUNE'S BUBBLES RISE AND FALL,
WHO SOWS A FIELD OR TRAINS A FLOWER OR PLANTS A TREE,
IS MORE THAN ALL." John Greenleaf Whittier

"At present rates of extinction, as many as 60,000 plants species - one fourth of the world's total - may be lost or endangered within the next 50 years. Meanwhile, there are more mouths than ever to feed.

When Farmers began harvesting the first domesticated plants about 8000 b.c., the earth's population was around four million. Today that many people are born every ten days. If the trend continues beyond the year 2000, we will have to grow as much food in the first two decades of the new century as was produced over the past 10,000 years."

THE WORLD'S FOOD SUPPLY AT RISK by Robert E. Rhodes

SPINE STUDIES

PELECYPHORA ASELLIFORMIS
(Ehrenburg, 1843)

By Anthony D'Attilio

This small cactus is native to New Mexico and is the type of the genus. It is very distinctive in its form and it is rather pretty.

Two additional species Pseudopectinata (Backeberg 1935) and Valdeziana (Moll. 1939) have been at times considered also in the genus Pelecyphora. However, Valdeziana has been placed in its own genus and is now Normanbokea valdeziana. The generic position of Pseudopectinata has been thrown into doubt in a paper by Charles Glass (Cactus and Succulent Journal No. 6, Nov-Dec. 1969). This would leave P. asseliformis by itself. Its several distinctive characteristics make it nonetheless easily identifiable.

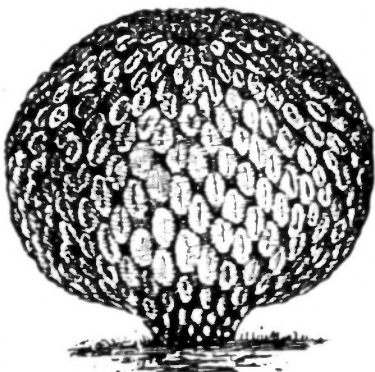
The name "Pelecyphora" comes from the Greek and means "hatchet bearer" with reference to the flattened tubercles (Fig. a). Asseliformis means "like a wood louse", a suggestive term for the form of the spine cluster. (Fig. b)

A more notable similarity, I find, is to the small mealy bug which as a cactus pest is so familiar to all of us. The plant bodies are small, forming offsets (caespitose) and are roundish or elongatedly round. The tubercles are not arranged on ribs, are flattened above, and crowned with an ovate areole bearing spines which are arranged comb-like.

At first the new tubercles are tightly squeezed together, later becoming more spread apart when their shape is easily discernible. Each elongated areole contains 24 to 30 tiny, blunt, flattened-down spines on each side.

The spines are coated with a fine semi-opaque greenish-white epidermis when new but this wears off and the older spines appear more green and translucent. Each spine has one or two grooves (Fig. c). The wool in the newer flower bearing areoles at the top of the plant is translucent and flattened, ribbon like. This is apparent only under magnification.

Both Britton and Rose in "The Cactaceae" and H. Bravo in "Las Cactaceas de Mexico", in 1937, believed that P. asseliformis was the plant known to the Indians as "peyote". The true peyote apparently is Lophophora Williamsii, a flattened, soft-bodied, almost spineless cactus that is widely distributed and not of rare occurrence.



Pelecyphora asseliformis.

It is unlawful to possess it in California because of its use as a hallucination producing substance due to the chemical composition of its alkaloids.

Pelecyphora have scale-like serrated combs, or a radiating fan-shaped row of spines, joined at their base.

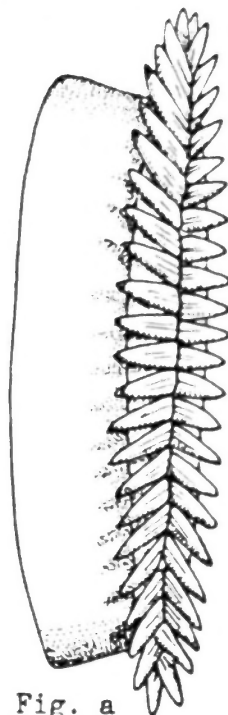


Fig. a

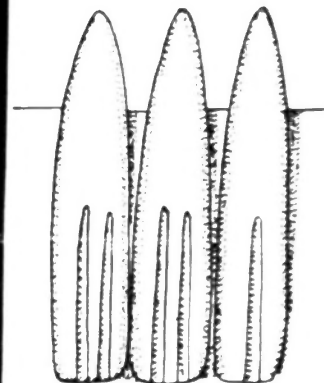


Fig. c

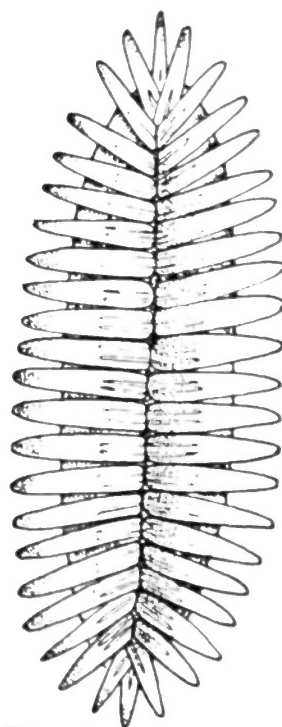


Fig. b

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President - Michael Buckner
222-3216
Vice President - Mitch Bahr
571-0912
Secretary - Joyce Buckner
222-3216
Treasurer - Laura DeMerritt
571-5127
Immediate Past Pres. - Chuck Adams
530-2551

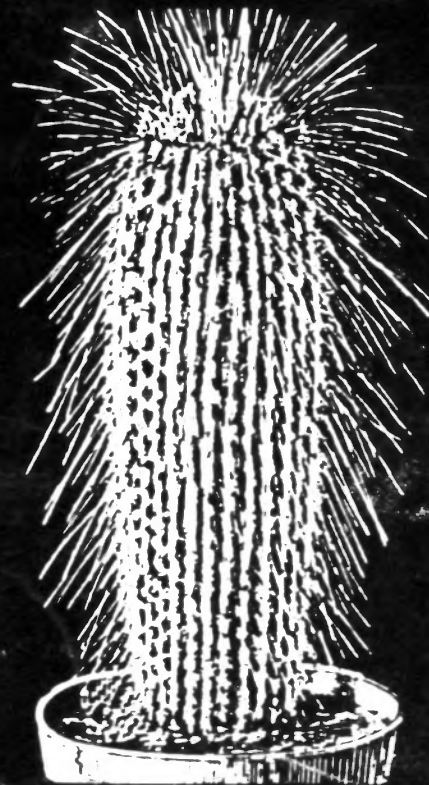
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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If you have further questions or need more information, feel free to write or call and be assured you will receive a courteous and prompt reply!

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