

ILLUSTRATED IN PLATE 16
 FIG. 25. *Echinocactus horizontbalonius*
 FIG. 26. *Homalocephala texensis*
 FIG. 27. *Astrophytum asterias*
 FIG. 28. *Eriosyce ceratistes*

PLATE 16 (three-fourths size)

VOLUME XXIX NUMBER ELEVEN, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1994 @ 1:00 PM



Espinas y Flores

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



OUR PROGRAM: November will bring Michael and Cathy McCammon of Santa Barbara to visit and present a slide show retrospective of their two Succulent Safaris to southwest and southeast Africa including Madagascar. Cathy was a judge for our June show, if you did not get a chance to meet her then - this is another opportunity to become acquainted with this knowledgeable and articulate woman. Highlights of the 1993 "Succulenta Conference" will be illuminated. This presentation will focus on the southeastern and southwestern cape regions with many photographs of Euphorbias, Conophytums, Sarcocaulons, and other succulents. Don't miss this fall program.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP EARLY!

AND PLEASE FILL OUT THE NEW 1995 MEMBERSHIP FORM. PLEASE HELP US BY UPDATING ANY MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION.

★ **ARE WE SPELLING YOUR NAME CORRECTLY???**

★ **DO WE HAVE THE CORRECT ZIP CODE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL???**

Now is the time to be preparing your exchange plant for our Holiday gift exchange. Evaluate your collection and choose a special plant that you are proud of but can still bear to part with. Always make sure your plant is insect free and clean. This is always a fun event and the nicer your plant is the sooner you will have a chance to select among the many lovely specimens brought in by your fellow members. If you have not participated in the plant exchange this is how it works:

Any member or guest may participate; all you do is bring in a desirable cactus or succulent plant. It should be in good condition, clean and pest-free, and nicely potted. Include a label that identifies the plant on one side and has your name on the other side. The first plant to be selected will be auctioned off at the end of the meeting. The person who brought in that first selected plant now gets first choice from all remaining plants. Whenever a plant is selected, the person who brought it gets the next choice, so the more appealing the plant that you bring in the earlier you will get your chance at the "gems". Please one plant per person. This is a terrific way to give, receive, and broaden your plant collection all at the same time!!

If you plan to attend the SDC&SS Holiday banquet on December 10th, and receive a beautiful holiday gift plant your 1995 dues must be paid. If you joined during the middle of the year, a prorated membership @ a rate of \$1.00 per month will be available to you (50¢ per month for affiliated members). If you do not know when your present membership expires please check your address label on the back of this issue. The first line consists of a series of ** and numbers; the first number is my primitive attempt to count you all; the second number represents a year and a month. If your second number says 9501 it means your membership expires January of 1995. If you feel that the membership information is incorrect please let me (Joyce Buckner 222-3216) or Laura DeMerritt our treasurer.



Haseltonia Number 2 will be shipped this month to those of you who pre-ordered. It will contain *Sclerocactus* and *Lenophyllum* monographs and articles on *Poellnitzia* (monotypic genus closely allied to *Haworthia* and *Astroloba*), *Eriosyce*, *Echeveria*, *Euphorbia*, *Aporophyllums*, and other succulents. This supplement -- yearbook of the CSSA dedicated to our first journal editor Scott Haselton is extremely worthwhile and the CSSA should be congratulated for this astute accomplishment. *Haseltonia Number 3* funds have been allocated and we look forward to its publication in the spring of 1995. For copies send \$25.00 to CSSA Treasurer, Mindy Fusaro, P.O. Box 35034, Des Moines, IA 50315-0301. Also *Haseltonia Number 1* is still available for \$25.00 - order one now, before they go out-of-print!

Some Collectors and Their Collections - This has been a popular program at the last two CSSA Conventions and again will be featured at the 1995 Tucson Convention. The slides will be shown at the Convention as one of the scheduled programs. You will be able to narrate them if you wish. Space is limited so send in your slides soon! Let other succulentophiles see how you grow your plants. Send 15 - 20 slides (with descriptions) to: David Tufenkian, 1207 Dominion Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91104, (818)794-3082 (phone or FAX).

Extremely Important - Do not send any correspondence or funds to the old International Bulb Society address. Effectively immediately (August 28, 1994) the new and *only* International Bulb Society address is: **INTERNATIONAL BULB SOCIETY, P.O. Box 92126, Pasadena, CA 91109-2136**. If you would like more information regarding the Bulb Society contact SDC&SS Board member Dylan Hannon.

1995 CACTUS CALENDAR - Dietrich W. Paul (1230 Destree Road, Escondido, CA 92027-3939) offers a 1995 calendar with thirteen outstanding full-color plates, every plant shown described in detail and suitable for framing. The cost which includes shipping is \$11.50 - California residents must add \$0.95 tax for a total of \$12.45.



**BRAG TABLE WINNERS FOR OCTOBER 1994:
JUDGED BY KELLY GRIFFIN**

CACTUS:

- FIRST PLACE: DON PATTERSON'S *Mammillaria sartori*
- SECOND PLACE: BOB TAYLOR'S CACTUS DISH GARDEN
- THIRD PLACE: DON PATTERSON'S *Copiapoa uhligiani*

SUCCULENT:

- FIRST PLACE: MARYLYN HENDERSON'S *Diosceria elephantipes*
- SECOND PLACE: DYLAN HANNON'S *Brighamia insignis* * This rare and endangered species from the Bellflower family grows on the steep coastal cliffs of Ni'iha and Kauai in Hawaii.
- THIRD PLACE: ALEX CARDENAS-MURPHY'S *Ceraria pygmaea* * A beautiful bonsai in bloom!



SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT & SOCIETY

PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER: HAPPY HOLIDAYS

ELECTION OF 1995-1996 OFFICERS

DINNER PROMPTLY @ 1:00 PM

SPECIAL PLANT EXCHANGE

SPECIAL SERVICE & LIFE MEMBER AWARDS

DISTRIBUTION OF GIFT PLANTS TO MEMBERS

MINI-AUCTION

NO LIBRARY AND NO PLANT SALES

HOLIDAY BUFFET MENU - TOP HAT CATERERS:

**Roast Turkey with Sage Dressing ★ Mashed Potatoes with Giblet Gravy
Hot Buttered Corn ★ Tossed Green Salad with Tomatoes and Choice of Dressings
Relish Tray of Fresh Vegetables ★ Cranberry Sauce ★ Rolls & Butter
Coffee ★ Soft Drinks ★ Wine ★ Apple or Pumpkin Pie**

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

S.D.C. & S.S.

Mrs. Laura DeMerritt, Treasurer of the S.D. Cactus & Succulent Society

P.O. BOX 33181

SAN DIEGO, CA 92163-3181

Dear Laura,

Yes! Please reserve Holiday Dinners for Members @ \$10.00 per Member:

MEMBER NAME _____

MEMBER NAME _____

Please reserve Holiday Dinner for Guest @ \$10.00 (Sorry, No Gift Plant for non-members or members who have not renewed their membership through 1995).

GUEST NAME _____

GUEST NAME _____

**THE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10th MEETING BEGINS AT 12:00 NOON -
HOLIDAY DINNER TO BE SERVED AT 1:00 - PLANT EXCHANGE DURING
DINNER, GIFT PLANTS FOR ALL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING WILL BE
DISTRIBUTED DURING DESSERT.**

November — Special Event

Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society is honored to present a very special program in November. Our November meeting has been moved ahead one week from the normal 4th Thursday to November 17th. This change of date has enabled us to engage a very special speaker for the occasion. The efforts of program chairman Gary James with assistance from the CSSA and Seymour Linden allow us to host a program by Meena Singh. She is well known for her work with succulents of her native India. She has been a recipient of CSSA Research Fund grants and recently published in both the CSSA Journal (Vol 65, 1993 p186, 281) and The Euphorbia Journal, Volume 8.



Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society

For more information call:

Gene Schroeder
637-8192

Toni Garretson
539-8773

Our meeting place allows us to accommodate quite a few guests so we wish to welcome members of all area clubs to join us for this presentation. There is no charge for admission but donation of an item for our raffle table would be appreciated.

Thursday, November 17, 7:30 p.m.
Guest Speaker, Meena Singh – Succulents of India
First Presbyterian Church Auditorium
11832 Euclid in Garden Grove

GYMNOCALYCIUM *A collector's guide* by JOHN PILBEAM

1994. 21 x 28cm. 176 pp. & 16 colour pp., Cloth, Hfl.125 / \$70.00 / £45. ISBN 90 5410 192 X
Publication date: 1 October 1994

The genus *Gymnocalycium* has been popular with cactus fanciers for many years. It is widespread in the wild, with most species occurring in northern Argentina and southern Bolivia, and a handful in southern Brazil, south-western Paraguay and Uruguay. New species or variants of species have been discovered steadily since the recognition by Britton and Rose in 1922 of Karl Pfeiffer's genus *Gymnocalycium*, proposed by him some 70 years before, and some of the earliest of cactus illustrations are of species of *Gymnocalycium*, then called under the umbrella names of ribbed, globular cacti *Echinocactus*.

Since Britton and Rose's classic base, *The Cactaceae*, the genus has been generally acknowledged, and the distinct appearance of the species has caused little confusion with other genera. The naked bud, for which the genus was named, the distinctive form with more or less prominent 'chins', as the humps on the ribs have come to be called from the resemblance to a human chin, and the often distinctive spination have few imitators, and most collectors can immediately identify most *Gymnocalycium* species as of the genus, and recognise the more common of them readily. Some species are very distinct, and can be confused with no other, while others merge in appearance, and are more or less closely related.

This book will show the collector what the range of species is, and help him to identify or verify the plants he acquires, as well as presenting under one cover information scattered hitherto in various publications over a period of many years. In the course of its preparation the author swelled his collection of this genus from a modest 120 plants to 800, and has travelled extensively to see various collections, or corresponded with enthusiasts in the UK, the USA, Canada, Australia, Germany and Czechoslovakia. *Gymnocalycium*s are widely popular and this book will help to increase their popularity.

CONTENTS:

Introduction: Acknowledgements:
Cultivation: Classification:
Flowers, fruit and seed:
Geography and distribution:
Checklist of species:

Rejected names and their synonymy:
Discovery of species in the wild (including field lists):
Commentary on species:
Glossary: Societies:
Bibliography: Index.



Hello, our Holiday Dinner and meeting is just around the corner, December 10, the cost to members this year will be \$10.00 per person. Please pay in advance, those that need assistance in paying please contact a society board member and we will help. Those of you that want a gift plant at the Holiday Dinner will have to pay your 1995 dues before the December meeting date. You do not have to purchase a dinner to come to the meeting and pick up your plant. Also, advance dues payment is NOT required to attend the meeting. If you are a member it is important to attend the meeting and cast your vote for the 1995/96 officers.

The Nominating Committee was appointed at the October meeting, they are: Elibet Marshall, Marie Pearce and Ethel Standish. Elibet is the Chair of the Committee and may be contacted at 459-5246. The committee will present a written list of nominees to the members at the November meeting. In December nominations from the floor will be accepted provided the member being nominated is present and gives their consent to the nomination or, if not present, has given his or her written consent to the nomination prior to the meeting.

The Garden Festival at the San Diego Wild Animal Park went very well this year. I gave several tours of the Baja Hill on Sunday and saw members from the Society, thanks for attending! Now that the cooler months are approaching I will start calling for volunteers to help at the Baja Hill.

Here is a list of projects that we will be starting this season: Repotting the greenhouse collection, Work on the weedy plant species, Grid out the garden into 10 meter squares, Start to produce and distribute seeds, Establish an *Agave* garden, Plan out 'Chris's Garden' (the volunteer's succulent garden), Repair the Baja Greenhouse and Make an Arroyo on the western edge of the Baja Hill. The Aloe Garden could use some help too. I have a small list of names from the middle of this year that I will call on, but we need more!

On Sunday November 13 at 8:00 a.m. there will be a meeting at the Baja Hill for those interested in assisting on projects from the preceding list. If you are interested in helping please attend. Call me for details on entry into the park, advance notification is necessary to enter in the 'back gate' at the rear of the park. We will meet at the Palupa (covered bench) on top of the 'Hill', if it is raining (raining!) we will postpone the meeting. If you can not attend and are interested call me at 569-8510.

Thanks,

Joey Beteler

The Good New Books, The Bad News & The Ugly

A Message from our Librarian Rick Latimer

As my ten year term as Librarian is soon to come to a close, I wish to thank all of those who have helped me in this office, those who are bibliophiles, and those who have returned all their books. If at all possible kindly return all borrowed books at the November meeting. Some books still need dust jackets - over the past three years Michael Buckner and I have put dust jackets on a majority of our books.

NEW BOOKS IN THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY LIBRARY:

Austin Deuel, Canyon de los Artistas (donated by Ted Nelson)
Edward Abbey, Desert Solitaire (donated by Carl Dykema)
Gordon D. Rowley, Succulent Compositae (2)
Paul H. Thomson, Dudleya and Hesseathus Handbook (2)
Edward Weston, Fifty Years (donated by Paul Stewart)
J. J. Verbeek Wolthuys, Monstrosity and Crestation in Succulent Plants (donated by Kelly Griffin)

Unfortunately, some books have not come back over a long period of time. Doubly unfortunate, the last time I made a plea to the membership, I received absolutely no response. This time, I hope the general membership can be of assistance. Below please find a list of long time missing books. I hope some of you know these people and can help to reclaim these books for our library.

John Arenas (10/90)

Boarder, Starting with Cacti
Harry Johnson, Catalogues 1960-68
Euphorbia Journal Volume I

Anna Ballow (1/89)

Andersohn, Cacti and Succulents

Harry S. Edmunds (3/82)

Glass, Cacti and Succulents for the Amateur

Robert Griffin (4/86)

Haselton, Epiphyllum Handbook

Tom Hanig (8/88 - 2/89)

Barthlott, Cacti
Borman, Aloes of the South African Veldt
Doreen Court, Succulent Flora of South Africa
Cullman, etc., The Encyclopedia of Cacti
Jacobsen, Succulent Plants
Luckhoff, Stapelieae of Southern Africa
Martin, Cacti and their Cultivation
Rowley, Caudiciforms
SAASS, Aloe Volumes 19-23

Steve Hanna (2/84)

Organic Fertilizers

Bart Keeran (4/90)

Rauh, Bromeliads
Taylor's Guide to Trees

Allan/Mike Kuebler (11/89 - 2/91)

Hyde, Drylands
Wolthuys, Monstrosity, etc.
Euphorbia Journal, volume V

Ed Marty (1/85)

Pilbeam, Haworthia & Astroloba

Rivera (10/90)

Humphrey, Boojum and its Home
Rowley, Caudiciforms
CSSA Journal 1940-43

Doug Shultz (10/83)

Craig, Mammillaria Handbook

William E. Wright (7/86)

Craig, Mammillaria Handbook
Pilbeam, Mammillaria

Herbert Wohl (1/83)

Coyle & Roberts, Plants of Baja California
Nehrling, Drought Resistant Plants

The next time you wish to check out a book from our very significant and abundant library, you may find the personal information requested of you uncomfortably similar to the hoops you must jump through to cash a check or receive accurate information regarding your health-care benefits – please bear with us.

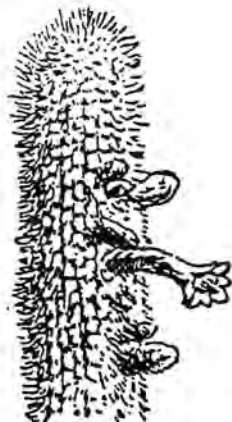
Thank you, **Rick Latimer**

Cleistocactus

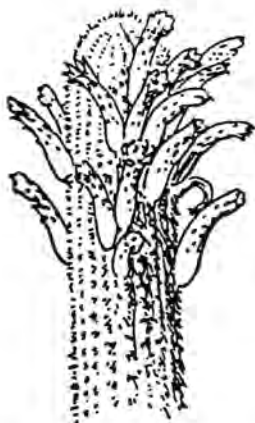
by Joe Clements



Cleistocactus baumanii
(TYPE PLANT)



Cleistocactus strausii



Cleistocactus flavescens

With over sixty species to choose from, **Cleistocactus** is often an overlooked genus. Most species do well in our climate and are easily grown either as pot plants or as landscape subjects.

Originally Cleistocactus was named by Lemaire(1851) for columnar cacti from Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay with a closed (Cleistos) floral tube. Cleistocacti are columnar to prostrate plants branching from the base with ribs and dense spines. The floral zone is near the top of each branch and scaled flowers of red, yellow or green project laterally, resembling Pinocchio's Nose. Within some species the stigma is projected outwardly. This arrangement of the flowers is well suited for Hummingbird pollination but many species hardly open at all and are cleistogamous and set berrylike fruit by themselves.

Cleistocacti make wonderful landscape subjects for a rockeries or just planted out. Probably the most popular plant of the genus is **Cleistocactus strausii** with its thick silver columns of six feet or more in height. If planted in mass it can make a beautiful backdrop for other plants although it does need to be about three feet in height before it blooms. If you have a rockery and want to develop a clambering effect choose **Cleistocactus vulpis-cauda** as it is a prostrate plant with brilliant orange flowers that just seem to keep coming the whole year round. Good choices for interesting and different flowers are **C. smaragdiflorus** with a green tipped red floral tube and **C. ritteri** with brilliant yellow flowers.

Most Cleistocacti prefer rich soil, bright light, warm conditions and a high humidity. They are well suit for our Southern California climate. Most should not be allowed to go completely dry during the winter months. Those high altitude hardy species (**C. brookei**, **C. jujuyensis**, **C. ritteri**) actually grow more vigorously during the fall and winter months and may grow dormant during the summer.

The consensus of many botanist ("Lumpers") is that this genus is closely alined to Borzicactus and the two groups should be combined. I don't know if I'm ready for **Cleistocactus madisoniorium** or **Cleistocactus celsianus**.

CANARY ISLAND SUCCULENTS

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH

by Phyllis Flechsig

We in southern California share with only four other regions of the world a climate characterized by summer drought and winter rainfall. This is known as a Mediterranean climate, and exists in part of the South African Cape, southern Chile, south and southwest Australia, and, of course, the Mediterranean coast and its nearby outliers, including the Canary Islands. The Canaries consist of seven large islands and a few small ones, just off the northwest coast of Africa. The five outermost islands, named La Palma, Tenerife, La Gomera, El Hierro, and Gran Canaria, are volcanic in origin and have peaks of over 12,000 feet; the northeast trade winds sweep into these peaks, producing winter snows at high altitudes. Lower, on the southern sides of the islands, the climate is warm and dry. The two islands nearest Africa, Lanzarote and Fuerteventura, are thought to have split off from the mainland and are lower, flatter, and hotter than the others. Many of the plants in the Canaries are relics of vegetation that once was common in all of the Mediterranean but has become extinct everywhere else because of the Ice Ages and the drying out of the Sahara region. These islands were protected from both events by the mitigating influence of the Atlantic Ocean; the result is a high degree of endemism--that is, many plants are found nowhere else.

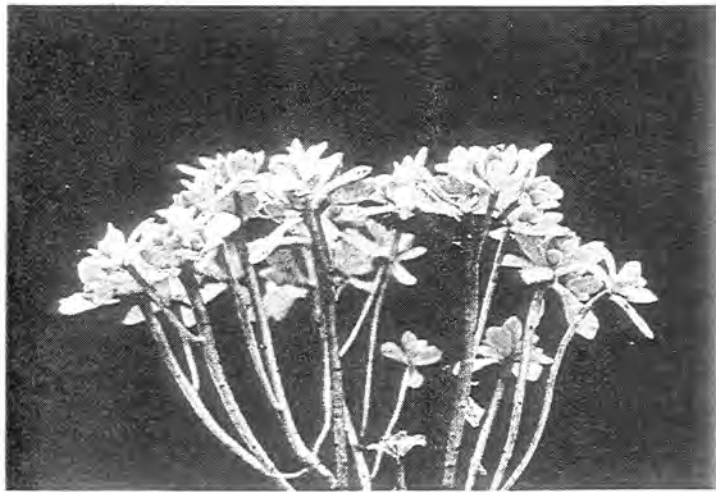
Succulent genera found in the Canaries include Monanthes, Aichryson, Aeonium, Greenovia, Euphorbia, Ceropegia, Caralluma, Sedum, Senecio, and one Dracaena--the famous dragon tree.

Monanthes, in the Crassula family, are very small mat-forming plants that nearly disappear in summer. Of the more than a dozen species, we seldom see more than a few kinds such as M. muralis, M. subcrassicaulis, and M. polyphylla. These grow mainly on walls, rocks, and cliffs.

Aichryson, also in the Crassula family, is another tricky little plant, often annual or biannual. If left alone, it will happily sprout in some other plant's pot and produce fuzzy little leaves and pretty yellow flowers. Another cliff dweller, it prefers shady places.

Aeonium, another Crassula family member, is a familiar genus of large or small rosette plants whose principal native country is the Canary Islands, though a very few species can be found in other Mediterranean localities, other islands (such as Madeira) and even as far away as Ethiopia; still, the vast majority are from the Canaries and nowhere else: more than 30 species. To name a few: the somewhat hairy-leafed A. canariense; A. simsii; the small A. sedifolium; A. haworthii, with pink flowers; A. decorum; and the large, flat A. tabuliforme. This last is spectacular when well grown, but it usually does not offset, and it will die after it blooms. It grows in rock crevices on cliffs, a habitat that tells us it wants perfect drainage! A. lindleyi has sticky leaves, something like our Dudleya viscida, and its juice is claimed by some to be an antidote to euphorbia sap. Most aeoniums have somewhat woody stems; the flowers are mostly yellow but sometimes pink or white, borne in large, showy panicles. A rosette usually dies after bloom. Aeoniums are very popular plants for the succulent garden.

Greenovia, yet another Crassula, consists of four species all endemic to the Canaries, where it grows on rocks and dry walls. It is distinguished from other close plant relatives by the larger number of flower parts--18 to 32 versus 6 to 12 in Aeonium. Greenovias have cup-shaped rosettes that shrink in the dry season until they look like green rosebuds.

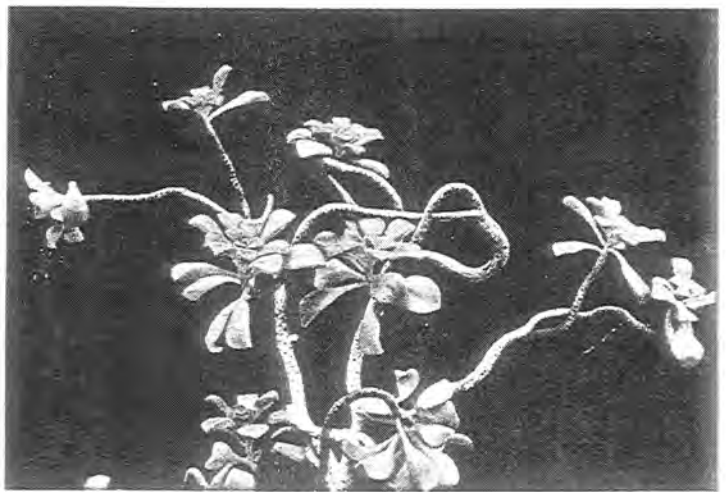


Aeonium sedifolium Pit. & Proust

CRASSULACEAE

Bush to 15 cm high; rosettes of green to yellowish-green leaves with red stripes; yellow flowers.

Canary Islands (La Palma, Tenerife)

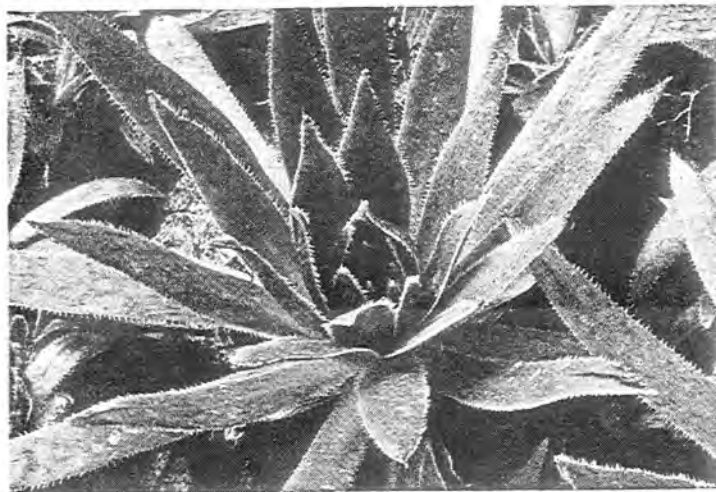


Aeonium lindleyi Webb & Berth.

CRASSULACEAE

Hemispherical bush to 30 cm high, with several thin branches ending in small rosette; leaves hairy and light green; yellow flowers.

Canary Islands



Aeonium simsii (Sweet) Stearn

CRASSULACEAE

Broad rosettes forming low clumps; leaves green with reddish lines; yellow flowers.

Canary Islands (Tenerife)

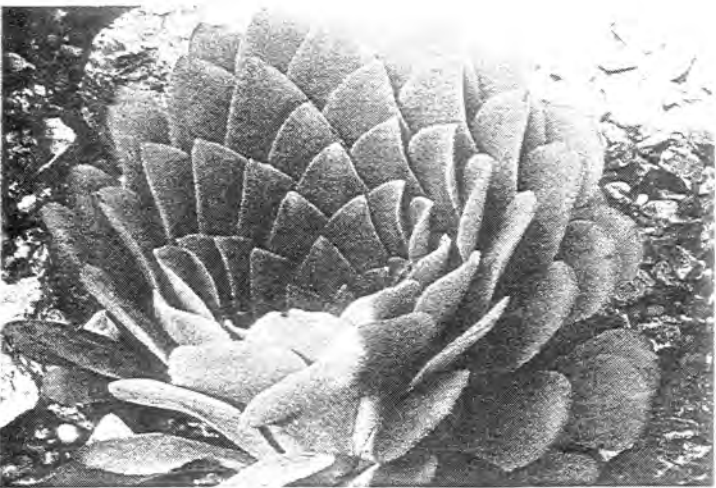


Aeonium glutinosum (Aiton) A. Berger

CRASSULACEAE

Low shrub with red branches; light green leaves with finely ciliate margins, sometimes with reddish stripes, in open rosettes 5–6 cm in diameter; inflorescence 30 cm tall; yellow to white flowers.

Madeira



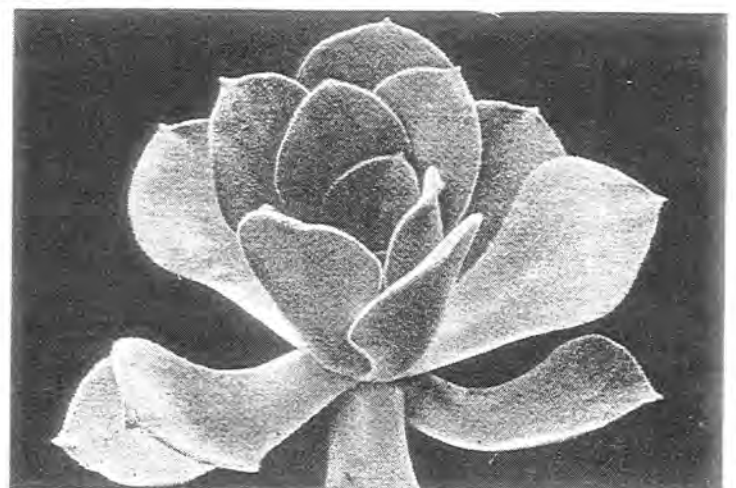
Aeonium glandulosum Webb & Berth.

CRASSULACEAE

Rosettes with rhomboidal leaves covered by soft hairs; yellow flowers.

Aeonium myerheimii Bolle

Madeira



Aeonium canariense Webb & Berth.

CRASSULACEAE

Short stems with large, offsetting rosettes to 50 cm in diameter; leaves green, covered with hairs; pale green flowers.

Canary Islands (Tenerife)

Euphorbia is well represented in these islands, though some species are not succulent and will be omitted here. The largest and most conspicuous, occurring on all seven major islands, is E. canariensis. It is a handsome cluster of upright stems reaching about 5 feet; the stems are 4- or 5-sided, dark green at first, then fading to gray-green, with short paired spines. Seed capsules are large and red. E. aphyllia is a short shrub with many branching stems, no spines, and tiny, short-lived leaves so that the overall look is of a leafless plant, as the specific name implies. E. handiensis is a rare, endangered plant from the Jandia peninsula of the island of Fuerteventura. It grows as a low cluster of short, spiny stems, and its habitat is fast being destroyed by off-road vehicles rented by tourists. E. lambii is a leafy shrub, not very succulent but easily grown. The euphorbias mentioned above are all endemic to the Canaries; others, not endemic, are E. balsamifera and E. obtusifolia (now thought to include the old species E. regis-jubae).

Ceropegia, in the milkweed family, is represented by 3 to 6 (depending on your authority) upright, thick-stemmed species. Most African ceropegias are vines, but the Canarian ones are all short-stemmed shrubs, grey-green to brownish, with leaves only on new growth. Flowers are yellow except in C. fusca, where they are brown. C. dichotoma, C. hians, and C. fusca are the ones most often seen in cultivation.

Caralluma, also a milkweed, has only one species in the Canaries: C. burchardii, with erect 4-angled stems and small purplish-brown flowers.

Sedum is represented by two small, insignificant species, one of them an annual.

Senecio kleinia is the only succulent member of this genus in the islands, though there are other, nonsucculent senecios there. This one grows on rocky slopes along with Euphorbia canariensis.

Dracaena draco, the only species of this genus on the islands, has become rare on its native islands of Tenerife, La Palma, and Gran Canaria, but it is quite familiar to us as a large landscape plant; it becomes a tree with many fat branches at the top of a single trunk, and long sword-shaped leaves. The red sap is a resin that was once sold as "dragon's blood" and fetched a high price a few centuries back. It is easily grown from seed.

Overall, the succulents of the Canaries form an interesting and unique group that do not require summer water and are therefore very useful in dry landscapes. Most are easily grown though tender to frost; a few are quite challenging.

LITERATURE CONSULTED

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- Walker, C. C., and M. Thorburn. 1987. The Euphorbias of Gran Canaria, Canary Islands. *Euphorbia J.* 4:33.
- Stephenson, R. 1994. Euphorbia handiensis in habitat. *CSJ (US)* 66:16, 1994.
- Flighthopper's guide to the succulent wealth of Gran Canaria. *Brit. CSJ* 12:21.
- Kunkel, G. and M. A. 1978. Flora de Gran Canaria. V. III. Las plantas suculentas. Ediciones del Excmo. Cabildo Insular de Gran Canaria, Las Palmas.

NOTE: If you have any of the Aeoniums mentioned above, please do bring them!

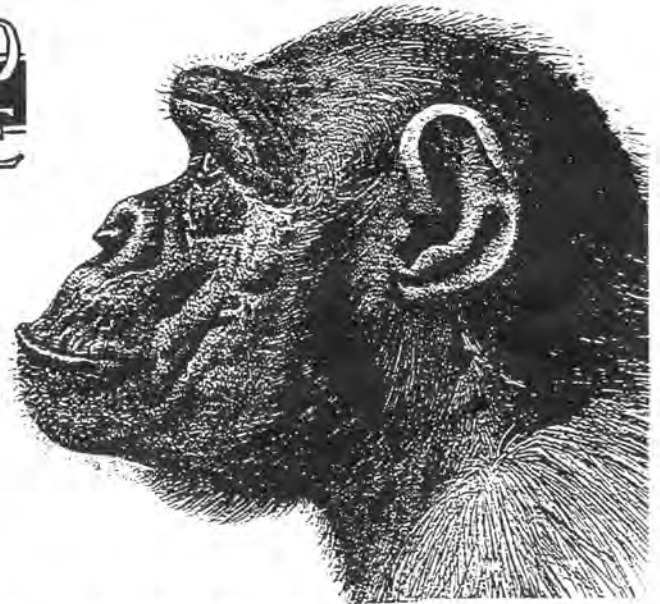
WISE AND OTHERWISE

by Michael Buckner

*Al nopal lo van a ver
sólo cuando tiene tunas.*

"The prickly pear has company
only when it bears fruit."

-una dicho, folktale proverb from Mexico



Gasteria flowers are edible and were first eaten by the Khoi. When eaten raw, they have a flavour reminiscent of sweet fresh bean though with a burning after-taste. Smith [Smith, C.A. 1966. Common names of South African plants. Government Printer, Pretoria] reported that the young buds of *Gasteria brachyphylla* were boiled as a rice by the Khoi, hence the vernacular name 'Hottentot rice', and in the Robertson and Outshoom districts the flowers of *Gasteria disticha* are used as a vegetable by farmers, who call it 'oukossie'. Stripped off the scape, the flowers are prepared in a *bredie* (stew).

According to Mrs. S. Marais of the farm Die Vlakte in Robertson, an oukossie stew is traditionally prepared during the September-October wine festival which coincides with the *Gasteria disticha* flowering period. It is prepared in the following manner:

In 2 dessertspoons of oil, fry 2 coarsely chopped large onions until soft. Add 1 kg of fatty sheep rib cut into cubes and fry until brown. Next add 1.5 cups of boiling water and cook the meat and onion mixture until it is nearly dry. Boil 750 g of freshly gathered and washed *Gasteria* flowers for 3 to 5 minutes, then drain. Season with salt and pepper, and sprinkle generously with lemon juice. Cut up 4 medium potatoes and add to the meat with the *Gasteria* flowers. Cook for a further 40 minutes.

-- GASTERIAS OF SOUTH AFRICA BY E.J. VAN JAARVELD, 1994, FERNWOOD PRESS

It is not easy to comprehend the power of this speck of stagnant water. For millennia, such green, scummy dabs of fluid were the line between life and death. It is like picking up a bow and arrow and thinking, "This is a good weapon," and putting from one's mind rifles, cannons, and bombs.

I swallow half a liter from my plastic canteen.

The land is slowly becoming magic. The first day of the trek, I wallowed in depression. I remembered warm beds and electric lights and flowing taps and found the dunes a forbidding country. Now this mood is gone and I accept the rock and hot desert as an adequate world. I stop thinking of cold beers and thick steaks. The slimy water begins to look very, very good.

Water is the big ticket item out here. To the north on the edge of the Lechuguilla Desert, men drank at Tule tanks for thousands of years. Then came the Americans streaming westward toward the gold and possibilities of the California coast and in the 1860s, a Mexican dug a well at the tanks and began selling water. A year or two later, another man came out of the searing creosote flats and cactus-covered slopes with a huge thirst.

WISE AND OTHERWISE

He shot the Mexican dead.

Today, Tule tanks is a way station for illegal immigrants walking north forty to sixty miles toward jobs in the fields or back rooms. The march toward dreams of wealth has shifted direction but not intention. About two years ago, I was there and found a water bottle, much like my own, stashed in a shelter by the well. The container looked like something left for the next traveler who might be in need of a drink.

I poured the fluid out on a rock and the rock sizzled from the splash of hydrochloric acid.

We leave Cuervo soon after dawn and follow an old trail that heads down into the flats and arcs toward Tinaja Romero. The rotten antler of a deer lies by the path. The land that seems so empty, not only of life but of any possibility of life, slowly forces the eye to notice. In the dunes the day before, we stumbled across the skeleton of a coyote

--BLUE DESERT BY CHARLES BOWDEN, 1986. UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA PRESS, TUCSON

"One significant California garden is the biggest of all gardens, the lush, rectangular-patterned oasis in the otherwise-arid valleys -- Imperial, Coachella, and Central among others -- that have been transformed into an agribusiness artwork so large it can only be appreciated from the air. To keep this garden green, billions of gallons of water are diverted from the network of rivers and marshes that once laced the central valleys and nearby watersheds. Today these diversions create 9.2 million acres of crops and pastures and California's largest industry.

To the extent that a garden is an artificial world made from real things, this one is unrivaled. The endless green rows, retreating to a mobile vanishing point, bear no resemblance to the landscape they supplanted. The curving central axis provides visual clarity and order, and its hundreds of secondary forks and tributaries form an unmatched fanciful geometry in counterpoint to the order. Its allees, vistas, and water features are unmatched by any other garden in the world or imagination.

This is truly the California garden. Landscape architects may claim that the outdoor room developed by Thomas Church is California's most *important* contribution to American garden history, and conservationists may counter that Yosemite is California's garden. But it is this overscaled earth and water sculpture, this engineering marvel, this California garden of the world, that best illustrates our attitudes toward the earth. It is so influential a symbol that in time it superseded illustration, beginning to shape our very relationship with the environment around us. No mere expression of subcultural idiosyncrasy, this is the melting-pot ethnocentric garden.

. . . This California garden is grander (it has over 3,200 miles of canals), larger (its central axis extends 444 miles), and more expensive (it costs more than \$2,200 per acre for irrigation alone) than any garden ever built before. A beautiful illustration of man's ability to dominate and control nature, it features ecological insensitivity and disregard for place (hundreds of environmental modifications somewhat less visually dramatic than near-empty Mono Lake are its by-products). Like other great gardens, it is manicured and parterred by the powerless to enrich the powerful, . . . "

GARDEN OF THE WORLD BY RANDOLF T. HESTER, JR. FROM THE MEANING OF GARDENS
EDITED BY MARK FRANCIS & RANDOLF HESTER, 1991, MIT PRESS, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Fall Plant Sale

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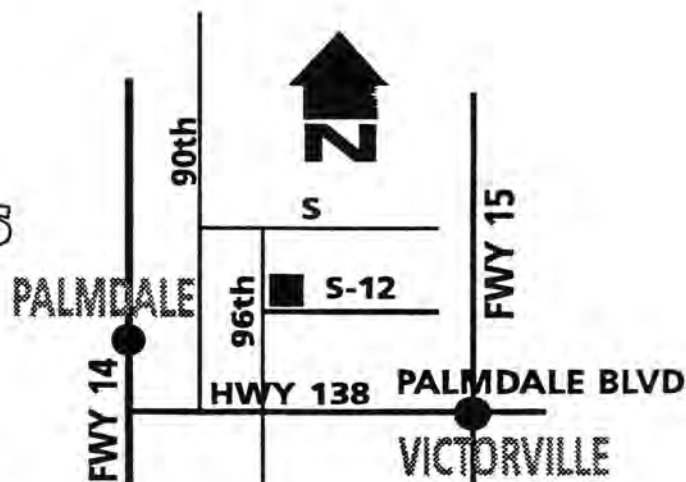
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San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Membership

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is a non-profit, hobby organization created to stimulate interest in succulent plants. This society brings together people (and plants) with a common interest for the purpose of educating the public about the beauty and uniqueness of these remarkable plants, encouraging proper collecting and maintenance of the plants through preservation of native habitats and horticultural propagation, and to foster good fellowship. You are invited to join our society, whether you are an expert, amateur, or beginner, who loves unusual plants and flowers. VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. BRING AN INTERESTED FRIEND.

Regular meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park at 1:00 p.m. (One may come as early as noon just to socialize or obtain a parking space easily.) Annual dues are \$10.00 for a single membership with an additional \$5.00 for each additional member at the same mailing address. The dues are payable at time of joining, and January of each succeeding year. Members receive our monthly publication Espinas y Flores, are entitled to library check-out privileges, and may partake in our many field trips and other activities. We offer knowledgeable speakers at our programs; many are world renowned scholars, botanists, explorers and authorities. We have a number of shows each year, especially our Annual Show and Plant Sale in June. We have a wide range of plants and supplies for purchase at favorable costs at most meetings. We also have a plant exchange table and monthly door prizes. All members will be consistently encouraged to contribute and participate in our many functions. Please join us and help us grow.

For more information, call Laura De Merritt, Treasurer @ 270-5544 or Joyce Buckner @ 222-3216.

Yes, I (we) wish to become 1995 member(s) of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society.

Please note: New members joining mid-year will receive 12 issues of Espinas y Flores. Prorated memberships will be offered in November /December for any new members joining during the middle of the year and wishing to continue their membership through 1995.

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Please note in order to receive a beautiful gift plant at the Holiday Banquet your 1995 dues must be paid.

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Editors: Michael & Joyce Buckner - (619) 222-3216

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The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Incorporated is open to all persons interested in growing cacti or other succulent and exotic plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 PM in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held at 11:30 AM prior to general meetings. Annual dues are \$10.00 per single member per year, and \$5.00 for each additional member within the same household. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are \$1.00 per copy sent within the U.S.A.; foreign subscriptions are \$20.00 - 3 mailings per year. Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Incorporated. Fax available - please call editors Michael & Joyce Buckner @ (619) 222-3216.