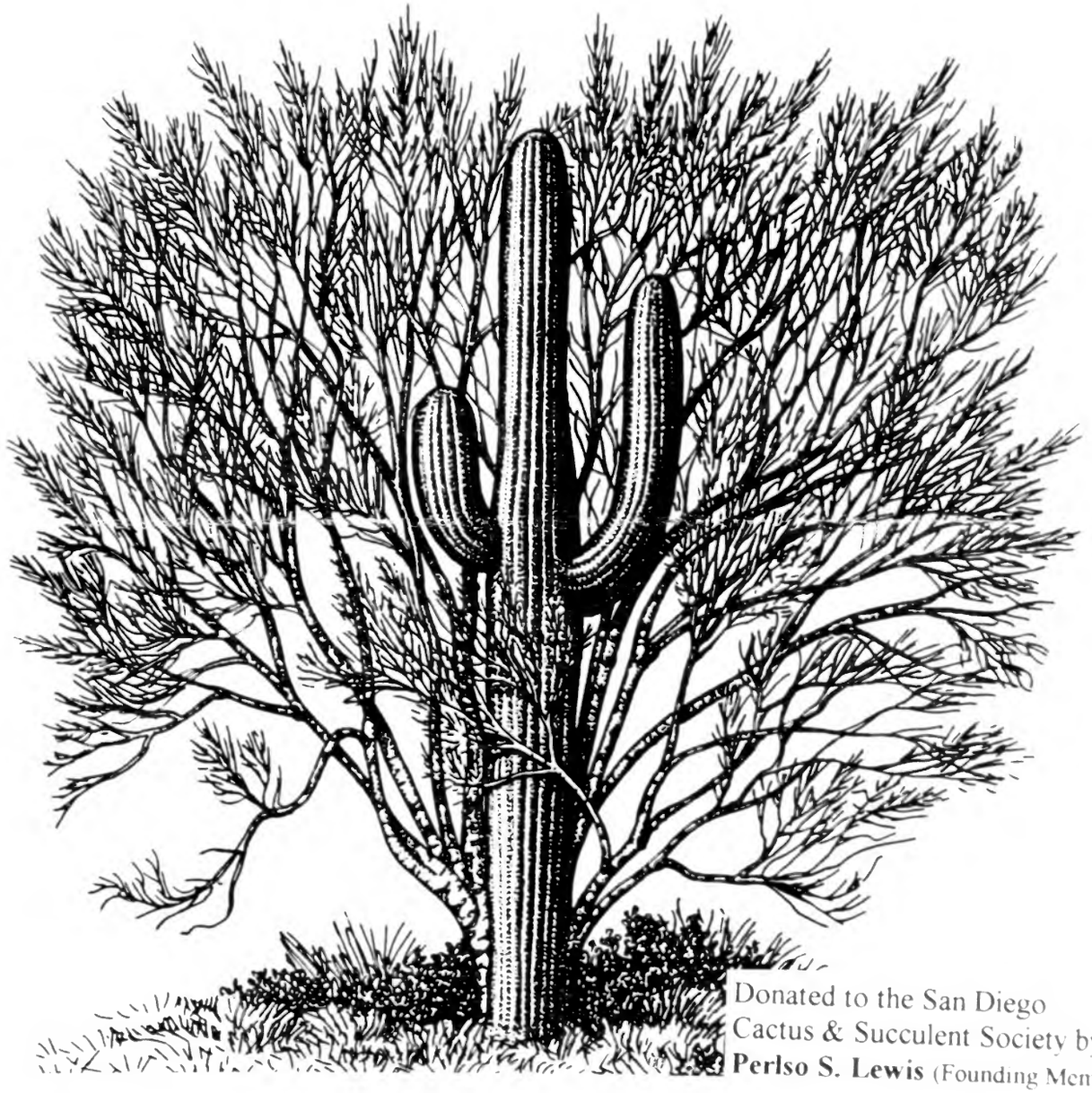
ANYONE FOR A BUS TRIP
TO THE HUNTINGTON?

Espinas y Flores

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

VOLUME XXVII NUMBER NINE SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12,1992



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

A saguaro grows up through the branches of its palo verde nurse tree.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM:
ROBERT THURSTON, HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR, WILD ANIMAL PARK
SLIDE SHOW: "BUTTERFLIES AND CACTI"

Robert Thurston will give us an overview of the present and future horticultural plans as the park strives to become a world class botanical garden. Robert graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in Botany and has worked at the Wild Animal Park since 1980. Come view these slides of the Butterfly House, the greenhouses and the famous "Baja Hill".

NEW REGALEMENT COMMITTEE STILL SEEKS ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS

So far we have four new Regalement committee members. These four very generous people are: Lois Zaranka (Lois has been assisting the Crowley's for many years; we are very pleased that she will continue helping now), Mildred Richter (Mildred makes the best Hammocks & Beans), and Don & Gail Bamber. We really need at least two more volunteers so that every meeting will have refreshments, coffee, etc. without it being a burden to anyone. Please if you can help and make a commitment for even half the meetings call Laura DeMerritt or Lois Zaranka.

AUGUST BRAG TABLE WINNERS:

FIRST PLACE: SANDY FROST FOR A NICELY GROWN SEDUM OXYPETALUM BONSAI.
SECOND PLACE: PHYLLIS FLECHSIG FOR HER AFRICAN BULB, CYRTANTHUS SPIRALIS.
THIRD PLACE: MARYLYN HENDERSON'S BEAUTIFUL SENECIO HERREANUS.
THIRD PLACE: MILLIE WILLIAM'S MAMMILLARIA ELONGATA.

The beautiful illustration on our cover is by artist Marilyn Hoff Stewart and is printed along with many others in John Alcock's Natural History Edition entitled "Sonoran Desert Summer". This excellent book is great reading and is in our Botanical Library.

If you found a May–June C.S.S.A. Journal in your papers or magazines after the LA Arboretum bus trip, would you kindly return to Michael Buckner at September meeting or send to 1958 Sunset Cliffs #103, S.D. 92107. Thanks!

PLEASE BRING GOODIES FOR THE REFRESHMENT BREAK!

MISCELLANEOUS

REFRESHMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING

AND WHAT WILL YOU BE BRINGING TO SHARE??

ELIZABETH GLOVER
ETHEL STANDISH
CHARLES & JOANNE CLARK
RED BERNAL
SONIA GARZA
KAY QUIJADA
MARK PALANDRI
MICHAEL & JOYCE BUCKNER
AND YOU????

DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER ISSUE IS SEPTEMBER 28th.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO CACTUS OF THE MONTH: FEROCACTUS BY JOE CLEMENTS AND SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH SOCOTRA PLANTS BY DYLAN HANNON. YOUR COMMENTS, LETTERS, ARTICLES, ILLUSTRATIONS AND POETRY ARE WELCOME AND APPRECIATED – PLEASE SEND IT IN!!

Anyone wishing to run for office or become a committee member please contact Joyce Buckner, Betty Athy, Beverly Kirkegaard, Shirley Berry or Tom DeMerritt (our phone numbers on back page). Election of new officers is in December along with our annual catered Holiday party.

THERE WILL BE ANOTHER SPECIAL SALE OF PLANTS AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING. THESE PLANTS WILL BE 50% OFF AS WE REDUCE OUR INVENTORY FOR FALL, SO BRING BOXES AND CHECKBOOKS. THESE ARE DIFFERENT PLANTS FROM LAST MONTHS AND OUR PRICES ARE TERRIFIC! MANY THANKS TO TOM DE MERRITT FOR HAULING PLANTS BACK AND FORTH AND TO MICHAEL CULLEN FOR HANDLING OUR PLANT SALES TABLE.

It's not too early to start donating small plants for the November Veterans Hospital Bazaar. All proceeds go to haircuts, personal items, reading material and craft kits for those Veterans who have been hospitalized a long time. Please let them know they are not forgotten by donating a little plant! Ruth Richardson will pick up donations at the October and November Meetings. For more information her number is 281-9267.

MISCELLANEOUS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY H.W.BUCKNER!!

Huntington Receives Tegelberg Collection

Now on view in Desert Conservatory

For decades cactus connoisseurs have been making regular pilgrimages to Tegelberg's Cactus Gardens in a remote region of Southern California's Lucerne Valley. Here, nestled at the base of the north slope of the San Bernardino Mountains, dwarfed by the majestic desert landscape, sits a trio of wind-blown greenhouses which once sheltered some of the most spectacular cactus specimens in the world. Thanks to Gil Tegelberg, Jr., cactus aficionados can now see many of these cacti in the Huntington's Desert Garden Conservatory.

Article reprinted from The Huntington Calendar Sep-Oct Issue 1992 by John Trager.

John Trager, curator of Desert Collections, Joe Clements, curator of the Desert Garden, Clark and Patricia Moorten of the Moorten Botanical Gardens in Palm Springs, and Jim Folsom, director of the Huntington Botanical Gardens flanked by the new additions to the succulent collection.

Many of Mr. Tegelberg's plants were started from seed by his father who established Tegelberg's Cactus Gardens and was responsible for the introduction of many choice plants found during expeditions to Mexico. Some, like *Mammillaria tegelbergiana*, bear his name in recognition of his role in their discovery.

Mr. Tegelberg wanted his specimens to be viewed by the public at an institution that could maintain them. The Huntington with its renowned succulent collections fit the bill. Mr. Tegelberg agreed to donate the bulk of the collection, with some costs being covered by generous donations from the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) and several individuals. Seymour Linden, past president of CSSA, was instrumental in raising the necessary funds. Clark Moorten, of the Moorten Botanical Gardens in Palm Springs, a longtime friend and colleague of the Tegelbergs, provided invaluable assistance as liaison and in the transport of the collection.

Notable specimens included in this acquisition include:

Astrophytum ornatum, one of bishop's cap cacti, already represented in the Desert Garden by a group of two-foot-tall plants installed with the original rockery along the main path in 1930. The Tegelberg plants, though brought into cultivation some thirty years later, thrived in the shelter of the greenhouses and now stand over five feet tall.

Trichocaulon officinale, one of the succulent milkweeds, is rarely seen in cultivation in sizes requiring anything larger than a six-inch pot. The Tegelberg plant is an impressive clump resembling so many spiny cucumbers sprawling over the edges of a twenty-four-inch bowl.

Leuchtenbergia principis looks rather like an agave, but is in fact a cactus with elongated tubercles resembling fleshy leaves. The Tegelberg plant is certainly one of the largest in cultivation. It has also been parent to a Tegelberg exclusive, an intergeneric hybrid with a barrel cactus *(Ferocactus)* called *xFerobergia*. Another cross with *Hamatocactus* (unfortunately an obsolete genus) is known as *xHambergia*.

We are very grateful to Mr. Tegelberg for having added his significant collection of cacti to the outstanding succulent collections at the Huntington.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH: PERESKIA
By Rick Latimer

Pereskia is a genus of tropical trees, shrubs, and vines. It differs from typical more succulent other cacti in its "mainstream" (i. e., plants look like "normal", everyday plants) woody, leafy habit. When I showed a cutting of P. aculeata to someone from back East, they thought it might be a lilac, except for the thorns. When I showed this same cutting to a Westerner, it was thought to be a bougainvillea. But these plants are cacti. They have the thorn bearing areoles that only cacti have. Many of the arborescent species look like citrus trees, except that the flowers look like wild roses. The seeds are medium-sized to fairly large when compared to those of the rest of the family. There is no relation between fruit size and seed size. The chromosome numbers of all known species are 2n=22 as with the other cacti, except for polyploid hybrids. No hybrids of this genus are known from the wild.

Pereskia is generally accepted as the genus of the cactus family that retains the most "primitive" characteristics, (i. e., plants are closer to the ancestors of the cacti). An alternative view suggests that these plants are not an ancestral branch, but an advanced one that has 'converged' toward the mainstream plants (mimicry). Most species occur in dry forest and thorn-scrub habitats in tropical climates with a more or less pronounced dry season of about two to five months. The tropical nature of the plants must be kept in mind when grown in collections. For example. P. aculeata's leaves turn black when exposed to too much cold.

P. aculeata - vine, flowers medium sized for genus and may range in colors from green to white to yellow to pink, leaves are large for genus, from around Caribbean Sea and s. Brazil.

P. lychnidiflora - the tallest of all cacti up to 60 feet, medium-sized leaves, small yellow-orange flowers with red-orange buds, from s. Mexico to Costa Rica.

P. aureiflora - medium-sized leaves and flowers (yellow), from se. Brazil.

P. guamacho - the only one that blooms at the end of the dry season when the plant is still leafless, medium-sized flowers (yellow) and leaves, from n. Colombia and n. Venezuela, and Bonaire, tuberous roots.

P. stenantha - flowers are urn-shaped, not flat and are pink on the inside are orange-red on the outside, leaves are medium sized, from se. Brazil.

P. humboldtii - tuberous roots, medium leaves, small orange-red or white flowers, from Peru.

P. diaz-romeroana - tuberous roots, medium leaves, small pink to violet-red flowers, from Bolivia.

P. weberiana - tuberous roots, medium leaves, small pink to white flowers, from Bolivia.

P. bleo - large leaves and flowers (red), from Panama and Colombia.

P. zinniiflora - medium leaves with small pink to red-violet flowers, from Cuba, flowers are dioecious.

P. portulacifolia - tuberous roots, small leaves, medium-sized pink to violet flowers, from Hispaniola, flowers dioecious.

P. quisqueyana - tuberous roots, medium leaves and flowers (pink, petals are dentate, are dioecious), from Dominican Republic.

P. grandifolia - large to small leaves, medium-sized pink flowers, clumping fruits, from se Brazil.

P. bahiensis - medium-sized leaves, medium-sized flowers, from se. Brazil.

P. nemorosa - large leaves, largest flowers in genus are pink to white, from se. Paraguay, ne. Argentina, n. Uruguay, and neighboring Brazil.

P. sacharosa - large leaves and flowers (pink), from nw Paraguay, sw. Bolivia, n. Argentina, and neighboring Brazil.

Most of these plants I have never seen. It has been said that they are more common in herbariums that private collections. We have rarely had them in our show. P. aculeata v. Godseffiana was probably the last, with its two-toned leaved golden above and red below. The genus was named in honor of the French scholar Nicolas Claude Fabri de Peiresc (1580-1637).

The closest related cacti are those of the genus Maihuenia from central Argentina and Chile. Two similar looking genera are Pereskiopsis (from Baja to mainland Mexico to Guatemala) and Quiabentia from Brazil, e. Bolivia and n. Argentina. But these two are placed in the Opuntioideae not the Pereskioideae.

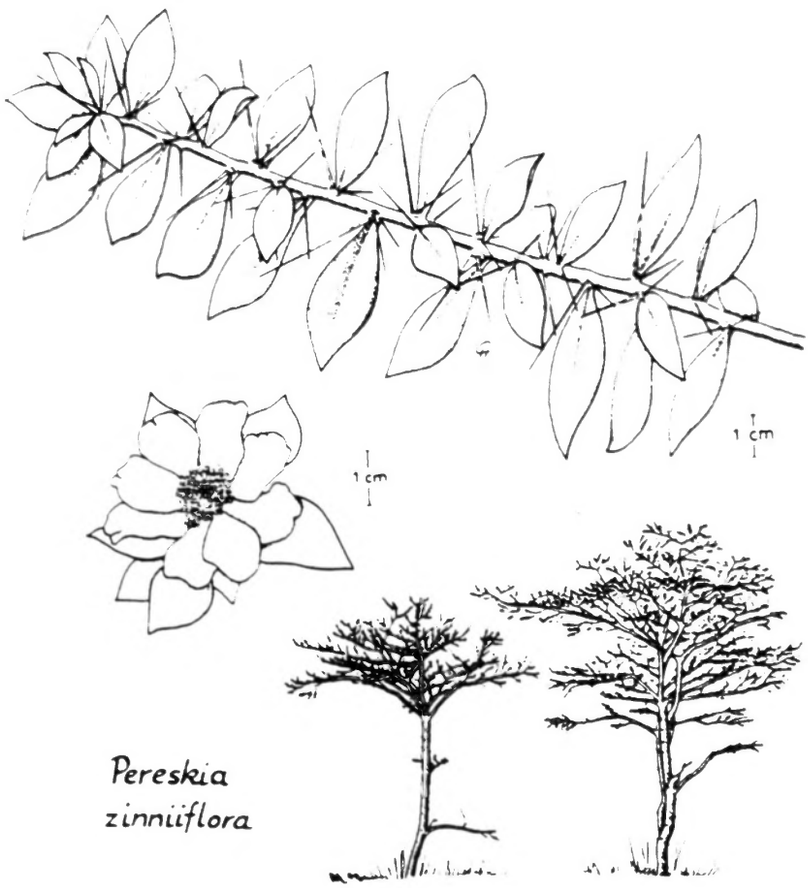
REFERENCES:

Günther Andersohn, Cacti and Succulents.

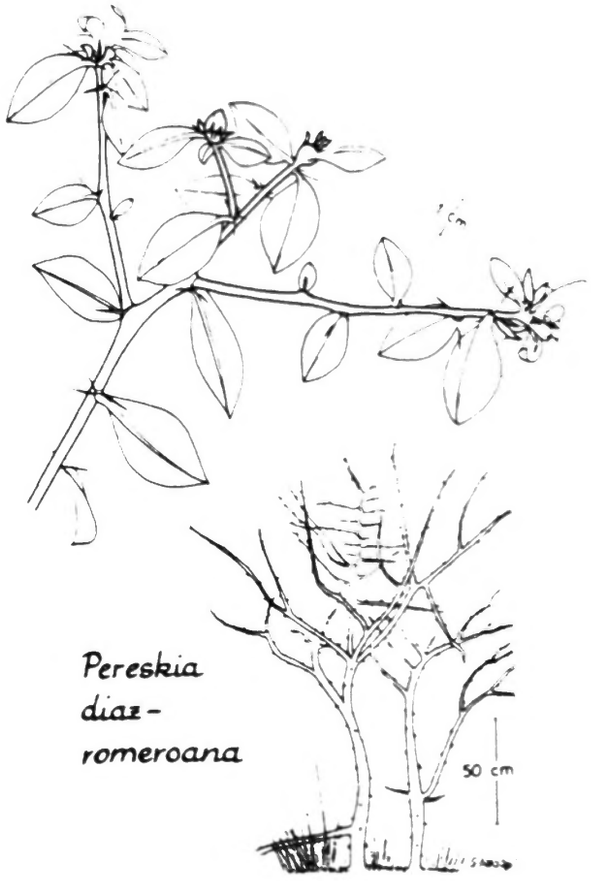
Curt Backeberg, Cacti.

Ladislaus Cutak, Cactus Guide.

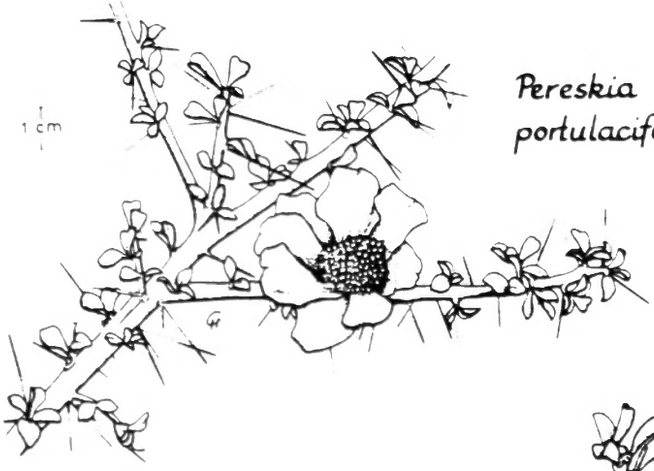
Beat Ernst Leuenberger, Pereskia.



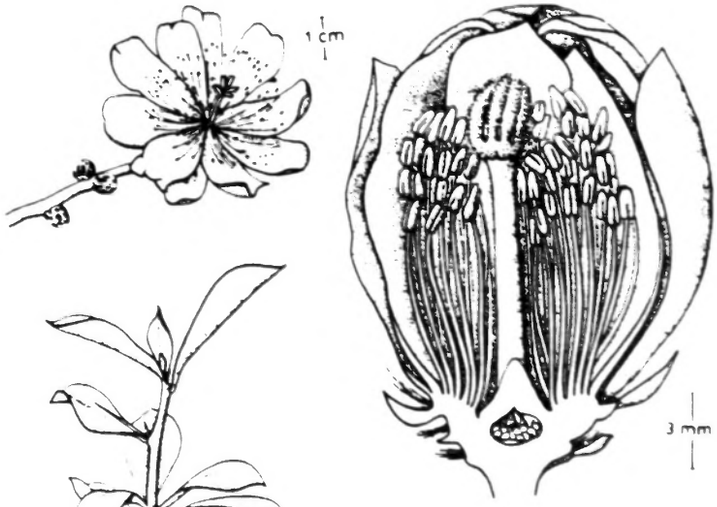
Pereskia zinniiflora

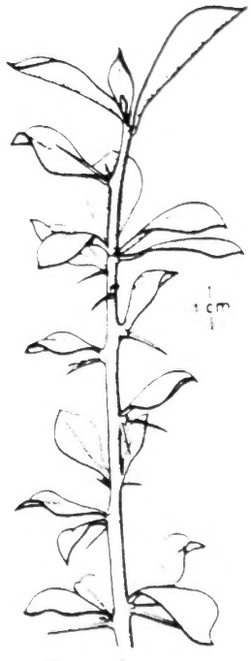


Pereskia diaz-romeroana

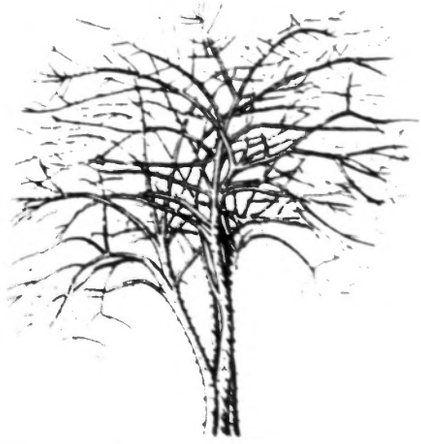


Pereskia portulacifolia





Pereskia guamacho



Illustrations from Beat Ernst Leuenberger's Book, Pereskia Memoirs of the N.Y. Botanical Garden, Volume 41,c.1986.

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH
PORTULACACEAE
The Purslane Family

All the Portulacaceae have succulent leaves, stems or roots but there are five genera that are of most interest to the succulent collector. They are: Portulacaria, Ceraria, Anacampseros, Talinum and Portulaca. The family can be defined by the following characters:

Annual or perennial herbs with succulent leaves. The leaves are entire, alternate or opposite. A key factor is the presence of hairs at the base of the leaves, these are modified stipules. The flowers are generally small and short lived. Another key factor are the two fleshy sepals that encase the flower bud.

Portulacaria - is a widespread genus that has annual and perennial members. One member is a common annual weed P. oleracea. The stems and leaves are succulent, though it is not very popular in collections. The common bedding plant P. grandiflora (the moss rose) is very popular. These annual to biannual plants are originally from Brazil.

Ceraria and Portulacaria - have perennial species that grow into large shrubs. In cultivation the specimens tend to be smallish potted plants. The flowers are minute and rarely seen outside there natural habitat. C. namaquensis makes an attractive bonsai subject. The author has seen this species in habitat. The small trees with black, shredding bark looked very much different from the small potted plants we have in our collections. P. afra is common as a shrub or small tree in southern California. It is known as Elephant bush because it is literally Elephant food in some regions of southern Africa, especially important during drought. Here it rarely flowers, but if kept very dry it may flower after rain.

Anacampseros - is a very popular genus known to most succulent enthusiasts. This genus consists of dwarf perennial plants. The leaves in this group tend to be small with large stipules. These stipular shields are scale like and give the stems their peculiar serpentine appearance. The genus is large (about 50 species) and divided into two large sections and two monotypic sections.

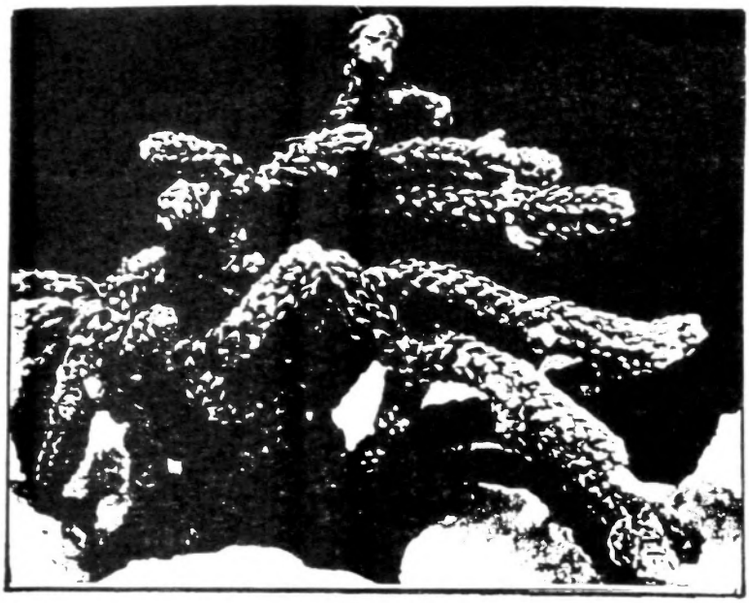
Section Avonia has tuberous roots with small leaves covered with white papery stipules, flowers are usually solitary and terminal. The author has seen two of these in habitat, A. alstonii and A. meyeri. A. alstonii was growing in a level area near the top of a ridge along a dry wash. The tubers were invisible and the plants were walked on before I noticed the strange little stems. The thin layer of sand in the area made the small white stems very inconspicuous. The other species, A. meyeri, was obvious because it was growing in a fissure of reddish granite. The plant body is larger and the scale-like stipules are loosely held by the plant body. Other plants were noticed in the quartz gravel in the vicinity. There are about 20 species in this section.

Section Anacampseros has about 30 species. Characterized by large fleshy leaves. The stipules form hairs instead of scales. Occasionally the stipular hairs are microscopic. The terminal inflorescence consists of several flowers. In habitat the delicate pink flowers of A. lanigera are quite pretty. These plants are very common in cultivation and volunteer quite frequently in greenhouses. This group appears quite different from the previous section but the flowers give away the relationship.

Two sections the Tuberosae from Australia (the only species from here) and Rosulatae from Namibia represent two monotypic sections.

The genus Talinum if of interest for thickened roots making it a caudiciform plant. Most of the species are of Mexican origin. Plant form varies from mat-forming perennial herbs to shrubs up to three feet tall. Most have small yellow flowers.

One genus is often missed in the U.S. because it is difficult to grow in the hot regions of the southwest, it is Lewisia. It is used in Rockeries or Alpine gardens. Lewisia named named for Capt. Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Lewisia produces a basal rosette of leaves reminiscent of Echeveria but the roots are thick and fleshy. They are native to the Americas. The flowers are showy and many hybrids are in the trade. This genus is especially popular in the cooler regions of the U.S. and Europe.



Anacampseros herreana

Ceraria pygmaea, in a quartz field near Sendlingsdrift (the Richtersveld)

PLEASE BRING IN YOUR PLANTS - THANKS

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Court, D., 1981. Succulent Flora of Southern Africa.
Munz, P. A. & D. D. Keck, 1968. A California Flora and Supplement.
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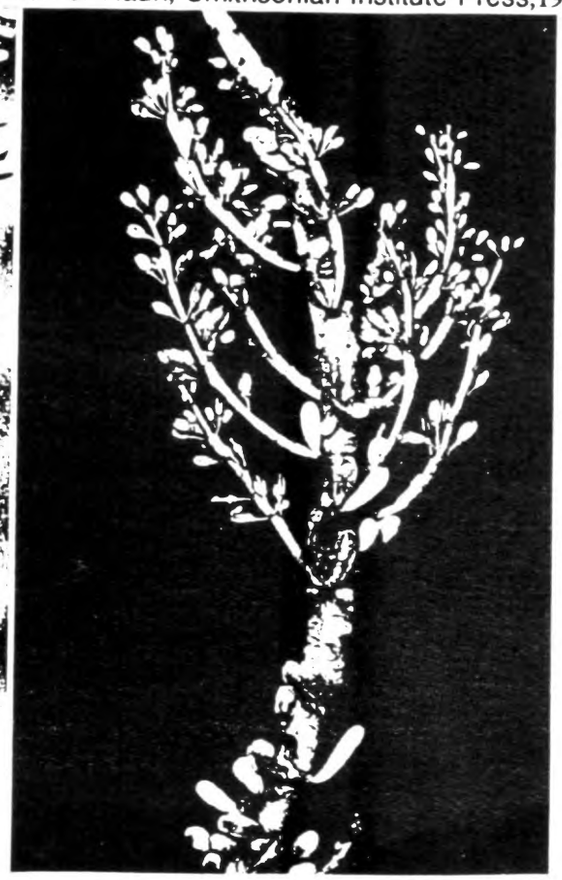
PORTULACACEAE
The Purslane Family

Illustrations from The Wonderful World of Succulents by Werner Rauh, Smithsonian Institute Press,1984.

Ceraria namaquensis. branches with foliat short shoots

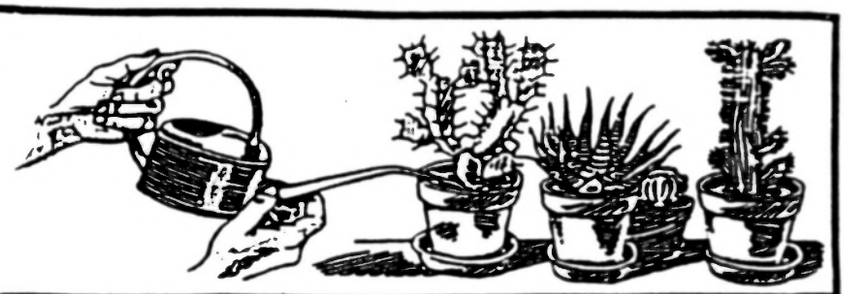


Flowering shoot of *Ceraria namaquensis*

Portulaca grandiflora

Portulacaria afra, in dry forest near Rust fontein (Transvaal)

FROM ALL CORNERS
by Shirley Berry



MAMMILLARIAS

Mammillarias are probably the most popular genus among cactus collectors. It is also the cactus genus with the greatest number of species outside of Opuntia. The typifying feature of the genus Mammillaria is the flower position originating in the axil of the tubercles. The flower is completely devoid of scales or hair. This flower is also found in two closely related genera, Coryphantha and Neolloydia.

In the Cactus and Succulent Journal of Great Britain, the August 1967 issue, Mr. Arthur Boarder states, "To flower Mammillarias at their best it is necessary to grow them well. A Mammillaria will not flower again at the same axil or below where it has already flowered on the main stem. It is quite easy to see whether it grew well the previous year when the plant is flowering. If the only flowers are at or near the growing point it is a sure sign the plant made very little growth the previous season. On the other hand, if the plant shows several rings of past flowering, and the lowest ring is well down on the plant, it is certain that the plant grew exceptionally well the year before."

He goes on to say that some people feel that cacti will not flower unless they get a good winter's rest. Mr. Boarder feels that in the case of Mammillarias at least, this is not so. He watered his Mammillarias all winter (greenhouse conditions) and has never had more flowers.

He admits that so much depends not only on the weather, but the temperature one is able to maintain. He kept a night temperature of about 50 F. He concludes that many Mammillarias commence to grow again after a rest during the hottest part of the year. In their native habitats they would normally only grow in the rainy season and not at all when it is scorchingly hot.

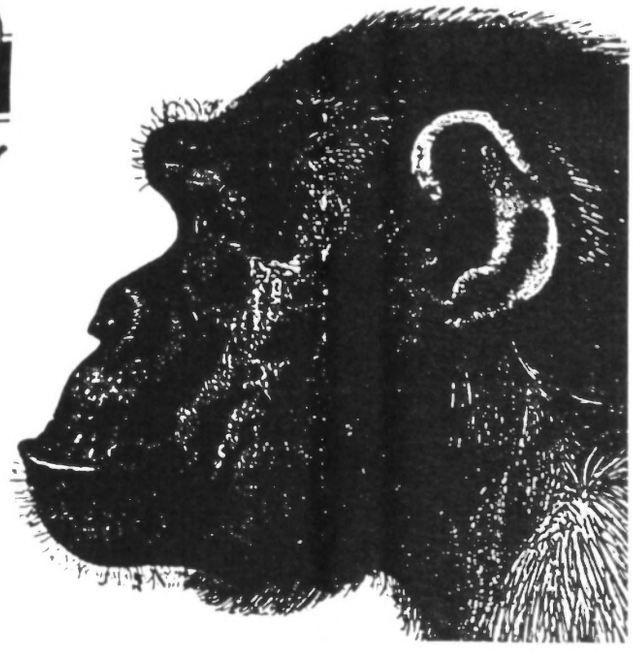
In "The Encyclopedia of Cacti" by Cullman, Gotz, and Groner (a must for every serious grower of succulents), the authors mention "the precise, almost mathematical spine arrangement" which in my mind is even more beautiful than the flowers. They suggest a mineral, permeable, but nutritious soil including sand, perlite, and pumice.

It is difficult to give general cultivation advice because the genus is widely dispersed over a vast area. The majority of species occur in Mexico. They are found from Canada through Central American, the Greater and Lesser Antilles, as well as Peru and Venezuela. However, in general, the densely spined species appreciate a sunny, warm location, and the green types are happy in half shade. The former types should be watered more sparingly. Low nitrogen balanced fertilizers and superphosphate are recommended for use in their growing period.

*ERRATA: In the August edition of Espinas y Flores in the article "From All Corners" in the fifth paragraph there is a printer's error: "Grow it like a big plants" should read "Grow it like a BOG plant".

WISE AND OTHERWISE

by Michael Buckner



"The native calls the baobab (adasonia species,ed) "the devil tree" because he claims that the devil, getting tangled in its branches, punished the tree by reversing it. To the native, the roots are branches now, and the branches are roots. To ensure that there would be no more baobabs, the devil destroyed all the young ones. That's why, the native says, there are only full-grown baobab trees left."
THE DEVIL TREE by Jerzy Kosinski, c.1973,HBJ

Remarkably, in a male-dominated field, the two books that proved most effective in extending American ethics were the work of women. Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, published in 1852, was the catalyst around which antislavery thought crystallized. Its argument was simple and pointed: blacks were not commodities to be exploited, but members of the moral community. This idea proved to be the intellectual explosive that blew American society apart at the seams. There was considerable truth in Abraham Lincoln's characterization of Stowe as the lady who caused the civil war. One-hundred and ten years after *Uncle Tom's Cabin* Rachel Carson wrote another book that exploded against traditional American assumptions. It argued that all life-forms, even insects, were not commodities but deserved ethical consideration. Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962) was a landmark in the development of an ecological perspective. It did much to accelerate the new environmentalism and generated the most widespread public consideration of environmental ethics to that date.

From THE RIGHTS OF NATURE, A History of Environmental Ethics
by Roderick Frazier Nash, University of Wisconsin Press, c.1989

"Meanwhile, in 1927, Charles Elton coined the phrase "food chain." His ecological research revealed nutritional dependencies that started with the sun, proceeded through plants to plant eaters and then to the carnivores. Elton also used the metaphor of a pyramid: the simplest organisms with the shortest food chains were the most numerous and, as the base of the structure, the most important. Remove the top of the pyramid--a hawk, say, or a human-- and the system was hardly disturbed. But take away bases like plant life or soil bacteria and the pyramid collapsed. In one sense the food chain idea corroborated the old notion of the lower orders of nature existing for the higher. But ecologists turned this logic upside down. In reality, humans depended on the bacteria which sustained the grass which fed the cattle which became steaks. As the top link in the chain humans were not so much exalted as they were vulnerable. The least sophisticated life-forms stabilized the entire community and were the most vital to its continuation. Ecology took still more conceit out of humanity."

From THE RIGHTS OF NATURE, A History of Environmental Ethics
by Roderick Frazier Nash, University of Wisconsin Press, c.1989

WISE AND

"There is rather a nasty tale which runs: "Lipsticks were made from the blood of lice"; but there is an element of truth in this, and cacti come into the picture. Many Opuntias are the host-plants of the cochineal insect, and the latter's body contains a red pigment, cochineal, which - before the discovery of aniline dyes - was important in the manufacture of paints and red ink, in the dyeing of silk, and for cosmetics. In Central America and the Canary Islands there formerly existed large plantations which were devoted to rearing these cochineal insects; the plants on which they mostly fed were the long-familiar *Opuntia ficus-indica,* and also *Nopalea cochenillifera.* The insects were brushed off the plant, collected up, killed by heat, and then dried; 140,000 of these creature provided about 1 kilogram (2.2 lbs) of the dried product. Cochineal production was a major item in the economy of these countries, and in 1880 the Canary Islands exported around 2.5 million kilograms of cochineal, valued at that time at about 13 million German marks. But as a result of the discovery of aniline dyes, production was dropping rapidly towards the turn of the century. Whereas in 1882 112,00 kilograms was still being imported through London alone, the figure had dropped to 37,000 kilograms by 1890, and at the present time cochineal production no longer has any economic significance.

As a footnote to the cochineal story there is an anecdote which does not seem to have found its way into the cactus literature, and it comes to us from a rather unexpected source, showing cochineal insects actually reached North Europe as living things quite 200 years ago. It seems that for many years the great Linnaeus, father of modern botany and professor at Uppsala University of Sweden, had tried to find someone who could supply him with the creatures which provided this highly valued red dyestuff. Success came at last when one of his students, Daniel Rolander, was able to gather for him in Surinam (formerly known as Dutch Guiana) some Opuntias which were colonized by cochineal insects. On 29th June 1756 these plants arrived at last, in good condition, at Uppsala - and there an unsuspecting gardener, thinking these were some unwelcome pest, brushed from the host-plants all the irreplaceable insects which Linnaeus had been at such pains to import. Such was his extreme annoyance at this mischance that Linnaeus, in his own words, "suffered one of his severest attacks of migraine" (taken from his autobiography, Vita III)."
Taken from CACTI, Botanical Aspects, Descriptions & Cultivation by Wilhelm Barthlott, c.1979, Stanley Thornes (Publishers) Ltd.

OTHERWISE

Bumper Sticker seen on Arizona Jeep visiting Southern California:
"I already know Hell is hot. But is it Humid?"

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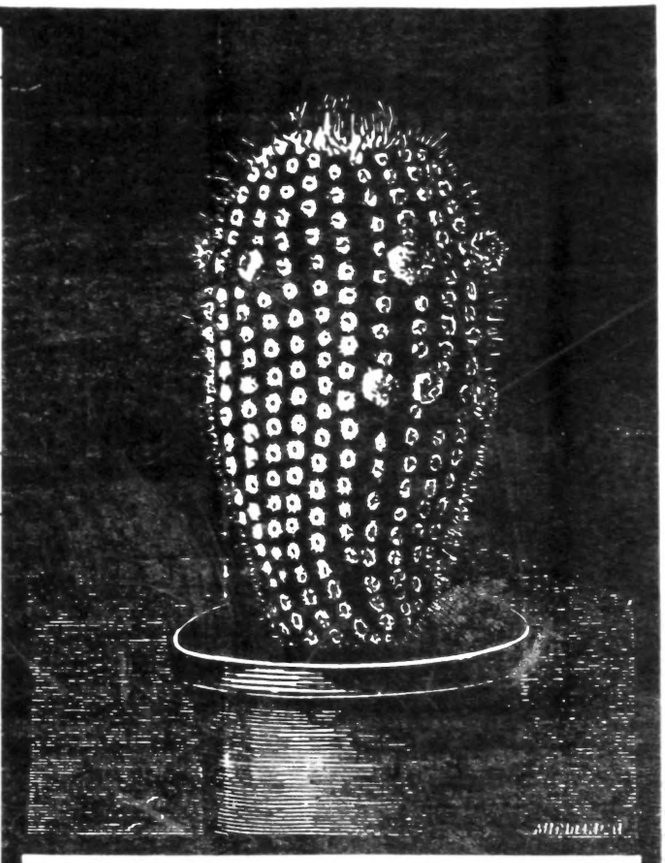
S.D. Floral Association - Elizabeth Glover
Program - Joe Clements, Joey Betzler



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