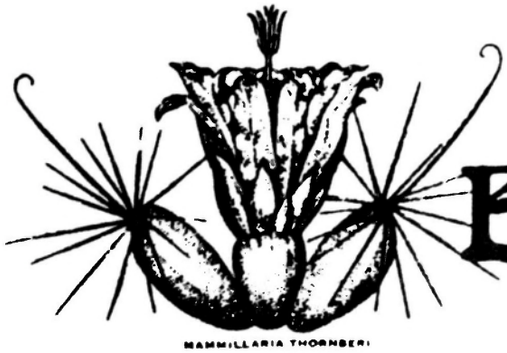


Espinas y Flores

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

Volume XXV, Number 3 March 10, 1990

MARCH MEETING

Saturday March 10, 1990

1:30 P.M.

Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

PROGRAM

At the time of Editing, I have not received the program. Hopefully, I will be able to have something to insert by mailing. If not, surely it will be both interesting and educational.

IN THIS ISSUE Page

DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE E y F - March 30, 1990

I have received word that Ella D. Foret died Jan. 20 at Coronado Hospital. She was 87. She was active in the Coronado Woman's Club and the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society.

NEWS NEWS NEWS ----------

Welcome to New Members -------

Maurilio & Concepcion Bernal - Vista Floyd O'Quinn - San Diego

---

BRAGGING TABLE WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY.....

First Place.....Teresita Lime for her EUPHORBIA FRANCOIS

Second Place.....Rudy Lime for his ADROMISCHUS CRISTATUS

Third Place.....Mitch Bahr for his CRASSULA SP.

REFRESHMENTS FOR THE MARCH MEETING -----

Jeanette Dutton	Donna Couchman	Elibet Marshal
Millie Richter	Susan Clements	Mark St. Clair
Robyn Natwick	Virginia Innis	Herb Stern
Tom DeMerritt	Bill McCullough	

Thanks

Name tags are on sale $3.00. See Pearlso Lewis. She must have at least 10 orders.

SHOW SCHEDULE FOR MARCH AND APRIL

Mar. 16,17,18 San Diego Co. Orchid Soc. 44th Spring Show
(Scottish Rites Mem. Bldg. Mission Valley Admission: $3.00
Preview: Fri: 6pm-10:00pm Sat. 9am-6:00pm Sun:9am-4:00pm

Mar. 17 & 18 Ikebana International 22nd Exhibit/Show Sat:11am-4:30pm Sun:11am-4:30pm

Mar. 31 & Apr. 1 Balboa Park African Violet Club 15th Show Sat:12pm-5:00pm Sun:11am-4pm

April 8 Convair Garden Club 40th Annual Rose Show Sun: 1pm-4:30pm

April 14 & 15 San Diego Rose Society 63rd Annual Show Sat: 1pm-6pm Sun:10am-5:30pm
Balboa Park Club - Balboa Park

Succulent of the Month

THE GENUS DUDLEYA

Dorothy Dunn

The genus Dudleya was erected by Britton and Rose in 1903 and commemorates the name of William Russell Dudley, who was Professor of Systematic Botany at Stanford University from the date of its founding until 1910.

Dudleyas belong to the very large Crassulaceae family, and are native to the far western part of the United States and Mexico. Many species which we now recognize as Dudleyas were at one time included in Echeveria. There are now about 40 recognized species in the genus (Jacobsen lists 43), plus numerous varieties, subspecies, and hybrids. The earliest known species of what is now Dudleya was described by the botanist Adrian Haworth in 1803 as a Cotyledon. The second species was described in 1811, and the third and fourth simultaneously in 1840. These are now two of our most familiar San Diego County Dudleyas, D. pulverulenta and D. lanceolata, although they were both originally described as Echeverias. Britton and Rose selected D. lanceolata as the type species of the genus, considering it to be the most representative at that time.

The genus consists of three sub-genera: Dudleya, Stylophyllum, and Hasseanthus. While Dudleyas have broad leaves and wide-open flowers, Stylophyllums (the name means "pencil-leaved") are characterized by narrower, often cylindrical leaves which are - theoretically - edible, with an acrid but delicate flavor, and their flowers are five-pointed stars, much like Sedum flowers. Stylophyllums are closely related to the Germanias and Sedums. They are native only to the coast region of California and the adjacent islands. San Pedro is approximately their northernmost boundary, while they extend south into the northern half of Baja California. Both Dudleyas and Stylophyllums possess a thick, woody, almost caudex-like stem, and their dry, dead leaves are persistent. Hasseanthus can be recognized by its bulb-like underground corm, resembling Gladiolus, and the fact that the plant generally dries up and is leafless during the summer and fall.

While the range of Dudleyas is fairly comprehensive, extending down the Pacific Coast from Oregon to the tip of Baja California, including all the adjacent islands, and inland into Nevada, Utah, and Arizona, the individual species generally have a very limited distribution. They may be found clinging to sheer, vertical cliffs with their roots in crevices, or growing under the protection of coastal scrub. Particularly striking in habitat are D. pulverulenta, which presents an almost incongruous contrast against the hot, dry, barren hillsides where it is usually found in Southern California, and D. brittonii, whose spectacular habitat is virtually restricted to the purplish cliffs of La Mision about halfway between Tijuana and Ensenada, where it literally cascades down the sheer rock walls. In Baja, it is not unusual to find three or four species growing quite close together in one locale, and some interesting hybrids have occasionally resulted from this proximity.

Recent outstanding additions to the genus include two Baja California species, D. pachyphytum and D. campanulata. D. pachyphytum is a very distinctive plant, native only to Cedros Island, where it grows in association with another spectacular Cedros Island endemic, Ferocactus chrysacanthus. It was first discovered in 1971, and described by Reid Moran in 1980. Other Cedros Island Dudleyas include D. acuminata and D. albiflora. D. campanulata is endemic to Punta Banda, where it has been found only on the south coast, mainly on west-facing seacliffs. Although it was just published in 1978 by Reid Moran, he believes it actually dates back to 1934 when Don Skinner presented him with a Dudleya of unknown origin. Four other Dudleyas grow on Punta Banda: D. attenuata ssp. orcuttii, a branching form of D. brittonii, D. anomala, and D. lanceolata.

In cultivation, most Dudleyas are not difficult to grow. They do quite well in either pot or open-ground situations, preferring a little shade and a well-drained soil. Although they are winter growers, they probably should be kept a little on the dry side most of the year. Most species go somewhat - to very! - dormant in the summer after their spring blooming period, and at this time some species (notably D. pulverulenta) appear almost dead, with many dry but tenacious lower leaves. When watering, try to avoid splashing the leaves, as this tends to wash away the beautiful chalky "bloom" which is so typical of many Dudleyas.

There is one serious pest which afflicts plants growing in the wild, and this is a stem-borer which can eventually kill the plant if not checked. Collected plants should be thoroughly cleaned and examined to make sure they are free of all traces of this pest. Aphids are a slightly lesser evil; they usually arrive as soon as the buds appear on the flower stalks, but are fairly effectively removed with an insecticidal soap solution or even a strong spray of water.

Propagation is by seed, division of clumps, or stem-cuttings. The latter method can be somewhat difficult as many species continue to grow and split dichotomously from a single woody (and tough) stem. While this means of propagation sometimes results in a rather drastic mutilation of the plant, most Dudleyas are quite hardy and manage to survive the operation.

Literature consulted:

Brown, J.R. — Succulents for the Amateur, pp. 89-90

Johansen, D.A. — Contributions Toward a Monograph of the Genus Dudleya (Cactus and Succulent Journal, Vol. IV, nos. 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 - 1932)

Moran, Reid: — Dudleya campanulata, a New Species from Baja California, Cactus and Succulent Journal, Jan.-Feb., 1978

Moran, Reid and Benedict, Michael: — Dudleya pachyphytum of Isla Cedros, Mexico Cactus and Succulent Journal, May-June, 1981

Skinner, Don B. — Stylophyllums (Desert Plant Life, June 1935)

Skinner, Don B. — Stylophyllums with Flattened Leaves (Desert Plant Life, August, 1935)

CACTUS OF THE MONTH

DISCOCACTUS

by Phyllis Flechsig

Discocactus, like Melocactus, is distinguished from all other cacti in having a cephalium on top of the mature plant. The cephalium is a special growth, looking quite different from the rest of the plant, from which all flowers and fruits arise. However, the two genera are not otherwise much alike. Discocacti tend to be small plants, and the woolly cephalium does not grow very large, either; Melocacti have small pink flowers buried in the cephalium, while Discocacti have relatively large, white, funnel-shaped nocturnal flowers that last one night only. The plants are flattened globes in shape, occasionally clustering, but often solitary. The spines are often strong and appressed, spider-like, against the plant. The cephalium may have bristles along with the wool. The flower buds develop very quickly, first appearing only a day or two before opening; the flowers are often pleasantly fragrant. Fruits are generally club-shaped, naked, and white, pink, or red.

The late A.F.H. Buining traveled extensively in Brazil in the sixties and seventies, collecting and naming many species of Discocactus; he recognized or named 34 different species. Later, the British botanist N.P. Taylor reduced that number to five!

One of Buining's new species turned out to be one of the most distinctive and beautiful all cacti: Discocactus horstii. A small plant, it has tiny curving spines and large flowers. An interesting feature of the plant is the spongy texture of the spines, as seen under a very high-powered microscope; these spines are able to absorb water into the plant, an ability not known (or at least not proved) for any other species of cactus except some kinds of Turbinicarpus.

Another handsome species is D. araneispinus; it has many thin, spidery, gold spines, and can be a very prolific bloomer.
More typical Discocacti are those of the D. heptacanthus complex, which have their ribs broken into distinct rounded tubercles, and thick spines more or less appressed to the plant.

The native habitat of Discocacti is the tropical, arid parts of central Brazil; one species occurs in Bolivia and one in Paraguay. This area is frost-free, semi-arid, and hot. Winters are dry for six months at a time. The plants occur at rather low altitudes, from about 200 to 1150 meters. Vegetation is sparse: grasses, cacti, small trees and shrubs. Some Discocacti grow among grasses or under shrubs, while others are out in the open, among the rocks. Root systems tend to be shallow and wide-spreading.

Some people who have never grown a cactus imagine that they all grow in the desert in pure sand. Well, here for once are a few

species, including D. horstii, that actually do grow in pure white quartzite sand in the wild. Many others grow on steep, bare, rocky slopes or in rock fissures. These habitats indicate that in cultivation the plants need a very low amount of organic matter in the planting mix, and instant drainage. They also need warmth all year, though they can stand lower temperatures in winter if kept dry. Propagation is from seed, and they grow fairly quickly and will produce a cephalium in only a few years. D. horstii is generally grafted, as it is notoriously slow and difficult on its own roots.

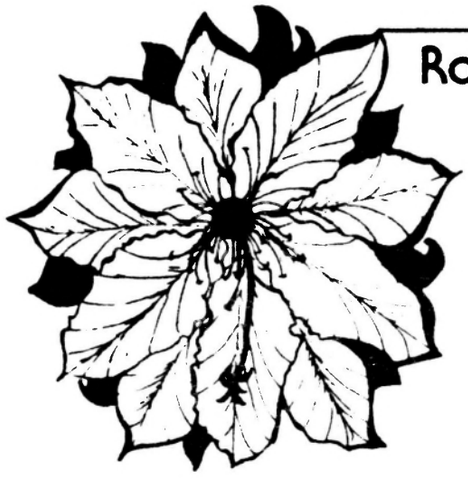
LITERATURE CONSULTED

Braun, P. 1978-79. "A review of the genus Discocactus Pfeiffer. Pts. I-VII." Cactus & Succulent Journal, v. 50, P. 115-117, 190-192, 239-241, 271-273; v. 51, p. 16-17, 64-65, 138-139.

Buining, A.F.H. 1980. The genus Discocactus Pfeiffer. Buining-fonds, The Netherlands.

Schill, R.,Barthlott, W., and Ehler, N. 1973. "Cactus spines under the electron scanning microscope." Cactus & Succulent Journal, v. 45, p. 175-185.

Taylor, N.P. 1981. "Reconsolidation of Discocactus Pfeiff." Cactus & Succulent Journal of Great Britain, v. 43, p. 37-40.



The 2nd meeting of the newly forming SAN DIEGO HOYA SOCIETY WILL BE HELD on Sunday, March 25, 1990 at Rainbow Gardens Nursery & Bookshop, 1444 E. Taylor St. Vista, CA --at 1:00p.m. For more information Call (619) 758-4290 or (619) 432-8640

BECAUSE OF LITTLE INTEREST IN THE BOOK AUCTIONS------

Betty Gomes will be selling books from a table before the meetings.

Special Thanks to Rick & Eleanor Latimer for the donations of their books.

Carl Dykema

JANUARY 5, 1990

Dear Fellow Members,

Recently a problem turned up in our club that is distasteful to me. On December 8, 1989, a day before our Christmas party, Doc Lemrow (who had run our lavish monthly break for years) was diagnosed as having cancer. In November, Doc and his wife had paid ten dollars for this party. Since he was hospitalized, he expressed a wish for a Sansevieria and asked a member and friend to request one. At the meeting, the member explained the foregoing situation but was refused with a very sarcastic reply. I was furious when I heard this and told Chuck, who said to see John. John instantly gave me a lovely plant for Doc. The same day, Mrs. Chloe Bajwa came alone to the party. Her husband, Dr. G. Bajwa had been unexpectedly hospitalized for by-pass heart surgery a week before. She explained the problem and asked for a plant for her husband. She was rudely and cruelly told that people with a cold make excuses to get a plant. She was so shocked and upset she instantly left the meeting with the urge to quit the club.

When I heard of this, I phoned to tell her she was a fool to quit our nice club because of one crude and unpleasant person.

These two couples had bona fide reasons for the requests. Each couple had paid the ten dollars. Granted, they expected a nice meal and plant, but an act of God forbade them to enjoy these.

I understand not giving a plant to people not attending the dinner, but it can be said humanely. I'm willing to pay extra for any plant that is requested in an emergency. Am I wrong for my anger?

PERLSO LEWIS

Perlso Lewis

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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S.D. Floral Association - Elizabeth Glover
Program - Joe Clements
Bill Low

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society 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 1:30 p.m. in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held after the general meetings. Annual dues are $8.00 per single member per year, and $2.00 for each additional member of a household within the family. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are 60¢.

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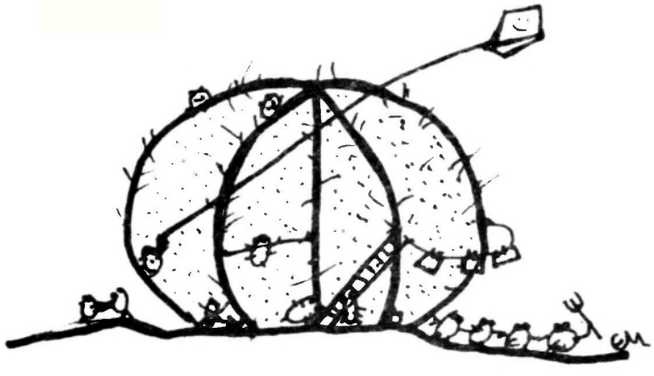

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MEALIBUGIENSIS

FIRST CLASS **FIRST CLASS** **FIRST CLASS**