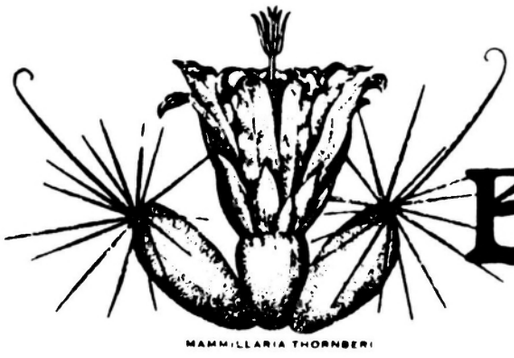

Espinas y Flores

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

Volume XX, Number 1 January 12, 1985

Happy New Year

JANUARY MEETING

Saturday January 12, 1985

1:30 P.M.

Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

PROGRAM

FAMILIES OF SUCCULENTS

Our speaker will be John Trager. John is now the Horticulturist in charge of the Desert Garden Conservatory at the Huntington Botanical Garden. He had previously been the Greenhouse Manager at Abbey Gardens in Carpenteria, CA. He is also the CSSA's librarian for the book collection on succulent plants now at Whittier College and a fine plant judge for CSSA sanctioned shows in California.

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IN THIS ISSUE Page

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Deadline for the Febrary Issue is Saturday January 26 -Thanks to all contributors for their cooperation. Best wishes for the coming New Year -- Mary

CACTUS - OF - THE - MONTH

SMALL CLUSTERING MAMMILLARIA

F. C. Thrombley

Within this genus of over 300 species there are a number of interesting plants that form small mounds, clusters or clumps. They are indeed a pleasure to grow and very rewarding with their flowers & many heads. Best of all they can be grown in a relatively small space.

For this article the word small means comparatively restricted dimension-not big. Plants that can be grown in 5" to 8" pots for many years. Conversely, this article will not include the very small Mammillarias such as Saboae.

Cultivation is not difficult but all of them require bright light so they can form their tight clumps without etilolating. When preparing the soil mix, add enough pumice to assure excellent drainage. One must remember that these plants cannot tolerate their roots growing in soggy soil. Fertilizing at half strength through the growing season is also recommended. Do not forget to let them 'rest' during the winter months-no fertilizer and ease up on the watering schedule. Some hobbyist let their plants go completely dormant for a few months. For me the weather is the main factor. If it is a warm, rainless winter, I will water the plants on occasion. If it is a cold wet winter, I will with-hold all watering.

MAMMILLARIA lenta is one of my favorite plants and should be included in every collection of those who like small clumping plants. It has fine dense white spines which cover the flattish heads. It is a slow grower and requires bright light so that it can reward you with its white flowers and pink stripes. The seed pods are also very showy-red and elongated quite large for such a small plant. They do have a tap root (carrot like) and so need some depth to the pot for good growth. Of the few plants I have, two are listed here for size comparisons.

10 headed plant in a 5" inside dia. pot with lots of room to grow

5 headed plant in a 4" inside dia. pot, will transplant in two years.

MAMMILLARIA baumii is a many headed plant with densely whit[e]spines, up to 18mm long covering each head. A truely handsome plant. The best, however, is when it produces its mass of scented bright yellow flowers. The plant in my collection has 37 heads with an overall diameter of 5" and planted in a 6" dia. shallow pot.

MAMMILLARIA reko var. leptacantha is a recently discovered plant by Alfred Lau. One must be careful when purchasing this plant to be sure that it is from an offsetting clone. Normally it is a single headed plant which will grow quite large before putting out offsets. This plant is superb with its long curving central spines which cover each head in a spherical shape. A plant that must be seen to be appreciated. My plant has 4 heads and fills a 4" inside dia. pot with the spines having an overall diameter of 5".

MAMMILLARIA camptotricha is a distinctive and well-known species with 6 to 8 central spines up to 27mm long. The spines are white to gold, bristle-like, twisting and curving which cover each head. The small white flowers do not protrude beyond the spines and are surprisingly star-like when you discover them. It also produces flowers sporadically throughout the year. A plant with 10 heads and an overall dia. of 5 1/2" is one of my friends.

MAMMILLARIA perbella This species forms low-growing mounds of dicotomously dividing heads. The 10mm long deep pink flowers circle each head and is indeed a beautiful sight. This is a slow growing plant but a real pleasure to watch it grow throughout the years into a very pleasing appearance with its symmetry of form. My plant has 8 heads and is 4 1/2" in diameter.

The following is a short list of a few plants in Bob Kents wonderful collection of Mammillarias.

MAMMILLARIA sinistrohamata Size: 4" dia. x 2" high with 31 heads.

MAMMILLARIA picta Size: 6 1/2" dia. x 3 3/4" high with 33 heads.

MAMMILLARIA schiedeana Size: 8" dia. x 3 1/2" high with 14 heads. This is another plant that you should be sure is a clumping type when very small. I have a plant with a single head that is 5 1/2" tall by 3 3/4" dia. and is just now sending out pups.

There are others to choose from such as MAMMILLARIA jaliscana, nejapensis and mazatlanensis. Hopefully this article will interest you in discovering these small, delightful and fun to raise clumping plants.

THE SUCCULENT SENECIOS

(Family: Compositae)

By Dorothy Dunn

The genus Senecio belongs to the huge Compositae or Daisy family, which is one of the largest of all plant families, with representatives in every continent, and consisting of about 900 genera and more than 17,000 species. It contains three genera which are of special interest to the succulent enthusiast: Kleinia, Senecio, and Othonna. Although Kleinias and Senecios have been combined and separated repeatedly in botanical literature, the current trend seems to favor grouping them all under Senecio. As a rule, the specific name remains the same, with a few exceptions such as Kleinia neriifolia which became Senecio kleinia, and Kleinia tomentosa, which is now Senecio haworthii. The generic name is derived from the Latin word senex, which means 'Old Man'.

Although the genus Senecio is extremely large, containing about 1300 species, only a small number of these can be considered truly succulent (Jacobsen lists about 115). These consist of many diverse forms which exhibit varying stages of adaptation to drought. Many Senecios are common weeds (Senecio is also the Latin name for groundsel or ragwort), and the succulent Senecios are relatives of our native sunflowers, daisies, and thistles. The genus is distributed throughout the tropical and temperate regions of both hemispheres, with the majority of the species being native to North and South Africa, Madagascar, Mexico, the Canary Islands and the East Indies. Their habitats range from rain forests to desert regions and all the areas between. Two of the strangest species, S. pendula and S. deflersii, come from southern Arabia, and one species, S. johnstonii, grows at altitudes of about 12,000 feet on Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. A number of tree-like but not really succulent species occur in tropical Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, and the Congo Basin. These are sometimes referred to as Dendrosenecios.

Senecios are generally grown for their distinctive forms and coloration and texture of foliage rather than for their flowers, which are usually somewhat insignificant. Senecios are characterized by their daisy-like flowers - in most cases yellow - while the Kleinias are recognized by their thistle-like flowers. If you wish to differentiate between the two genera, this is probably one of the most expedient means of doing so. They range in size and form from low, trailing or vining plants to moderate-sized shrubs. Several of them make excellent hanging-basket subjects (notably the familiar S. rowleyanus, as well as S. radicans, S. herreanus, and S. bulbinefolius), while a few form fantastic caudices, such as S. fulgens. Senecios will also occasionally crest; an especially rare and outstanding example is S. gregorii cristata. Probably the most beautiful foliage is exemplified by S. haworthii, S. medleywoodii, and S. scaposus, while credit for the most unique and bizarre form should unquestionably go to S. pendula; a mature,

well-grown clump of this resembles a mass of writhing snakes. S. anteuphorbium, as its name implies, is reputedly another antidote for the extreme irritation caused by Euphorbia sap. Many Senecios also have a very pungent but not altogether unpleasant odor.

All Senecios are tender and need protection from frost. Many will take full sun, but some species look better if given reasonable shade. They also require a well-drained soil and careful watering. As a rule, the deciduous kinds such as S. articulatus, S. tropaeolifolius, S. gregorii, S. stapeliiformis, and S. anteuphorbium, should not be watered after the leaves have fallen (which is usually our summer). The ones with persistent leaves (or foliage), such as S. haworthii, S. fulgens, and S. scaposus, rest in winter and should only be watered very sparingly then. Propagation is usually easiest from cuttings, although they can be grown from seed. The principal pest seems to be Aphids.

With such a wealth of diverse shapes, sizes, and colors, Senecios deserve much more attention than they usually get. The shrubby and trailing species add impact and interest to many different landscape situations, while most of the smaller ones can be used effectively as pot plants or hanging-basket specimens.

Literature consulted:

Chidamian, Claude: Book of Cacti and Other Succulents
Haselton, Scott: Succulents for the Amateur
Higgins, Vera: Succulents in Cultivation
Jacobsen, H. Lexicon of Succulent Plants
Shields, Marjorie: Desert Flowers Under Glass (Cactus and Succulent Journal, March-April, 1960)

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Succulent-of-the-Month

OTHONNA

by Rick Latimer

The Compositae (or Asteraceae) is the largest family of flowering plants with at least 900 genera and 14,000 species. They are world-wide in distribution and are found in every type of habitat from mountain tops to the sea shore. Many are trees or shrubs, but the majority are herbs. These may be annual or perennial and exhibit a wide range of leaf form and stem types. However, there is a notable uniformity in inflorescence and floral structure. The flowers are small and are usually borne in a dense head and surrounded by bracts (the "petals" of the common daisy). The ovary is below the other floral parts and gives rise to a single seed (one seed per flower, many seeds per flower head) which is often crowned with a pappus of hairs or teeth (for dispersal). The family is of great economic importance for such food plants as lettuce, artichoke, chicory, and sunflower. And of course there are the weeds such as the dandelion, the rarities such as Argyoxiphium sandwicense or "Silver Sword" from the Haleakala crater of Maui, the common garden flowers such as the well known daisy, dahlia, and chrysanthemum, and some succulents too!

Since the daisy family is so large, and since the flowers are so similar; the criteria for establishing the different genera is often quite nit-picky. Senecio and Othonna are relatively closely related genera. While Senecio is worldwide in distribution with 3,000 different species and about 250 of these native to the Republic of South Africa, Othonna is strictly an African genus of about 150 different species of which 2/3 are native to the Republic of South Africa. Only a small number of species in both genera are succulent, but they are among the best of all the succulents.

The name of the genus derives from the Greek word "othone" = a linen cloth or napkin - an allusion to the downy covering of some of the earlier known species. A few species are considered easy to grow such as O. (crassifolia) capensis. However, some of the others which are often caudiciforms are considered connoisseur plants and need special care to keep them alive. In Europe they come into leaf in November and are watered until the plants have finished blooming around New Years Day. The rest of the year they are dormant and receive only light sprayings to keep the roots from drying out completely. Of this type are the most interesting species. O. euphorbioides becomes larger in cultivation than in the wild where it only reaches 4 inches in height. Its 1 inch thick stems have yellowish-grey bark and the plants become spiny when the leaf and flower stalks become bare. O. herrei has cork-like, initially yellow, later dark brown, warty, tesselated leaf pads. O. retrorsa has stems that become densely covered with the dried remains of the pale blue leaves. O. lepidocaulis has stems that look like goose-neck barnacles. Another interesting species is O. quercifolia with stem like those of a Bursera, but the flowers are typical yellow "daisy" flowers with five "petals".

The daisy family is the most advanced of the Dicotyledons. However it should be mentioned that the most advanced plant family of the Monocotyledons - the orchids - has about 800 genera of about 20,000 species (so is not it the largest plant family?). Although this family is maintropical in distribution, representatives are found throughout the world and not always epiphytic. The Riha and Subik reference even lists some of the species of this family that it considers succulent. There was a speaker making a tour of the northern California societies giving a program on this subject last year, but for now the subject of succulent orchids is for us terra incognita.

REFERENCES:

R. S. Adamson & T. M. Salter, Flora of the Cape Peninsula.

Charles Glass & Robert Foster, Cacti and Succulents for the Amateur.

F. A. Novak, The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Plants and Flowers.

E. P. Phillips, The Genera of South African Flowering Plants.

Werner Rauh, The Wonderful World of Succulents.

J. Riha and R. Subik, The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Cacti & other Succulents.

Gordon Rowley, The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Succulents.

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MORE NEWS

Our new officers were elected unnaminously at the December meeting:

President Lee Phelps
Vice President Jim Dice
Treasurer Warren Buckner
Recording Secretary Susan Clements

Congratulations

Our regular December Christmas Party meeting was a huge success. There was a large attendence in a festive mood. The food was delicious and plenty. We all got our plant and went home happy.

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

SUCCULENTS & CACTII of the MONTH for 1985

MONTH	SUCCULENT	CACTUS
January	Senecio & Othonna Rick Latimer & Dorothy Dunn	Small Clumping Mammillarias F. C. Thrombley
February	Agave Dorothy Dunn & Dr. Leroy Phelps	Cochemiea Dorothy Dunn & Joan Johnson
March	Pelargonium & Sarocaulon Wilna Johnson	Etiolating of Cactii F.C. Thrombley
April	Euphorbia Madlyn Lee	Gymnocalycium F. C. Thrombley
May	Portulacaceae Rick Latimer	Echinocereus Viridiflorus F. C. Thrombley
June	PICNIC	
July	CSSA Speakers	
August	Didiereaceae Rick Latimer	Echinopsis Phylis Fleschig
September	Stapeliads Joe Betzler	Ferocactus Acanthodes F. C. Thrombley
October	Caudiciform Succulents Dorothy Dunn	Acanthocalycium Phylis Fleschig
November	Crassula	Parodia
December	XMAS PARTY & your favorite plant	

CSSA

TWENTY-FIRST BIENNIAL CONVENTION
July 1985 San Diego

This will be a list of jobs for the convention, as I see them at this time, There will be more added as time goes by.

Keep in mind that conventions are supposed to be enjoyable; not only for the people who attend, but also for the people who put them on. Ask for Help! It is almost always true that people are complimented by being asked to assist you, and not only that, they will be one of the "in" group at the convention. Start early and follow up! As a matter of fact, you should turn out to be just a wee bit of a nag... It will pay off in the end.

CSSA PRESIDENT; LLOYD BRINSON
CONVENTION CHAIRMAN; PAUL JOHNSON CSSA
CONVENTION DIRECTOR; MARTIN L. MOONEY
I will need 4 people to act as my right hand,
1. Joey Betzler
2.
3.
4.
CONVENTION TREASURER; JOAN JOHNSON
PROGRAM CHAIRMAN; DR. LARRY MITICH CSSA
CONVENTION PLANT SALES; JOHN PASEK
PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN; RICHARD LATIMER
HOUSING CHAIRMAN; FRANK THROMBLEY
1. Beverly Kirkegaard
2.
3.
RECEPTION; PEARLSO LEWIS
1.
2.
3.
CONVENTION REGISTRAR; SUSAN CLEMENTS
1. Hannah Nachman
2. Harry Nachman
3. Pat Mooney
4.

ACTIVITIES; I DON't know what this entails at this time.
PROGRAM DIRECTOR; Two people to operate the slide projectors and sound equipment
1.
2.
LIGHT TECHNICIAN; TWo people to turn the lights off and on as need be.
1.
2.
EXHIBITS; At this time I don't know what this is, but no less than two people.
1.
2.

BUS CHAIRMAN; WARREN BUCKNER
At this time we have 8 bus trips. If we have 500 people at the convention 90% will go on a bus trip, that's 450 people. A bus will take 45, so we need 10 bus captains.
TRIP # 1 & 2 North county growers, DOROTHY DUNN WILL make arrangements with the growers.
TRIP # 3 & 4 Huntington batonical gardens, Joe Clements will make arrangements with Huntington.
TRIP # 5 WILD ANIMAL PARK, Madelyn Lee will make arrangements with the park.
TRIPS # 6 & 7 San Diego Zoo and Balboa Park. (Open)
TRIPS 1 - 7 are Wednesday 10 July '85
TRIP # 8 Sunday & July '85. CSSA Show in LA. (Open)

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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President - Dr. Leroy Phelps
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Vice President - James Dice
6066 Portobelo Court, San Diego 92124 278-0326
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42251 Sixth Street, Temecula 92390 676-6126
Treasurer - Warren Buckner
1744 Englewood Drive, Lemon Grove 92045 469-1391
Immediate Past President - F.C. Thrombley
16333 Roca Drive, San Diego 92128 487-5544

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

COMMITTEES

Activities:

Audit: James Berry
Education: Cacti - Frank Thrombley
Succulents - Rick Latimer
Historian: Rick Latimer
Library: Rick Latimer
Membership: Warren Buckner
Open House: Frank Thrombley
Plant Exchange Table: Bill Miller
Plants & Supplies Table: Joe Betzler
Publication: Mary Aubuchon 427-3388
Reception: Perlso Lewis and Ethel Standish
Regalement: Warren Larberg and Doc Lemrow
Representatives:
Balboa Park Desert Garden - John Pasek
Quail Botanical Garden - Phyllis Flechsig
S.D. Botanical Garden Foundation -Elizabeth Glover
S.D. Floral Association - Verna Pasek
Liaison & Publicity: Kathy & Sandy Frost

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing cacti, other succulents and exotic plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 1:30 pm in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held after the general meetings. Annual dues are $8.00 per single member per year, $2.00 for each additional member of a household within a family. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are 60 cents.

Editor
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