

MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

# Espinas y Flores

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

Volume XXIV, Number 10

October 14, 1989

## OCTOBER MEETING

Saturday, October 14, 1989



\* \* \* \* \*  
\* 11:00 AM \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

## WILD ANIMAL PARK

Cake and iced tea will be served. Park in the regular parking lot (\$1 charge for parking) unless the walk is too much. When you enter show your Zoo membership card or tell them you are a member of SDC&SS and you will be admitted without charge. Once inside, walk back to the pavillion by the Baja Hill.

If it is too far for you to walk from the main entrance, we have made arrangements for a limited number to park in the Admin or Visitors Parking Lot. To get there, turn left off San Pasqual Valley Road 1/4 mile west of the main entrance. Go north 1/4 mile to the intersection and turn right. Stop at the guard shack and tell the guard that you are a member of the SDC&SS. Park where directed and walk over to the meeting.

To get to the Wild Animal Park take 15 toward Escondido. Follow the signs to the park.

### Program

Garden Pests and Their Control  
by Karen Robb

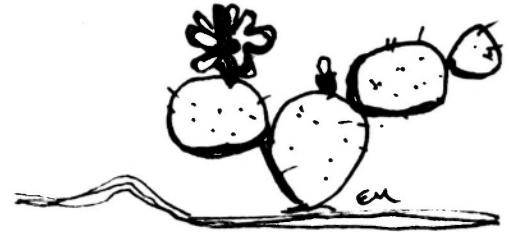


Karen Robb has a PhD from UC Riverside with Pest Control her speciality. She will be talking about Pests that are of special interest to collectors of Cactii and Succulents. At the present time she is studying the white fly. This is sure to be an informative as well interest program.

I am going out of town in late October, so copy for the paper must be to me by October 16. Remember that both dues and payment for the dinner in December will be due. Forms will be in the next issue.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

BRAGGING TABLE FOR SEPTEMBER, 1989



First Place: Phyllis Flechsig for her 'Yam" DIOSCOREA

Second Place: Martin Mooney for his WELWITSCHIA

Third Place: Mitch Bahr for his EUPHORBIA DURUANA

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Welcome to new members ---

Wesley Humphry - Fallbrook

Erik Altona - San Diego

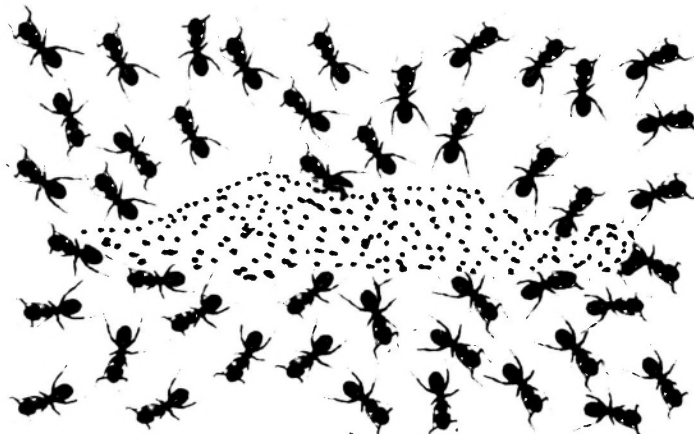
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Note: I understand that because of a parade in Balboa Park the day of the November meeting, our meeting will be held at Grigsby's Nursery. More in next issue.

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## Show Schedule

Oct. 7 & 8	Balboa Park African Violet Soc. Fall Show	Sat:10am-4:00pm	Sun:10am-4:00
Oct. 21 & 22	San Diego Co. Orchid Soc. Fall "Mini" Show	Sat:12pm-5:00pm	Sun:10am-4:30
Oct. 28 & 29	Sogetsu School of Ikebana	Sat:11am-4:30pm	Sun:11am-4:30
Nov. 4 & 5	San Diego Tropical Fish Soc. 19th Show	Sat:12pm-6:00pm	Sun: 9am-4:30
Nov. 19	Sumi-e Painting & Ikebana 14th Annual Show		Sun:11am-4:00;
Dec. 1-2-3	San Diego Floral Assoc. Christmas Show	Fri: 5pm-9:00pm	
	(Christmas on the Prado)	Sat:11am-9:00pm	Sun:11am-4:00;



## Killing Cactus and Other Succulents

### Haworthia archeri, Haworthia marumiana, and Haworthia batesiana

This is one of a series comparing Bruce Bayer's, John Filbeam's and Charles Scott's taxonomic treatment of the genus *Haworthia*.

Disagreement between Bayer (Filbeam follows Bayer) and Scott over the proper identity of *H. archeri* and *H. marumiana* is deep and, upon examination, puzzling. Available information supports Bayer's position. Uncertainty was able to arise because A. J. A. Uitewaal, who described *H. marumiana* in 1940, had been given incorrect locality data for the species. Consequences of the error underline the necessity of possessing accurate locality data as a first step both in identifying and knowing a plant.

#### Bayer and Filbeam

1. *H. archeri* v. *archeri*: Bayer described the plant in 1981, after it had been rediscovered in the Laingsburg area in 1977. He alludes to, but does not clarify, its earlier history. The taxon somewhat resembles *H. marumiana*, whose locality lies much further to the east. In Bayer's words, "it is primarily floral differences and geographical distribution which justify its recognition."
2. *H. archeri* v. *dimorpha*: Bayer makes this taxon a variety of *H. archeri* on the basis of floral similarities and geographical proximity. It owes its varietal name to "the extraordinary transformation observed in cultivated specimens. These doubled in size with broad, flatter, recurving leaves and large clear teeth" (this quote from Bayer's description).
3. *H. marumiana*: Described by Uitewaal as located at Ladismith and Mossel Bay, where it has never been found, the species was rediscovered in 1972 in the Tarkastad area and subsequently found in other localities in the Eastern Cape. The photograph accompanying Uitewaal's 1940 description suggests a plant resembling the *H. marumiana* form found near Tarkastad.
4. *H. batesiana*: This species is not part of the *H. archeri*/*marumiana* controversy but is included here because of Bayer's view that "the possibility of *H. batesiana* being only a glabrous variant of *H. marumiana* cannot be ruled out."

#### Scott

1. *H. marumiana*: Scott's *H. marumiana* is not Bayer's *H. marumiana*. Scott writes that the plants described by Bayer as *H. archeri* "fit perfectly Uitewaal's description of his *H. marumiana*." *H. archeri* is therefore not a new species; it is *H. marumiana*. The variety *dimorpha* "seems to represent a more robust variant of *H. marumiana* with far less numerous leaves."

2. *H. species nova?*: In Scott's view, "the plants from near Tarkastad and surrounding area...described by Bayer...under the name of *H. marumiana* clearly do not belong to that species...they may represent an as yet undescribed taxon."

3. *H. batesiana*: This taxon is the same as in Bayer's Handbook. Scott does not discuss its possible relationship with any other species.

Lo, the poor hobbyist. What should he believe? In this case, a comparison of several points in Uitewaal's description of *H. marumiana* with Scott's redescription and textual narrative and with Bayer's description of *H. archeri* is helpful. In examining these points, keep in mind Scott's assertion, already noted, that the plants "described by Bayer as *H. archeri* fit perfectly Uitewaal's description of his *H. marumiana*." Those who wish to read this description will find it, in Latin, in the May 1940 publication of "Cactussen en Vetplanten." Uitewaal also published an English translation, not covering the floral parts of the species, in the "Cactus and Succulent Journal of Great Britain" 9:20 1947.

1. a. Scott (all following Scott quotes are from his book, The Genus Haworthia): "Plants...in a basal rosette which is about 30 mm diam., usually solitary or forming small clusters by division." In the narrative text: "The plants from near Tarkastad...described by Bayer...as *H. marumiana* clearly do not belong to that species. They are stated to be very proliferous which *H. marumiana* sensu Uitewaal is not..."

b. Uitewaal (his English translation): "Rosettes...proliferous from the base and axils, readily forming clumps, 5/8-13/16 in. wide."

c. Bayer (all following Bayer quotes are from his description of *H. archeri* in the J1 S. Afr. Bot. 47:791 1981): "Rosette...40-60 mm diam....non-proliferous."

2. a. Scott: "Leaves extremely numerous..."

b. Uitewaal (his English translation): "Leaves rather numerous..." How to interpret the word "rather" may be uncertain; a photograph accompanying the Latin description,

however, is of a plant which appears to have about twenty leaves, give or take a few.

c. Bayer: "...up to 120 leaves."

3. a. Scott: "Inflorescence about 230 mm tall; peduncle...about 1 mm diam., 180 mm long...raceme about 5 cm. long, lax, with about 10 spirally arranged flowers and buds..."

b. Uitewaal (an unofficial translation of the Latin text): "Peduncle slender, few-flowered..." This portion of the description is unfortunately sparse.

c. Bayer (J. S. Afr. Bot. 47:791 1981): "Peduncle...1-1.5 mm diam., 300-500 mm long including raceme...with 10-15 flowers..."

4. a. Scott: "Sterile bracts...about 6 mm long...floral bracts 3 mm long...clasping the pedicels...(equal in length to the pedicels)..."

b. Uitewaal (unofficial translation of the Latin text): "...pedicels about 2 mm. long, twice the length of the bracts..." Uitewaal's description does not distinguish between sterile and floral bracts; the comparison implies that he is speaking of floral bracts, if not both types.

c. Bayer: "...pedicels up to 7 mm long...sterile bracts...6-7 mm long." Bayer's description of *H. archeri* does not include the floral bracts; those I have been able to observe are quite vigorous in comparison to the floral bracts of the plant Bayer calls *H. marumiana*.

5. a. Scott: With reference to the perianth, "...posterior segments erect...white...with green veins..."

b. Uitewaal (unofficial translation): "...perianth...white, with brown stripes...upper segments more erect..." In the Latin text, that last key word is "erectiora." It is not clear to what Uitewaal is comparing the upper segments, but it may be the lower segments, which he describes later in the same sentence as "strongly reflexed" (unofficial translation). It is also not clear what Uitewaal had in mind about the shape of the upper segments. The implication of the use of the word "erectiora," however, is that he did not view them as straight. It should be noted that the upper floral segments of what Bayer considers *H. marumiana* are bent back.

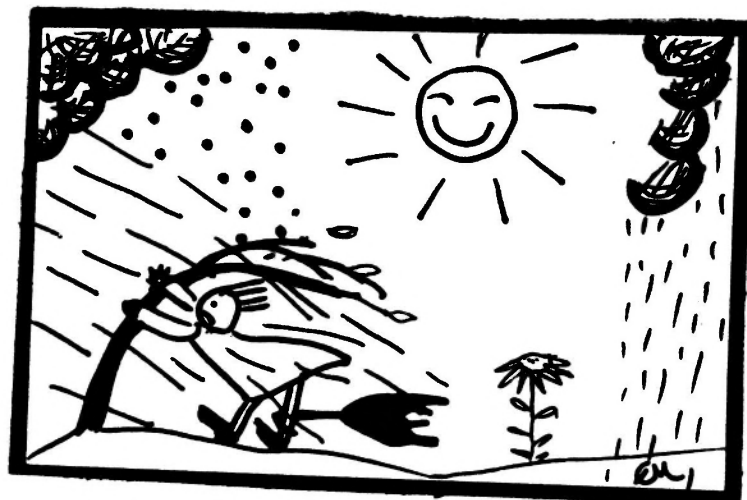
c. Bayer (Jl. S. Afr. Bot. 47:791 1981): "Perianth green and white...upper-outer segments straight and upper-inner segment nearly so..." It is unfortunate that, in the discussion of the flowers, none of the protagonists got

around to a description of the seed pod. The few of *H. archeri* which I have seen are colored a tessellate light and dark grey, a feature I have yet to see in any other *haworthia* species.

Where does the above leave us? To me it says there are two different species. And unless and until there is more information about them, one of the two is Uitewaal's *H. marumiana*, and the other is Bayer's *H. archeri*. Scott has not made his case.

Finally, one word of caution for hobbyists panting to acquire *H. archeri* v. *dimorpha*: Because there is allegedly a close physical resemblance between the Tarkastad form of *H. marumiana* and *H. archeri* v. *dimorpha*, some collectors have asked whether the two plants might be the same. (I say "allegedly" because I have never seen a mature *dimorpha* form. Moreover, these collectors' supposition is in a sense second-guessing Scott, who identifies the Tarkastad form with *H. archeri*, not the variety; but never mind.) Perhaps as a consequence of the above, or perhaps because of any of a dozen other reasons, an expensive v. *dimorpha* which I purchased several years ago metamorphosed into an expensive but worthless *H. marumiana* upon arrival in my mail box. I am certain there are genetically pure v. *dimorphas* somewhere out there awaiting a lucky owner. If you aspire to be one of these owners, and you find a plant bearing the *dimorpha* label, it behooves you to assure yourself absolutely of its identity before purchase. *Caveat emptor*.

-Bob Kent 9/89





NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

B. Juan Chahinian, The Sansevieria trifasciata varieties (2)  
Charles B. Heiser Jr., The Fascinating World of the Nightshades  
(Tobacco, Mandrake, Potato, Tomato, Pepper,  
Eggplant, etc.)  
Philip Hyde, Drylands, The Deserts of North America  
James A. MacMahon, Deserts (The Audubon Society Nature Guide)  
Irene Pavitt, ed., Desert Southwest, (The Sierra Club Guide to the National  
Parks)

donated by Dorothy R. Harvey:

Curt Backeberg, Neue Kakteen (Jagden, Arten, Kultur)  
David Griffiths, Cacti (U. S. Dept. of Agriculture Circular # 66 [6/29])

donated by the Lemrows:

The Gardener's Catalogue (1974)

donated by Ron & Eileen Smith:

Espinas y Flores (1978-1987) [These will be sent to Ghent, Belgium]

donated by Kathie van Arum:

Ernst Ewald, The Epiphytic Cacti (German & English)

---Rick Latimer, SDCSS Librarian



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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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