

# Espinas y Flores

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

Vol. XIV, No. 11.

November, 1979

## November Meeting

Saturday, November 10, 1979  
1:30 pm  
Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

*Succulents from South of the Border*

by Floyd Gable

The November program will feature a slide show of the succulent flora of Baja California by Floyd Gable. Mr. Gable is owner and operator of Gable's Santee Gardens and specializes in growing cacti and succulents, as well as orchids, bromeliads, and other exotic plants. During the past decade he has made numerous collecting trips down the Lower California peninsula and should have many beautiful slides of the area.

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## Cactus-of-The-Month

### OROYA

Dr. Ronald E. Monroe

The genus Oroya (for a mining village above Lima, Peru) was described by Britton and Rose (1937) for a monotypic genus (O. peruviana) found growing at rather high altitudes (3000 - 4000 m) in the Andes of Central Peru (Cordillera Negra to Mantaro). Borg (1959) also considered this genus as monotypic; however, Backeberg (1977) included several other species and varieties (six and seven, respectively). A recent review by Donald (1975) has attempted to right the proliferation of new species being introduced (mainly from K. Knize) by including all species as varieties of (or as the species per se) O. peruviana, O. neoperuviana or O. borchersii. Therefore, it appears that there are three species and four to five varieties proper to the genus.

The plants are somewhat spherical and may grow up to 25 cm diameter and they may even be caespitose with age. Normally, the bodies are very low in the soil and flattened or depressed at the top. The stems have many low ribs bearing elongated, linear arioles with variable colored, pectinate spines (the spines are very attractive and usually straw-colored to golden yellow). The flowers are relatively small and are borne on new growth near the center of the plant; the colors of the flowers ranges from yellow (O. peruviana v. conaikensis) to pink (O. peruviana) or reddish (O. neoperuviana) in certain populations).

These cacti are fairly easy to grow and they appear to do best in full sunlight with weekly waterings during the summer months. It is advisable, however, to withhold water during the winter months so that the plants can obtain adequate rest (otherwise, they may be shy bloomers). The usual soil mix of super soil - sand (1:1) is advised and one should feed only lightly with a balanced fertilizer during the growing period.

Propagation is best via seed (the plants are self-sterile), but it is possible to root cuttings from caespitose plants.

#### References Cited

- Backeberg, Curt. 1977. Cactus Lexicon. Blanford Press, England.
- Borg, J. 1959. Cacti. Blanford Press, England.
- Britton, N.L. and J.N. Rose. 1937. The Cactaceae. Dover Publ., Inc. New York
- Donald, John. 1975. Occasional generic reviews No. 2. Oroya Br. & R. Ashingtonia 1: 132-138, 140-141.

## Succulent-of-the-Month

"MESEMBS IV"

Rick Latimer

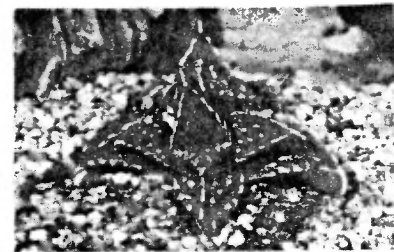


*Cheiridopsis peculiaris*

With this month we end our four part-two year exploration of the immense Mesembryanthemaceae. Last year we did the largely winter active/summer dormant (Febr.) and summer active/winter dormant (Aug.) "stone mimicry" mesembs (such as *Conophytums* and *Lithops*) which are all miniatures. This year the theme was the "larger" mesembs. (How tall is the tallest mesemb--surely not over one foot?) Last May we did the "flowering carpet" mesembs (e. g. *Oscularia*) or those species that are usually too unwieldy for pot culture but rather are best used as ground cover and/or soil erosion control. This month we do the remaining genera of this family that are transitional in size and character. In general, the species are not miniature, but are shrubby and of moderate size, and do not get out of control. The number of chromosomes in this family are either eight or nine.

The name Faucaria derives from the Latin words that mean "a group of jaws". The teeth are quite harmless though being neither sharp nor brittle. Plants are generally considered to be summer growers, but are not all that intolerant. The showy yellow (sometimes white) flowers bloom from August to November in the afternoon. Two popular species are F. tigrina (Tiger's Jaws) and F. tuberculosa (Shark's Jaws). This last species has its appropriate common name, since the leaves have several rows of teeth as do sharks. Also there is a monstrose form of the latter. Another "summer" genus is Rhombophyllum although its growing season also includes the spring. The name is Greek and means "lozenge leaf". A popular species is R. nelii also known as the Elk's horn. The monotypic species Neohenricia sibbettii seems to thrive with a summer growing period. In winter it should be kept fairly dry with only occasional light watering. A dwarf plant, it forms extensive dense mats that soon fill its pot.

The autumn growing mesembs are all together different. The two genera Monilaria and Mitrophyllum grow for only two months in the fall. Monilaria is Latin for "a group of strings of pearls". Plants have to be coaxed into becoming active again some years. The leaves need not be fully turgid at all times, but should be left to droop a bit between waterings. During the summer the leaves are dead (but not the plant hopefully!) to the nodes. Mitrophyllum is Greek for "bishop's mitred leaf". M. - mitratum has white flowers with reddish-tipped petals. During the dormant period, the short stems have dried leaves on them. When the plants become active, they send up a pair of free leaves between the old joined inner pair. The sap and nutrients of the old former inner leaves are taken up by the growing new leaves. Then the new inner pair come (which are always united to within a short distance of their tips) which survive during the droughts.



*Faucaria tuberculosa*, 'Shark Jaws'

Cheiridopsis is Greek for "sleeve-like". Plants are winter growers, where the watering should start in the fall and end in March or April when the plants flower. Flower colors are white, yellow (C. pillansii), first pink, then deep rose (C. candidissima-leaves are bluish-white), to purple-red. The common name for C. candidissima is the "victory plant", because the leaves form V-shaped formations. The species with the most fascinating shape is C. peculiaris with its large leaves that are widely outspread and lie flat on the ground and its inner pair of erect leaves. As with Mitrophyllum, it is these inner, united leaves that remain as sheaths to protect the young leaves through the dormant season. Our last genus this month is Trichodiadema which is not a difficult genus to grow. Plants generally have a fall-winter growing period where moderate watering in the summer seems to suit them. Flower colors are either purple or white. This genus is distinguished by the fact that the leaf tips have spreading bristles. The Greek name of the genus means "hair-crown" an allusion to these spines (cactus-mesemb?). Three popular species are T. bulbosum, densum, and stellatum. The first two species have tuberous root systems which may be raised partially above the soil level as the plants grow older to produce Bonsais. Two other mesembs with tuberous roots are Nestoklema tuberosa and Delosperma sutherlandii.



*Mitrophyllum mitratum*  
(active state)

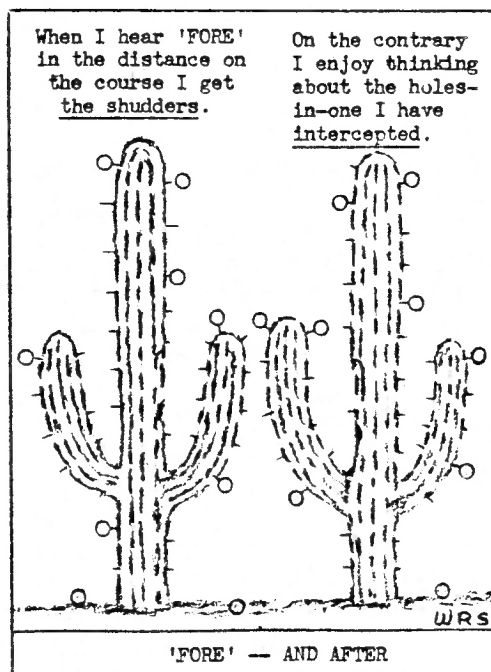
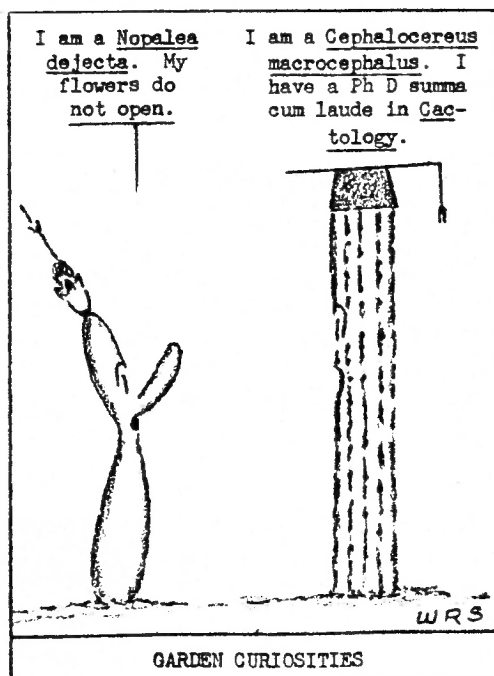
#### REFERENCES:

Walther Haage, Cacti and Succulents.

Hans Herre, The Genera of the Mesembryanthemaceae.

Hermann Jacobsen, A Handbook of Succulent Plants, V. III.

Ed Storms, Growing the Mesembs.



## Pests of Succulent Plants

### Part IX. Miscellaneous insects (whitefly, springtails and earwigs).

Dr. Ronald E. Monroe

Some insects are very infrequent pests of succulents and many entomologists would not consider them at all. However, because they can be a problem, regardless of how infrequent, it is wise to describe them under a miscellaneous category rather than to ignore them altogether.

Systematics — The greenhouse whitefly, Trialeurodes vaporariorum (Homoptera: Aleyrodidae) is a very small, snow-white, four-winged insect which is often found on the under sides of plant leaves. Associated with them may be leaves covered with a coating of glazed sticky material on which a sooty-colored fungus grows, completely covering the foliage (Metcalf et al., 1951). Springtails (Collembola) are very minute insects of several families and genera that are capable of propelling themselves via a springlike structure on their ventral abdomen. They are seldom observed by laymen, yet they can exist in enormous numbers at the base of plants, on the surface of potted soils or beneath and at the base of the pots per se. They are primitive insects, are wingless and have degenerate compound eyes. Earwigs (Dermaptera) are medium-sized beetle-like insects with a prominent pair of forceps-like cerci at the end of the abdomen. They have chewing mouth parts and two pair of wings although the front pair are short and leathery and form a shield over the membranous, folded hind wings.

Plant damage — for the most part, the above mentioned insects are pests of greenhouse-grown plants. However, that statement does not preclude their adaptability towards other (or novel) situations. The greenhouse whitefly, much like aphids, suck the sap from leafy plants which lose vigor and their leaves soon wilt, turn yellow and die. Springtails are usually thought of as detritus feeders, but they often "graze" the epidermis of the base of succulents which are then subject to secondary invasion (fungi, etc.). Earwigs may vigorously feed on the plants causing large scars. Young seedling plants are most often victimized by springtails and earwigs.

Biology — The biology of the three above mentioned insects are very different. Female whiteflies oviposit ca. 100 eggs on the underside of leaves which hatch into nearly transparent larvae. These young suck the sap, moult four times and eventually (ca. four weeks) become adults. Springtails oviposit several eggs singly on damp soil where they hatch into larvae that closely resemble the adult. After several moults, they become mature. Earwig females make a small nest in soil or decaying vegetation where numerous eggs are oviposited. The female broods over the eggs, protecting them from predators, until the young larvae hatch. The young feed on plants or decaying vegetation and undergo four to six moults before attaining maturity (Little, 1972).

Control — Several insecticide sprays are available that will give considerable protection against the above mentioned pests. As a matter of fact,

spraying plants for mealybug control usually solves problems related to whitefly, springtails or earwigs quite unbeknown to the applicator. Such "innocent" controls are probably why these insects are seldom pests. However, if necessary, Cygon .2E, malathion or sevin will usually control these pests when used as directed. Unfortunately, areas with large numbers of greenhouses usually have greenhouse whitefly that is virtually resistant to everything (because of selection due to frequent spray programs). The applicator must, therefore, be willing to experiment in regards to pesticide efficacy in his area should any insecticide currently in use fail.

#### References cited

Little, V.A. 1972. General and Applied Entomology. Harper and Row, Publishers, Inc., New York. 527 pp.

Metcalf, C.L., W.P. Flint and P.L. Metcalf. 1951. Destructive and Useful Insects. Their Habits and Control. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York. 1071 pp.



#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

I was very interested to read *Espinas y Flores* 14(8), especially the article "Stapeliads" by Rick Latimer. In this article he quotes some of my comments on the cultivation of *Pseudoplectinaria malum*, which may well give the wrong impression in view of my later experiences with this species. I must point out that when I wrote the article I had recently moved here from England and had not had much experience growing the plant in Santa Barbara.

It has now turned out to be one of the easier species to keep, provided that it is kept in fairly heavy shade and is watered freely. The plant will quite happily grow from a single stem to fill a six inch pot within a year. It also flowers quite happily without the stem being covered with a leaf, as was originally thought necessary.

It is interesting that the plant has now been found in Kenya by Lavranos & Newton, at two localities in Ethiopia by Gilbert, apart from the original locality in Somalia. It is thus a very widespread species, though very hard to find as the stems grow under stones and leaves in habitat. The Kenya form has larger flowers than the others, but is otherwise identical. The flowers look just like a small apple - after which the species was named, green with streaks of purple, with the lobes opening inward.

Best wishes,

Frank Horwood

Member Interviews: William and Ruth Nelson

by Marcia Monroe

Originally from Gainesville, Texas, Bill served with the Army for eight years in the Signal Corps between World War I and II. He has held a number of positions which include being: a mechanic, an oil field worker, a truck and tractor driver and a groceryman. His most important task was working for the San Diego Transit Company doing mechanical work on their buses and electric street cars. Initially, Ruth was from Golden, Colorado. Later, after visiting her brother in California she decided to settle here, working as a practical nurse for San Diego County Hospital. At the present time, Bill and Ruth are retired in the city of San Diego.

The Nelsons have been collecting since the middle and late fifties being active members of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society since 1963. Bill was president of our Club in 1965 and 1973, and he was a member of the board for two years. Ruth was secretary for two years and librarian for six years. Not too long ago, Bill and Ruth were made life members of our Society, and they are former members of the National Cactus and Succulent Society of America. The Nelsons are charter members of the Epiphyllum Society of San Diego and past members of the Epiphyllum Society of America.

Bill has over one hundred different kinds of epiphyllums, and has a small collection of hoyas and rhipsalis. His Hoya fusca is very impressive when it is in full bloom. Ruth has a special liking for rebutias, haworthias, and geraniums. The Nelsons also collect euphorbias, gasterias, agaves, etc., and a lovely Monadenium coccineum is under one of their many trees (mostly fruit trees) used to protect their collection of plants. They have won numerous awards showing their plantings at the Del Mar Fair as well as the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society's Annual Show.

Using plain soil at first, the Nelsons now use a blend of sand, gravel, leaf mold, and Vita Bark for their cacti and succulents fertilizing with Thrive (0-10-10 mixture).

Bill spends most of his spare time with the International Organization of Odd Fellows and Ruth with the Rebeccas working with boys and girls developing youths into well-adjusted adults. Ruth also fashions small stuffed animals by crocheting them for friends and neighbors.



## DECEMBER PLANT EXCHANGE

by Shirley Berry

The December meeting will feature the distribution of our regular gift plants for all members of our club, just as we have done in the past. In addition to this, you may want to participate in a new part of the holiday get-together. At this meeting each member who wishes to will bring in a nice plant in a container, a plant you would be proud to give to a friend. This plant will be put on a special table and you will be given a number. When your number is called you may choose any one plant on this table brought in by other members.

The situation will be similar to our plant table drawings at our regular meetings, but with the following exceptions:

- (1) The plants brought in will be well-potted and of attractive quality.
- (2) The numbers will be called by persons manning this table and you will be asked to present your number before selecting one plant.

Good-sized specimens would be appropriate for this gift table, unless of course, the plant is miniature in nature, then the small size would be fine.

Most of us have plants we could easily spare as gifts for each other, so we thought we would try this addition to our December program. We'll certainly find out whether giving is better than receiving. If you don't want to bring a plant, come anyway! You will still receive one from the regular table, as the annual gift from our Club.



### COMMON COURTESY

At our most recent meetings it has become evident that some members of our organization have no concept of common courtesy. The constant opening and closing of the outside door during slide shows, incessant conversations, etc., are not only rude to the guest speakers, but also to less selfish members who still desire to listen and learn. Such rudeness also reflects badly on our Society as a whole. So, if the shoe fits, please correct it!!



### PLANT & POT SALE

Member Laura Fowlkes will host a plant and pot sale on November 23, 24, and 25 at 3820 4th Avenue, San Diego, between the hours of 2 and 10 p.m. The sale will feature succulents and porcelain and stoneware containers, in a wide assortment of sizes and prices.



## "BEAUTY & THE BEAST" WINNERS

SDC&SS was well represented at the San Diego Wild Animal Park's "Beauty and the Beast" show held October 6, 7, and 8. SDC&SS took first place among organizations, with Palomar C&SS placing second. In addition, SDC&SS was awarded "Best of Show". Mildred Gregory, of Palomar, took first place for individual displays, with Rick Latimer (SDC&SS) placing second, Phyllis Flechsig (Palomar) third, and honorable mention to Joan Johnson (SDC&SS). Participating SDC&SS members were: Rose and Tony D'Attilio, Tom and Marcia Hamecher, John and Verna Pasek, Frank and Marianne Thrombley, Joan and Paul Johnson, and Rick Latimer.



## QUAIL GARDENS CHRISTMAS SALE

Members are reminded to begin readying any plants that they may wish to contribute to the annual Quail Gardens Christmas Sale, to be held Sunday, December 2nd. You may bring your plants to Audrey Johnson at our November meeting, or deliver them to the Ecke Building at the Gardens in Encinitas on Friday, November 30th. Plants must be received no later than this, in order that they may be inspected prior to the sale.

— Audrey Johnson,  
Publicity Chairwoman  
Quail Gardens Foundation, Inc.



## SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION SHOW SCHEDULE

The San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation announces the following shows which are to be held in the Casa del Prado during the upcoming weeks:

Nov. 18 — San Diego-Imperial Co. Iris Society Fall Show  
Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 — San Diego Floral Association Christmas Show



## GREEN THUMB SHOWS

The San Diego Wild Animal Park will host the following Green Thumb Shows in the upcoming weeks:

November 10-11 — Flower and Harvest Festival  
November 22-25 — Blooming African Violet Club

## NOTES & NEWS

Winners of the Bragging Plant competition for October were:

- 1st: *Pachypodium saundersii* — Carl McLeod  
2nd: *Dioscorea elephantipes* — Mike Burkhardt  
3rd: *Crassula mesembryanthemopsis* — Joan Johnson
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A reminder that the following members have signed up to provide refreshments at the November meeting:

Joan Fleer, Eleanor Dice, Helen Bowen, Virginia Buckner, Marianne Thrombly, Nan Kelsch, Vangie Englert, Marcelle Barfield, Alberta Widen, and Elizabeth Glover.

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October's V.I.P. Table featured a superb display of cacti and succulents, including a crested specimen of *Machaerocereus gummosus* which defies description. November's table promises to be an exceptional treat: Euphorbias by Madelyn Lee.

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Librarian Betty Athy would like to thank the membership for their cooperation in returning overdue library books. Last month, for the first time, we had no overdue books.

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We extend our deepest sympathy to May Andrews who recently lost one of her sons in an industrial accident.

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## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome this month the following new members:

Cathy Summers, San Diego  
Jeff Taylor, San Diego  
Mr. and Mrs. Harrison S. Willey, La Mesa  
Larry Lovell, Cardiff  
Jay Shrake, Carlsbad  
The Midwest Cactus & Succulent Society, Middleburg  
Heights, Ohio

Deadline for the December issue is November 21st.

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

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V.I.P. (Very Important Plants) Table - Martin Mooney  
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Quail Botanical Gardens - Audrey Johnson  
S.D. Botanical Garden Foundation -  
S.D. Floral Association - Verna Pasek

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 \$7.00 per family. Single copies of *Espinas y Flores* are 60¢.

Jim Dice  
6066 Portobelo Court  
San Diego, CA 92124

Address Correction Requested