

# Espinas y Flores

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

Vol. XIII, No. 6

June, 1978.

JUNE MEETING DATE: Saturday, June 10th, 1978

PROGRAM:

THE NATIVE CACTI AND SUCCULENTS  
 OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

By Mitch Beauchamp

Mitch holds a Master's degree in Botany from San Diego State University and is a recognized authority on the flora of our county. His current activities include: a part-time faculty position in the Botany Dept. at San Diego State; botanical consultant to the Bureau of Land Management's California Desert Planning Staff for the Western Colorado Desert; Editor of the California Native Plant Society Bulletin; Chairman of the Environmental Technical Committee for the San Diego Chapter of CNPS; Associate editor and a member of the board of directors of the American Plant Life Society; as well as putting the finishing touches on his soon-to-be-published flora of San Diego County.

With Mitch's extensive knowledge of our flora and his interest in cacti and succulents, this should be a very informative and enjoyable program.

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DEADLINE FOR JULY ISSUE.....JUNE 20th.

## Cactus-of-the-Month

### Frailea

Dr. Ronald E. Monroe

This genus of extremely small cacti was erected by Britton and Rose (1937) via a novo comb. of ca. 8 species of Echinocactus (type species: Echinocactus cataphractus Dams.), and they named the genus for Manuel Fraile, cactus curator, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Borg (1959) recognized some 15 species; current IOS data include nearly 31 species and 11 varieties and there are dozens of new undescribed species introduced by Horst, Uebelmann, Schlosser and Buining.

The plants are globular or cylindrical and usually under two inches diameter (globular ones) and not over five inches tall (cylindrical ones). The ribs are many, low, notched into podaria, with many small spines (some with spines nearly lacking). While most are singular in growth, some are definitely caespitose (F. schilinzkyana and F. grahliana) and many take on vivid green colors (F. tutensis, F. itapuensis, F. asteroides, and F. gracillima). Some appear bronzed (F. cataphracta, F. schilinzkyana, and F. grahliana) while F. carminifilamentosa has a vivid green, globular body covered with bright yellow spines.

Although the plants are all native of South America, most are found in Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina at low altitudes and under very hot, semi shade conditions (Buining, 1974). Only one plant, F. colombiana, is found elsewhere--Colombia!

The flowers are all yellow (except F. asteroides v. albiflora; white) and somewhat large for the size of the plant. They are terminal, appearing at the center of new growth and cleistogamous; most never open except under extreme hot conditions, but set seed readily.

Although most hobby enthusiasts consider these plants as difficult to impossible to grow, they are becoming very popular with an expanding number of admirers. These miniature cacti do best in greenhouse conditions and at temperatures above 90°F; however, they also require shaded conditions (ca. 50% Saran®) and humidity (morning misting) as well as considerable water when they are growing. A good draining soil is desirable and it is not essential, or even desirable, to feed the plants often. Some may prefer to graft the plants and remove the challenge of growing them on their own roots.

Propagation is by seed (must be fresh; not over two or three months old), and the seedlings grow rapidly into nice plants usually within one year. The easiest plants in the genus to grow are F. grahliana and F. schilinzkyana as they are not prone to damp-off nor root rot.

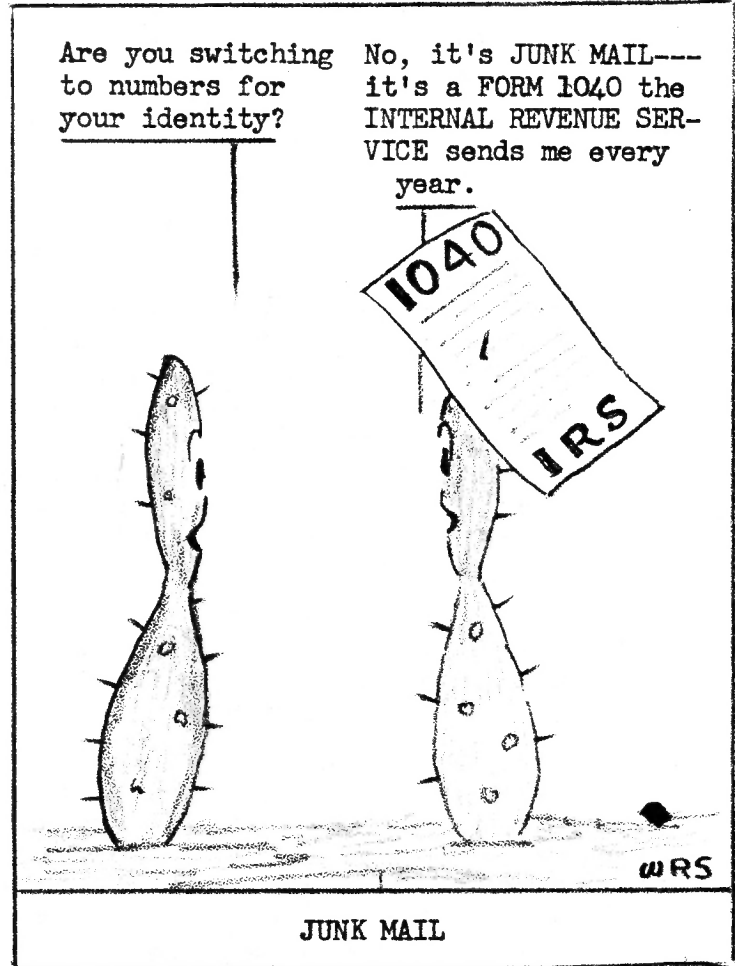
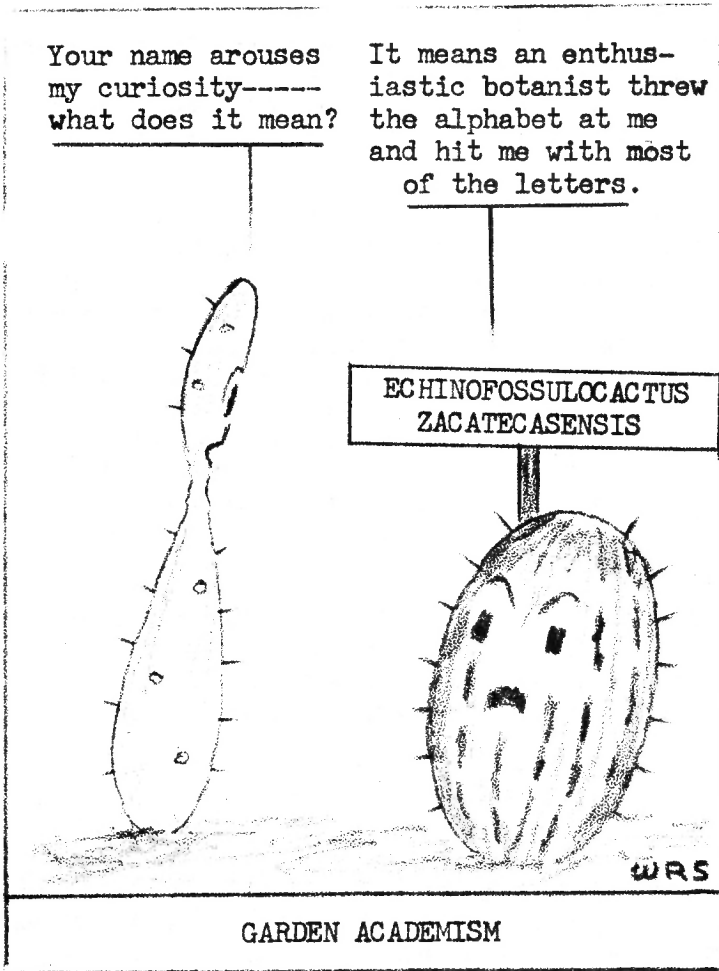
The pests of the group are mites, mealy bugs and especially Sciara sp. fly and collembola (the latter two invade the root zone which leads to rot). Cygon .2E can be used, when necessary, to remedy these pests.

Cactus-of-the-Month (Cont'd.)

References Cited

- Borg, J. 1959. Cacti. Blanford Press, England; pp. 329-331.  
Britton, N. L. and J. N. Rose 1937. The Cactaceae. Dover Publ., Inc., N.Y.;  
Vol. II, pp. 208-211.  
Buining, A. F. H. 1974. Ashingtonia, 1:52, 54.

Note: A relatively new product to soften water, wash out salts and maintain soil pH, Green-O-Matic<sup>®</sup>, is being evaluated and will be reported in some detail at a later time.



A FURTHER MISH-MASH OF  
SUBJECT MATTER.

Audrey Johnson

I'm sure that nobody will argue with me when I say that this year has been (and still is) a most unusual one. But then, perhaps that is partly what makes Southern California such an interesting place in which to live.

As a 'for instance', no sooner had I begun to lament the lack of my little outdoor animal friends this year, than things began to happen.....

For a beginning, I should certainly let you all know the outcome of my request for information about the ugliest-animal-in-the-world which waddled along outside my window. The first clue came from an "EyF" reader who was at the Plant Sale at Quail Gardens. It must have been a very old opossum, she told me - this she had gathered from my description of its size, ugliness, and long snout with a pink tip - ugh, again!!

At last month's meeting, several of the members, also, identified my repulsive new "friend" as an opossum, and two of them gave me reminiscences which I feel that I just must pass along to you all. The first was concerned with the eating, many years ago, of this creature in the form of 'possum pie or stew - which reminded me of some of Granny's concoctions in the "Beverley Hillbillies", of course. Delicious as this dish may be (although I doubt it!), I certainly hope that not too many of the participants in the meal saw the creature in its live form just before eating!!!

The second reminiscence struck me as being rather amusing. It appears that in the garden of a house in a certain street in the community, a busy gardener one day discovered a much smaller version of my friend and negligently tossed it over the fence into her neighbor's garden. In time that small opossum was again discovered, and tossed into the next garden, and so on down the road! The last garden adjoined a large field, and, rather than start the whole ridiculous process over again, this gardener took time to transfer the little monster to the furthest area of the field - since when it hasn't been seen. I must say that my ancient opossum, although slow, seemed to know exactly where he was going, so, if I were them, I wouldn't be too sure that he won't turn up again one day....

Incidentally, I looked up 'Opossum' in the Audubon Nature Encyclopedia, and there was a picture of a big, old mother 'possum, with six hideous infants clinging to her back as she waddled along. It was quite the most revolting sight that I have ever seen!!

The Bees: When we first moved into this house, some five years ago, we had an unusually wet Spring and, on several occasions, our house was surrounded (for 15 to 20 minutes at a time) by swarms of bees and the consequent overpowering sound of their passing. Later, we found them clustering under the eaves of our carport, and, in fact, eventually we had to get the Bee Man (in full regalia) to come and get rid of them for us. These past years, we haven't been bothered too much, but now, again, bees are clustering in a new area of the carport, and we have another problem on our hands. So far, we are trying to tackle things

ourselves this time, but with little success. Any suggestions, please fellow members?????

As for the plant world, this is a different matter. Growth has run riot, and we still look quite tropical - not enough sun yet to dry us out, I guess. Nevertheless, the flowering plants are excelling themselves, and my foxgloves and roses, particularly, are a joy to behold. Snails and insects are rampant, of course, but, unless they infringe on my very special plants, they cover such a large area that I can't do very much about them. I noticed today that even my senecio angulatus is having a light Spring blooming, fooled by the weather, no doubt.

My epiphyllums and fuschias are flourishing under the lath-house, and my outdoor cacti, both potted and otherwise, continue to produce blooms as never before. Who said cacti don't like too much water, and do like heat? This year they have had plenty of the one, and very little of the other!

And now (for me), on to our Open House, the Fair (Palomar C. & S.S.), Quail Gardens, and the Wild Animal Park. That should keep me busy for awhile...

Ye Lady Ed.

#### QUAIL BOTANNICAL GARDENS.

Audrey Johnson

Probably many of you already know this, but, for those who don't, our Spring Plant Sale at the Gardens this year was, once again, a huge success, and netted us only some \$100.00 less than the record achieved at last year's Spring Sale.

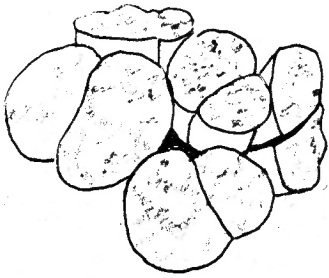
We were all rather surprised at this result, since all the workers had a much more relaxing time working at the sale, with very few of the sudden huge droves of people we usually experience. It seems that this year's steady stream of visitors worked out just as well, which made it nice for everyone.

Our sincerest thanks to those of you who participated in any way, either by providing plants, or with your invaluable assistance at the Sale.

I am now proceeding with plans for publicity on another project, dear to the hearts of all of us at Quail Gardens. This is in connection with the Mildred Macpherson Waterfall, which we hope to have completed and dedicated in August or September this year. The exceptionally wet weather this Spring slowed things up more than a little, but everything is now going on apace. With something like a 200 ft. drop from the top of the waterfall to the pool below, and the landscaping all completed, it will truly be something to see! I will certainly keep everyone informed of the latest developments.

Audrey Johnson  
Trustee and Publicity  
Chairwoman  
QUAIL GARDENS FOUNDATION,  
INC.

## DUDLEYAS



*Lithop*

by Rick Latimer

The order Rosales consists of several families of which three are of prime importance to us, but for different reasons. The first two consist of plants that are valuable for both ornamental and utilitarian uses. The Rosaceae, which besides man's favorite flower the Rose (*Rosa*) [traditionally], includes many edible fruits such as: Raspberry (*Rubus*), Strawberry (*Fragaria*), Cherry, Plum, Peach, Apricot, and Almond (*Prunus*), Pear (*Pyrus*), and Apple (*Malus*). The Leguminosae includes besides the Peas and Beans, Mimosas, Acacias, Lupines, the Palo Verde, and the Peanut (*Arachis*). The third family, the Crassulaceae, is one of the hugest (like the Cacti, Asclepiads, and Mesembs) of the few succulent families (or families having succulent members).

also  
Loquat

The Crassula family consists of six subfamilies: Crassuloideae, Kalanchoideae, Sempervivoideae, Cotyledonoideae, Sedoideae, and the North American Echeverioideae. The Echeverioideae has its centers in Mexico and the Californias. These two centers overlap only in Arizona and Sonora where there are two species each of *Dudleya* and *Graptopetalum*. Otherwise *Dudleya* is geographically distinct from the other members of the Echeverioideae (*Echeveria*, *Pachyphytum*, *Graptopetalum*, and *Thompsonella*). Also the other easily grasped differentiating key is the fact that *Dudleya* flowers are convolute, whereas the other genera's flowers are subconvolute. The genus *Dudleya* is divided into three subgenera: *Dudleya*, *Stylophyllum*, and *Hasseanthus*.



CONVOLUTE (REGULAR) (ONE END INSIDE ONE OUTSIDE)  
SUBCONVOLUTE (IRREGULAR) (ONE ALL IN ONE ALL OUT)

The <sup>sub</sup>genus *Hasseanthus* was named in honor of Dr. H. E. Hasse, whose collections at Santa Monica were the basis for one of Rose's (of Br. & R.) new species. Plants of this <sup>sub</sup>genus are naturally distributed from San Simeon to Ensenada and a few of the islands. Plants are characterized by subterranean corms, leaves that dry up in the summer, and flowers that are flat and star-like like *Stylophyllum* and *Sedum*. Originally I felt that these plants were not worth bothering with until I saw one in full bloom at our Open House last year. The plant, which was on the Dice's table had yellow flowers and was one of the major treats for me.

The <sup>sub</sup>genus *Stylophyllum* (stylus-leaf) is limited to seaward southern California and northern Baja California, ranging from San Gabriel Canyon to Las Huevitas and inland not more than 70 kilometers. The species are characterized by remarkable endemism. *D. traskae* (extinct?) is known only on Santa Barbara Island. *D. virens* is only known on San Clemente Island, Santa Catalina Island, and San Pedro Hill, which Geologists term a landlocked island. The *Stylophyllum* we observed on our April 23, 1977 trip at Culp Camp was probably *D. edulis*. My favorite *Stylophyllum* is *D. attenuata* var. *orcuttii*.

The subgenus Dudleya ranges from southern Oregon to the southern tip of Baja California and inland to southern Nevada, northwestern Sonora, and central Arizona. Dudleya species have flat leaves; red, orange, yellow, and rarely white flowers that are semi-tubular, whereas Stylophyllum species round, pencil-shaped leaves; white, red, or yellow flowers that are flatter. Dudleya was named in honor of William Russell Dudley, Professor of Botany at Stanford. The two most attractive Dudleyas are the chalkiest D. brittonii and D. candida. The latter is native to the Coronado Islands and the former to La Mission Canyon between Ensenada and Tijuana. D. pulverulenta is the one native (more in the past than now) to our area. When Lila Lily was here, she said that the best way to grow D. brittonii is not level in a pot, but naturally sideways with a rock over the leafless stem. According to her they grow twice as big this way. Dudleya would be a good candidate for the State Succulent of California (if such a thing existed).

#### REFERENCES:

- Beauchamp, R. Mitchel, Compendium of the Genus Dudleya (c. 1970).  
Moran, Reid, "The Status of Dudleya and Stylophyllum", Desert Plant Life, Vol. 14, No. 8, Oct. 1942, pp. 149-157.  
Moran, Reid, "A Revision of Dudleya, Subgenus Stylophyllum", Desert Plant Life, Vol. 14, No. 10, Dec. 1942, pp. 190-193.  
Moran, Reid, Clausen, R. T., & Uhl, C. H., "The Taxonomy and Cytology of Hesseanthus", Desert Plant Life, Vol. 17, No. 5, May 1945, pp. 69-83.  
Novak, F. A., The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Plants and Flowers, 1972, pp. 194-196, 200-232.

REFRESHMENTS FOR JUNE -

List of Members.

Gary Mullin  
Wally Musser  
Sylvia Kramer  
Vangie Englert  
Susan Barker

Pat Mooney  
Linda Baines  
Audrey Johnson  
Anna Cornett  
Jim Monche

OPEN HOUSE - June 3rd - 4th, 1978.

CATEGORIES:

Perpetual Award Plaques:

Best Cactus Display (P. Corliss)  
Best Succulent " (Ruby Falk)  
Best Exhibit (Dr. Vaughan)  
Most Artistic Exhibit (Walter Scott)  
Educational Best (C.S.S.A.)

Ribbons for First, Second and Honorable Mention for:

Division I	Individual potted, normal (a) Cactus (b) Succulent
Division II	Individual grafted normal plant.
Division III	Individual crested or monstrose plant.
Division IV	Individual grafted, crested or monstrose plant.
Division V	Bonsai or Caudiciform Display.
Division VI	Planters, rooted material (a) Dish Garden. (b) Interesting or unusual container.
Division VII	Display of miniature plants.
Division VIII	Hanging plant.

Note:

PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOUR NAMES ON DISPLAYS UNTIL AFTER  
JUDGING!!!!!!

June 2nd, Friday night, after 6.00 P.M. SET UP DISPLAYS.

June 3rd 8.00 A.M. Doors will be open for Final Set Up --  
BUT JUDGING WILL NOT BE MADE UNTIL AFTER END OF  
June 3rd -- after which there will be a pot luck,  
headed by Pat Mooney, for exhibitors and judges.

SHOW HOURS: June 3rd - 10.00 to 5.00 P.M.  
June 4th - 10.00 to 5 P.M.

NOTICE: PLEASE CLEAN UP YOUR AREA AND HELP US TO CLEAR OUT AT  
5.00!!!!!!

NOTE FROM HARRIET SOPP:

We regret exceedingly that both of the Chairmen of June 3-4  
were unable to attend on May 13th - those who signed up to work will  
be called individually.

But, if "EyF" comes out early, it will be O.K.  
(Editorial comment: We hope so - at least we're trying! Ye Lady Ed.)



SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OFFICERS

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CACTI:	Dr. Ronald Monroe and Anthony D'Atillio
SUCCULENTS:	Richard Latimer and Madelyn R. Lee
EXHIBITS:	
FAIR:	
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LIBRARY:	Edith Werner
MEMBERSHIP:	Russel Evans
PLANTS & SUPPLIES:	Gerald Dice
PROGRAMS:	Tom Hamecher
PUBLICATION:	Audrey & Geoff Johnson ('Phone: 745-5773)
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	San Diego Floral Association
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	Balboa Park Desert Garden
	Verna Pasek
	Audrey Johnson

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing Cacti, other Succulents, and Exotic Plants.

Dues are \$6.00 annually. Single copies of Espinas y Flores \$0.50.

Meetings are the second Saturday of each month, 1.30 p.m. in Room 101 of Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. (Exceptions noted in Espinas y Flores.

Executive Board Meeting after the General Meeting.