

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 XXII, Number 5

MAY MEETING

May 9, 1987

Saturday, May 9, 1987

1:30 p.m.

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

Program: SUCCULENT PLANTS OF BOTSWANA

by Dr. Bruce J. Hargreaves

Dr. Hargreaves will present an illustrated program on the succulent plants of Botswana, in southern Africa. He has spent much of the past two decades botanizing in southern Africa and is a most knowledgeable student of succulent plants. Dr. Hargreaves currently teaches botany and is in charge of the national herbarium and botanical gardens at the University of Lesotho, in southern Africa. Additionally, he has authored numerous articles in the Cactus and Succulent Journal and Euphorbia Journal on succulent plants of southern Africa and their uses.

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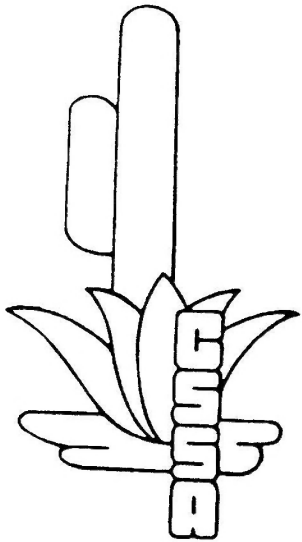
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Deadline for the June Issue - May 30 - Thanks

PLEASE NOTE: At the last few meetings, the room has been left very messy. Please put all of your waste materials in the trash. Also, very few people stay behind to straighten up the room for the next group. We will be charged for clean-up services if they are needed. When the exchange plant part of the day happens, Please stay in your seats until your number is called. If you have any questions of procedures of the club, please ask any of the board members or officers.

SHOW SCHEDULE FOR MAY AND JUNE

May 2 & 3	San Diego Bonsai Club 22nd Show	Sat:11am-5:00pm -Sun11-5pm
May 10	San Diego Epiphyllum Society 17th Show	Sun:11am - 5:00pm
May 16 & 17	San Diego Gernanium Society 15th Show	Sat:Noon-5-pm Sun:10am-5pm
May 23 & 24	Balboa Park Bromeliad Study Group Show	Sat:11am-4:30pm Sun 11am-4:30pm
May 30 & 31	San Diego Botanical Garden Fdn. Plant Sale	Sat: 10am-5pm Sun 10am -5pm
June 6 & 7	SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW	Sat:1pm-5pm Sun:10am-5pm
June 14	Southwest Hemerocallis Society 14th show	Sun:Noon-5:00pm
June 20 & 21	San Diego Fuchsia & Shade Plant Show	Sat:Noon-5pm Sun:10am-5pm
May 30 & 31	<u>Heartland African Violet Society 6th Show</u>	Sat: 1pm-5pm Sun:11am-5pm



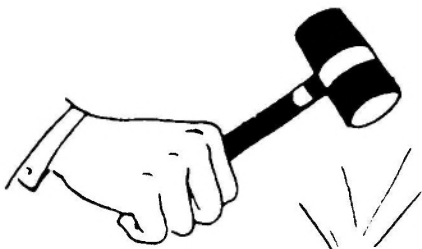
Peg Spate of the CSSA is starting a seed depot. The seed depot will be open to any individual who has an interest in the propagation of C&S. The depot is dependent on donations. The depot would like clean, identified C&S seed. If available would appreciate source of plant or seed, age of seed or plant. If there are special germination tips, please include. A brief description such as flower color or winter grower would be of value, too. Any individual donating over 100 seed per species of twenty different species will be issued a credit of \$3.00 which can be used anytime for the purchase of seed.

For more information- please get in touch with Peg Spate
27821 SE. Sunray Dr.
Boring, OR 97009

MORE ON BONSAI - RUDY LIME will be again conducting his seminar on bonsai . the time is NOON till 1:00 the day of our regular meeting. The enthusiastic response has been very gratifying. Each meeting will have a different aspect of the treatment of Bonsai.

FROM THE BOARD MEETING

In order to control the number of plants to be auctioned at the picnic, it was agreed by the Board that anybody interested in donating plants for this activity must contact John Pasek (284-1744) two weeks prior to the event. No plants will be accepted for auction at the picnic without the auctioneer's approval.



CACTUS OF THE MONTH

LOBIVIA

by Phyllis Flechsig

This month's subject, the genus Lobivia, is deservedly popular for its attractively spined plants and large, showy flowers. Lobivias are native to the Andean uplands from Argentina through Bolivia to southern Peru. The name, given to the group by Britton and Rose, is an anagram of the word Bolivia.

An exact definition of the genus is hard to pin down, as it shares some characteristics with the closely related genera Echinopsis, Helianthocereus, Trichocereus, and Pseudolobivia. As a very general rule, with exceptions, Lobivias are day bloomers whose short-tubed flowers have much fur on the tubes; the flowers have a wide variety of bright colors; and the ribs on the globular or elongated plant bodies are either continuous or notched. Spines are often strong and conspicuous, though in the very choice Lobivia famatimensis spines are minute and appressed to the plant. Flower color may vary within even one species. Mark Donnell, writing for this bulletin a few years ago, mentioned that Alfred Lau once sent a dozen plants from one site to a colleague in Europe, who proceeded to name three or four new species from that one group of plants!

Just about any Lobivia will produce lovely flowers in spring, and often through summer as well; a particularly showy group is that of L. chrysantha and its allies, such as L. rubescens and L. jajoiana. The flowers on these are not only large but have dark centers that make them all the more striking.

Lobivias are easily grown, needing strong light but a little shade. Those that cluster can be started from cuttings; others can be grown from seed, and many species are available only as seeds. They grow quickly and bloom in three or four years from seed. Pests are not usually a great problem; just watch for mealybugs between the ribs.

LITERATURE CONSULTED

- Rausch, W. 1975. Lobivia. Herzig, Vienna, Austria.
Cullmann, W., E. Goetz, and G. Groener. 1984. The Encyclopedia of Cacti. Alphabooks, Sherborne, England.
Donnell, M. 1983. Lobivia. Espinas y Flores, Jan. 1983.

The Aloes of Madagascar

Leroy N. Phelps, Ph.D.

After I had been collecting aloes for several years, I became interested in their origins. Lo and Behold! most of them came from Madagascar. It may have been that there are many miniatures from that island, but even the larger ones came from there, too. Reynolds has a separate list of 13 miniatures in his book, but a few of the other species would fit this category, also. The aloes in Madagascar range from these very small ones to trees.

I will limit my discussion here to a few species I am most familiar with. And I would be hard-put to try to name a favorite--from time to time each of them would be in the favorite category. Other than the grass aloes from Africa, the smallest aloe is probably A. descoingsii. An individual plant is rarely over 3 inches in diameter. It grows in clusters. Each leaf is toothed, about one inch wide and 1 1/2 inches in length. The plants are dark green in color, and tend to become very dark in the sun due to a red overcast.

Probably the most spectacular of the small aloes in A. calcairophila, a clustering species with two-ranked (distichous) leaves. Each leaf is about 3 inches long and 1/2 inch wide with many small teeth. This plant has rather weak flower spikes with beautiful small white flowers. A. haworthioides is one of the best known of the small aloes, and justly so. It has rather slender leaves in great numbers, each with a fringe of long slender, feather-like teeth. It does have the appearance of several of the haworthias, but is obviously an aloe when it flowers. This is also a cluster-forming plant. The usual plant has white hairs, but there is a variety with golden hairs on the leaves. The basic color of the leaves is light green.

A. bellatula and A. albiflora look very much alike when not in flower with their long slender, toothed leaves with spots. Leaves may be up to 6 or 8 inches long, and tend to stand upright. The flowers on the two plants are very different. The first species has strong flower stalks with rather large orangish-pink flowers and the latter has rather weak stalks with beautiful bell-shaped white flowers. Both species cluster, but in my experience A. bellatula forms the larger clumps.

A. rauhii is a real beauty with an almost glowing gray-pink cast to the leaves. These leaves tend to lay flat, and are about 5 inches long and one inch wide at the base. I have seen clusters over 2 feet in diameter, and that is outstanding! A. parvula is similar in coloring, but with a more purplish cast. Also, this species is toothed all over the leaves, and this gives the plant an entirely different aspect. There are clones of both plants with lighter or darker coloring.

One species I'm not sure I have seen, but would very much like to have is A. compressa. This is another distichous species, but apparently does not cluster like A. calcairophila. I think I may have seen one of these plants several years ago in a collection, but it was labelled as a giant form of the clustering species! At that time I had never heard of A. compressa.

A larger species that is very interesting is A. conifera, a non-clustering plant with a short trunk and with a rosette up to 15 inches in diameter. The leaves are heavily toothed all over, and tend to have a purplish cast. Also, the leaves are very thick. The flower spike gives the plant its name as the cluster is pine-cone shaped.

A. deltoideodonta is a larger species with very broad leaves up to 10 inches long. This species probably has more varieties than any other Madagascan aloe. I have seen at least six varieties or forms, and Jacobsen describes several others. There is some variation in size, but the major variations are in leaf color. The colors range from a very pale green with white stripes to very dark green with vari-colored spots.

One of the strangest aloes comes from this island. It is A. bulbillifera, the only aloe that produces bulbils (small plants) on the flower spike--much like the agaves. This is a larger plant, and to my knowledge have never seen one.

A newer aloe in collections, although a long-known species, is A. laeta. Mature plants are about a foot in diameter with broad, very small-toothed leaves. It has the reputation of being very difficult in cultivation, but it is very attractive. I have yet to find the words to describe color accurately, but maybe if I said medium green with a sky-blue pink overcast you'd get an idea!

In general all the aloes grow well in my usual soil mix of 50% pumice and 50% potting soil. I water once or twice a week depending on the weather, and all of them are in about 50% sun. I water and feed year round since many of my aloes grow and flower at any season of the year. The larger species do tend to stick to a regular schedule better than the miniatures.

Some of the aloes I've mentioned have reputations as bad actors--they will apparently be healthy, then die a week later! I have had such problems, and all other aloe collectors I've talked to have the same problems. A. haworthioides is notorious with me--I've grown large clusters for several years, then suddenly half the clump will die. A. calcairophila is notorious for causing problems, but I have yet to have a problem with this species. I wish I knew the reason for my success so I could help others, but I do nothing special. I do believe that the aloes of Madagascar have so many excellent traits that a few problems along the way are of little importance.

References used include many issues of the Cactus and Succulent Journal, Reynold's Aloes of Tropical Africa and Madagascar, and Jacobsen's Handbook of Succulent Plants.



BRAGGING PLANT WINNERS

1st Place - Lee Phelps for his *Sinningia canescens*
(*Reichsteinaria leucotricha*)

2nd Place - Rowena Thompson for her *Pelargonium cotyledenus*

3rd Place - Dorothy Dunn for her *Sinningia* (*Reichsteinaria*)
cardinalis

IT IS THAT TIME AGAIN:

For the annual June SDC&SS plant show and sale.

For all of us to participate in making the show, this year, the best ever.

For each member to enter one or more of a cactus or other succulent in the show.

For each of us to plan which of our plants we will enter and 'spruce' them up. Do not wait till the last minute.

For all of us to share the joy of displaying our plants for the benefit of the public, so that they can also enjoy our noble hobby.

For all members to share the responsibilities of a successful show; which in turn helps the plant sales chairman to insure a successful sale to the public.

Frank Thrombley

NOTE: Room 101 will be open on Friday, June 5, 1987 from 10:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. (all day) for 'setting up' your plants. Please try to bring your plants during this period. Thank you

Frank

BOX BRIGADE

PLEASE HELP! Start collecting small, deep, boxes (Shoe boxes for example) for the 'Cactus Show & Sale' and bring them the day of the show. Good place to get boxes is Price Club parking lot, K-Mart, or your old shoe boxes.

REMEMBER - 'give a customer a box and they'll buy more plants!'

THANKS

Warren Alexanderson



REMINDER - All those who still have their trophies from last year, please bring to this meeting.

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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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 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, \$2.00 for each additional member of a household within a family. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are 60¢.

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