

Espinas y Flores

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

Volume XXV, Number 9

September 8, 1990

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Saturday September 8, 1990

1:30

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

PROGRAM

Plants of Argentina

with Dr. Roberto Kieisling

Dr. Roberto Kieisling will present a program of the plants of Argentina concentrating on the areas of Darwinia and Buenos Aires. This program is sure to be interesting and educational.

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***** Please note, this is a very early deadline for the October Issue of E Y F I'm going out of town, so need to get this done before I go.

Deadline --- September 15, 1990

Mary

NEWS NEWS NEWS -----

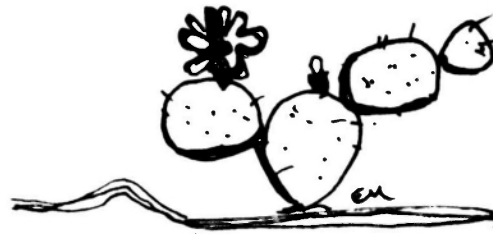
JULY BRAGGING TABLE

First place - Rudy Lime for his EUPHORBIA PRIMULIFOLIA

Second place - Sandy Frost for her BEGONIA SUFRUITICOSA

Third place - Diane Crowley for her EUPHORBIA MILII v. BOSSERI

AUGUST BRAGGING TABLE



First place was won by Diane Crowley for her TAVAREZIA GRANDIFLORA

Second place was won by Marylyn Henderson for her IPOMEA PLATENSIS

Third place was won by Phyllis Flechsig for her DORSTENIA CRISPA/FOETIDA

Those who have signed up to bring refreshments for the September meeting:

Marie Pearce
Charles & Joanne Clark
Doris Rake

Virginia Innis
Kavid & Kathe Roberts
Reed C. Pieriez

Red Bernof
Russel Evans
Rose Robilotte

Thanks

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Barbara J. Barton, Gardening by Mail (3rd Ed. - updated and expanded)
Patricia Craven & Christine Marais, Namib Flora - Swakopmund to the Giant
Welwitschia via Goanikontes
CSSA Journal (Vols. 49-50 = 1977-78) newly bound
Annelise Le Roux & Ted Schelpe (+ photographs by Zelda Wahl), Namaqualand
(South African Wild Flower Guide #1)
Taylor's Guide to Water-Saving Gardening (Xeriscaping)

---Rick Latimer, Librarian

Succulent of the Month

THE GENUS CONOPHYTUM

The genus Conophytum, one of the mimicry Mesembs, was created in 1922 and, ever since, has been in a state of confusion. There are nearly 300 species in two subgenera, eight sections, with numerous subsections and series.

Steven A. Hammer, of Mesa Garden, Belen, New Mexico, after extensive field study, has nearly revised the genus. Others who have contributed to the study of Conophytums are H.M. Bolus, N.E. Brown, H.W. deBoer, R.C. Littlewood, A.R. Mitchell, G. Schwantes, R. Rawe and A. Tischer.

Conophytums are fall and winter growers and somewhat of a challenge to growers and collectors since they come from varied habitats. I have seen them, in the same week but at different locations, growing, turgid, underwater, and desiccated, nearly covered by surface sand.

Their growing period usually begins in late summer with the flowers pushing through the previous years' growth. These are followed by bodies that become fat as the growing season progresses.

With the appearance of the first flower, usually, for me, from Conophytum intrepidum, in August, I water the plants sparingly but increase the amount of water given as they emerge from their dried skins. Mixed in with the water, at the third or fourth watering, is a small amount of low nitrogen fertilizer. Watering is decreased in early spring when, at that time and into the summer, misting once or twice a week keeps the roots from drying out.

The light given the plants is filtered in the spring and summer, with the shading removed in fall and winter.

Some of the species will take a small amount of freezing, but it is best to protect them from temperatures below 32° f.

I have found that mealy bug and spider mite can attack Conophytums but have rarely done so in my collection. Removing the old skins surely helps in keeping the pest population at bay, but this is quite time consuming and a bit of a nuisance, especially with a large number of plants.

There are, also, small worms that attack Conophytums. Again, I have rarely seen these but they can do a large amount of damage before they are discovered and destroyed. The best solution to this problem is, of course, to eliminate the moths that produce the worms, before eggs can be laid.

I prefer growing the round or flat shaped Conophytums to the bi lobe types, although some of the smaller of these are fascinating. The flowers on all of them can be beautiful and fragrant. Flowers can completely dwarf the clumps with flower color ranging from white to red.

Propagation is done from seed or cuttings and should be done in early fall. With cuttings, dry the body for a few days, then insert into sandy soil and spray until roots are visible. At that time, water as for mature plants.

Good species for beginners to try are bilobum, ceresianum, cupreatum, elishae, ficiforme, gratum, lambertense, meyeri, minusculum, minutum, obcordellum, saxetanum, taylorianum, uvaeforme and violaciflorum.

Conophytums are good succulents to grow if one has a limited amount of space. Their bodies can be smaller than those of Lithops and I find the variety within the genus a constant source of pleasure.

by E. Gomes

References used:

Hammer, Steven A.;

Bradleya 6/1988- An annotated Checklist A-C

Schwantes, G.;

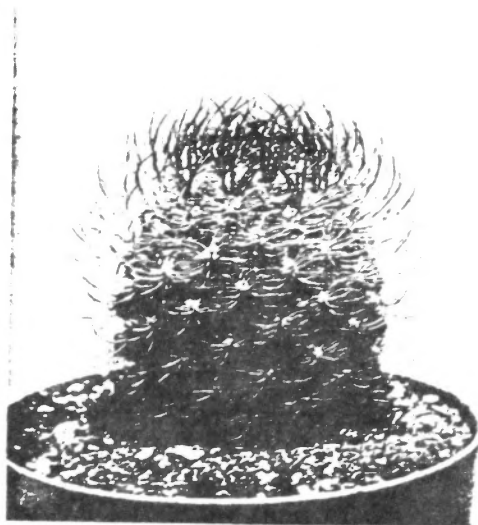
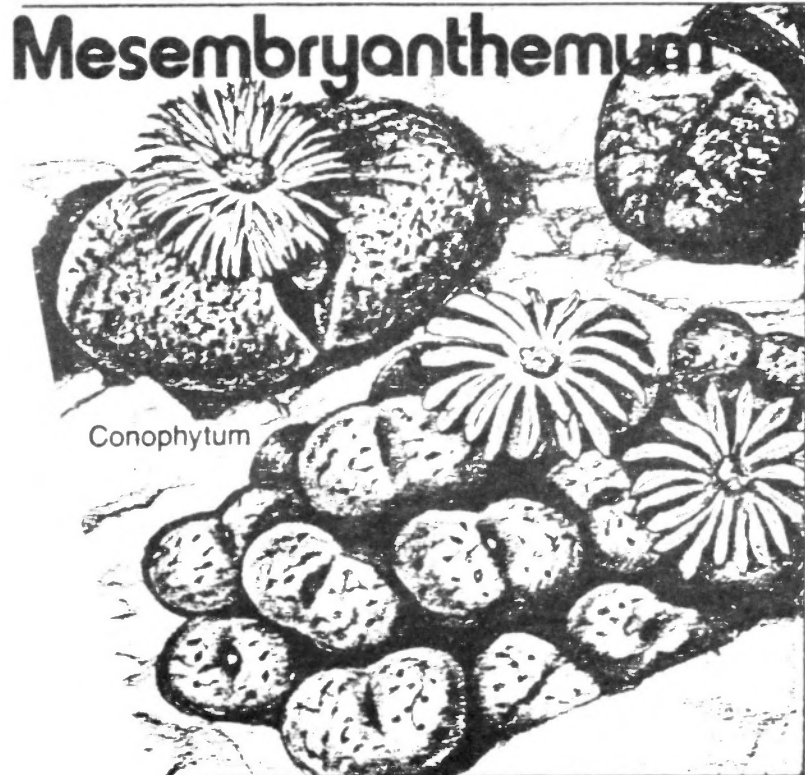
Flowering Stones and Mid-Day Flowers

Storms, Ed;

Growing the Mesembs

Tischer, A.;

Lexicon of Succulent Plants - Classification of the genus Conophytum



NEOPORTERIA nidus
Cactaceae



NEOCHILENIA aerocarpa
Cactaceae

CACTUS OF THE MONTH

NEOPORTERIA/NEOCHILENIA

by Phyllis Flechsig

A group of very attractive South American cacti has been united under the collective genus of Neoporteria; a major component of this genus has been known as Neochilenia, and among other groups included are Pyrrhocactus, Islaya, Horridocactus, and Reicheocactus. All are globular to cylindrical cacti, generally small, with flowers emerging from the woolly or hairy top of the plant. Almost all are native to northern or central Chile, with a few from Argentina or southern Peru. Neoporteria in the narrow Backebergian sense always has pink to purple flowers that do not open widely; often they bloom in fall and winter or off and on all year. Neochilenia in the narrow sense usually has wide-opening shiny flowers in pastel shades of pink and yellow. These bloom mainly in spring and early summer. Plants from the remaining groups are less common in collections, and are not really any different from the Neochilenia group; Reicheocactus is represented by just one small species of nearly spineless plants.

The spination on these plants varies a great deal, from minute through softly woolly all over to strong, sharp spines. In their native habitat, which is notable for its lack of rain, some of these cacti hunker down into cracks in rocks or even more or less underground and can only be seen when their bright flowers appear. Surprisingly, most of them will accept average watering in cultivation; they are not at all difficult to grow. Their chief pest is mealybug, which may hide in the wool on top of the plant, among old dried-up flowers, so it is important to keep the plants nicely groomed. All of these plants are free and profuse bloomers, among the most rewarding of small cacti.

Among the best species for the hobbyist are Neoporteria nidus var. senilis and var. gerocephala; "nidus" means "nest," and both varieties have wildly twisted soft spines. In the Neochilenia group, N. occulta is very attractive; it has strong tubercles, a dark body, and short, appressed spines. Several others in this group have black bodies and are very handsome even out of bloom, for instance, N. crispa and N. cachaetaensis.

LITERATURE CONSULTED

- Backeberg, C. 1976. Cactus Lexicon. Blandford: London.
Cullmann, W., E. Goetz, and G. Groener. 1986. The Encyclopedia of Cacti. Alphabooks: Dorset, England.
Haustein, E. 1988. The Cactus Handbook. Chartwell Books, Inc.: New Jersey.

HOW TO EARN A PREFERRED TICKET

To show appreciation to members who use their own time, money and/or transportation to do work for the Society, preferred ticket holders will have first choice of the Christmas gift plants at the December meeting. To earn this preference you must perform a task approved by the President of the Society or a committee chairman. It is your responsibility to see that your name is placed on the list of workers and is turned in by the President or chairman. All names must be turned in by the November meeting. You may verify that you will receive a preferred ticket at the November meeting. There will be no arguments or changes at the December meeting.

The only way to qualify for more than one ticket is to win first place at the Bragging Table. If you win first place at the Bragging Table you will receive a preferred ticket in addition to the ticket you get for being a member.

Ways in which you may earn a preferred ticket include:

Holding a regularly assigned duty at regular meetings (e.g., plant sales, library, newsletter, kitchen, plant exchange table, slide projector, reception table, etc.).

Give a program or write an article for the newsletter.

Speak about or write an article for the Cactus or Succulent of the Month.

Bring a plate of refreshments ~~ibpae~~ times during the year. You should sign up when we pass around the sheet during regular meetings. You are responsible for signing the list in the kitchen to be sure you receive credit.

Represent this Society at another botanical society.

Provide transportation for or host a speaker.

Assist the Society during our annual show and sale. Be sure to check with the Show Chairman or Plant Sale Chairman as to what help they need. Be sure they acknowledge your assistance.

Enter five or more plants in our annual show.

This is not an all inclusive list. Check with the committee chairman or President if you are in doubt.

You can not earn a preferred ticket for:

Holding an elected office.

Selling or donating plants to the plant sales or plant exchange table.

Any activity not approved in advance by the committee chairman or President.

SHOW SCHEDULE

Sept. 15 & 16	San Diego Bromeliad Society 16th Ann. Show	Sat: 1pm-4:30pm	Sun: 11am-4:30pm
Sept. 29 & 30	San Diego Bonsai Club Fall Show	Sat: 10am-5:00pm	Sun: 10am-5:00pm
Oct. 6 & 7	Balboa Park African Violet Soc. Fall Show	Sat: 10am-4:00pm	Sun: 10am-4:00pm
Oct. 20 & 21	San Diego Co. Orchid Soc. Fall "Mini" Show	Sat: 12pm-5:00pm	Sun: 10am-4:30pm
Oct. 27 & 28	Ichiyo School of Ikebana, San Diego Chap.	Sat: 11am-4:30pm	Sun: 11am-4:30pm
Nov. 3 & 4	San Diego Tropical Fish Soc. 33rd Show	Sat: 12pm-6:00pm	Sun: 9am-4:30pm
Nov. 18	Suni-e Painting & Ikebana 15th Annual Show		Sun: 11am-4:00pm
Nov. 30 & Dec. 1	San Diego Floral Assoc. Christmas Show (Christmas on the Prado)	Fri: 5pm-9:00pm Sat: 11am-9:00pm	

GATES CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY "PLANT AUCTION"

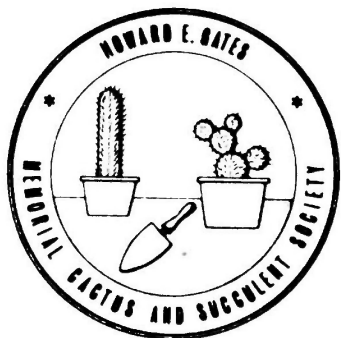
Date: November 7th, 1990

Location: San Bernardino County Museum
2024 Orange Tree Lane
(Take California St. Off-Ramp from I-10)
Redlands, CA

Hours: 7:30 - 10:00 P.M.

Admission: Free

For More Information: Joseph T. Casey, Chairman
Gates C & S. Society
307 Westwood Lane
Redlands, CA 92373
Phone: 714-793-5395



SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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Madelyn Lee, Rudy Lime, Mark St. Clair

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Program - Joe Clements

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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