

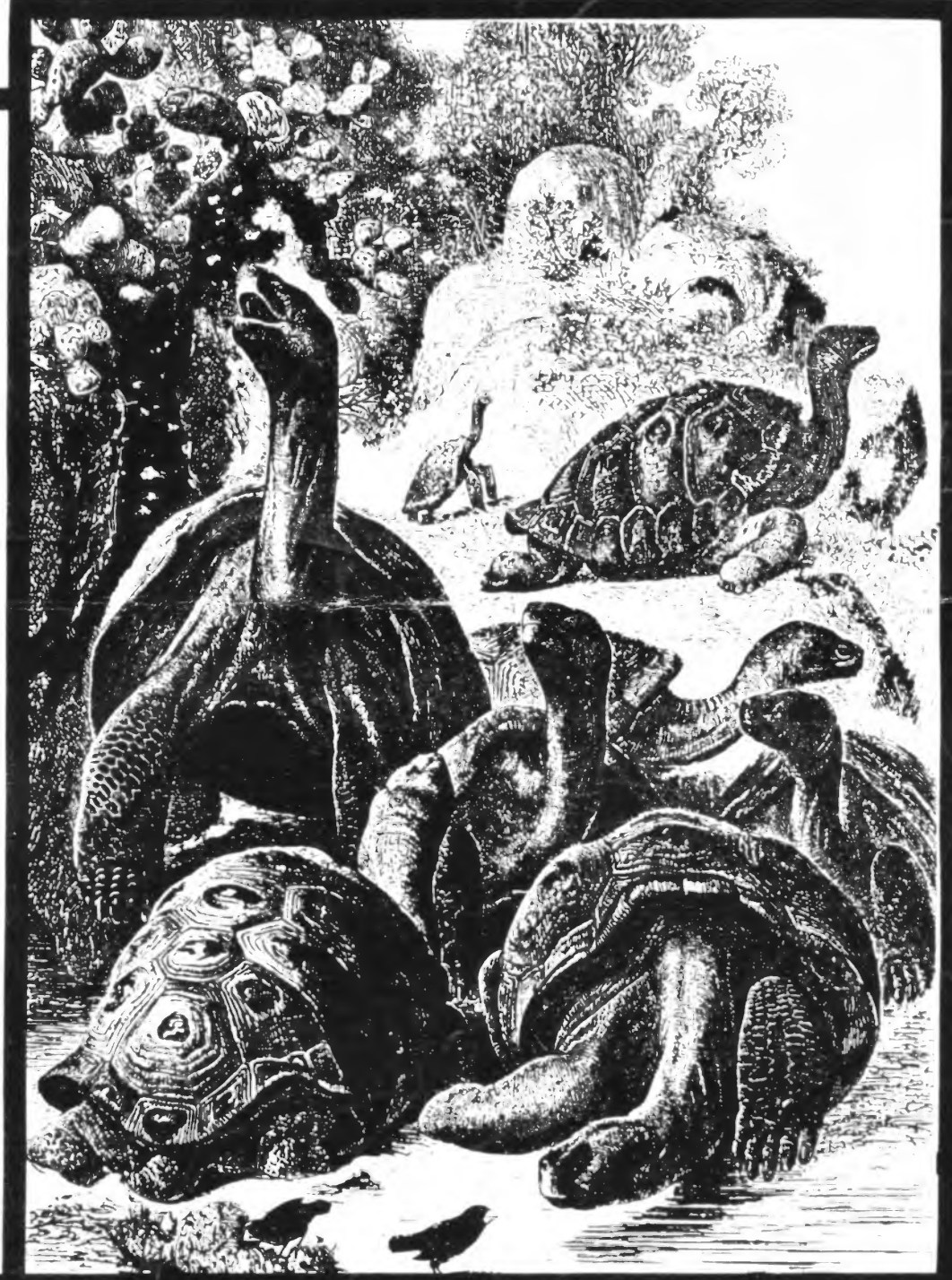
MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

Prepare your entry for a Blue Ribbon!

Espinas y Flores

BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

VOLUME XXV111 NUMBER FIVE, MAY 9, 1992



THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

PROGRAM FOR MAY

DR. GARY JAMES, DEAN OF MATH & SCIENCE AT ORANGE COAST COLLEGE IN COSTA MESA, CA. WILL PRESENT A SLIDE LECTURE ON THIS REMARKABLE ISLAND ARCHIPELAGO WITH ITS FAMOUS FLORA AND FAUNA. SEE YOU THERE: ROOM 101, CASA DEL PRADO IN BALBOA PARK AT 1:30PM.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Southern California

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A CALENDAR AND SHOW SCHEDULE FOR COMING EVENTS

- MAY 2-3 ANNUAL INSECT FAIR sponsored by Monarch Society @ Quail Botanical Gardens.
- MAY 10 SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY 22nd Annual Show
Casa del Prado
- MAY 16-17 SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY 20th Annual Show
Casa del Prado
- MAY 16-17 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDEN PLANT SALE, in San Marino.
Call (818) 405-2160 for information.
- MAY 23-24 BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP BALBOA PARK SHOW
Casa del Prado
- JUNE 6-7 THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY 24th ANNUAL
SHOW AND PLANT SALE; Casa del Prado;
DON'T MISS THIS ONE - IT'S THE BEST!!
- JUNE 14 SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY 19th SHOW
Casa del Prado
- JUN 20-21 The Fourth BIENNIAL MID-STATES "STICK TOGETHER" hosted
by Tulsa Cactus & Succulent Society; Show & Sale; call
(918) 357-2401 for information.
- JUN 20-21 SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA SOCIETY SHOW; Casa del Prado.
- JUN 27-28 NATIONAL FUCHSIA SOCIETY SHOW; Casa del Prado.
- JULY 5 SAN DIEGO DAHLIA SOCIETY SPECIMEN SHOW
Casa del Prado.
- JUL 25-26 SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY 6th SUMMER SHOW
Casa del Prado.
- AUG 13-16 NORTHWESTERN CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY CONFERENCE in
Vancouver, B.C., Canada.
- SEPT 19 THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDEN SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM.

WAITING

by Brunhilde Scheffler

With their backs to the horizon
painted mountains enfold the desert land.
White sun blazes down on thirsty soil.
Plants and beast endure eternal toil
buried in the barren sand.
Ghostly joshuas reach into the glowing heights
adorned with blossoms, sinister and pale -
in rosy lights.

Life waits for its awakening.
On the brink, the parched earth is aching
and waits to be born anew,
by drops of glistening morning dew
by streaming rain
to make the desert bloom again.

Ethel Standish - Baked Beans
 Joyce Buckner - Thai Salad w/peanut sauce
 Phyllis Flechsig - Something Good
 Laura De Merritt - Lasagna
 Dorothy Larberg - Pasta Tuna Salad
 Anna Cornett - Spinach & Feta Cheese Casserole

WHAT ARE YOU BRINGING TO THE JUDGE'S LUNCH?????

APRIL BRAG TABLE WINNERS:

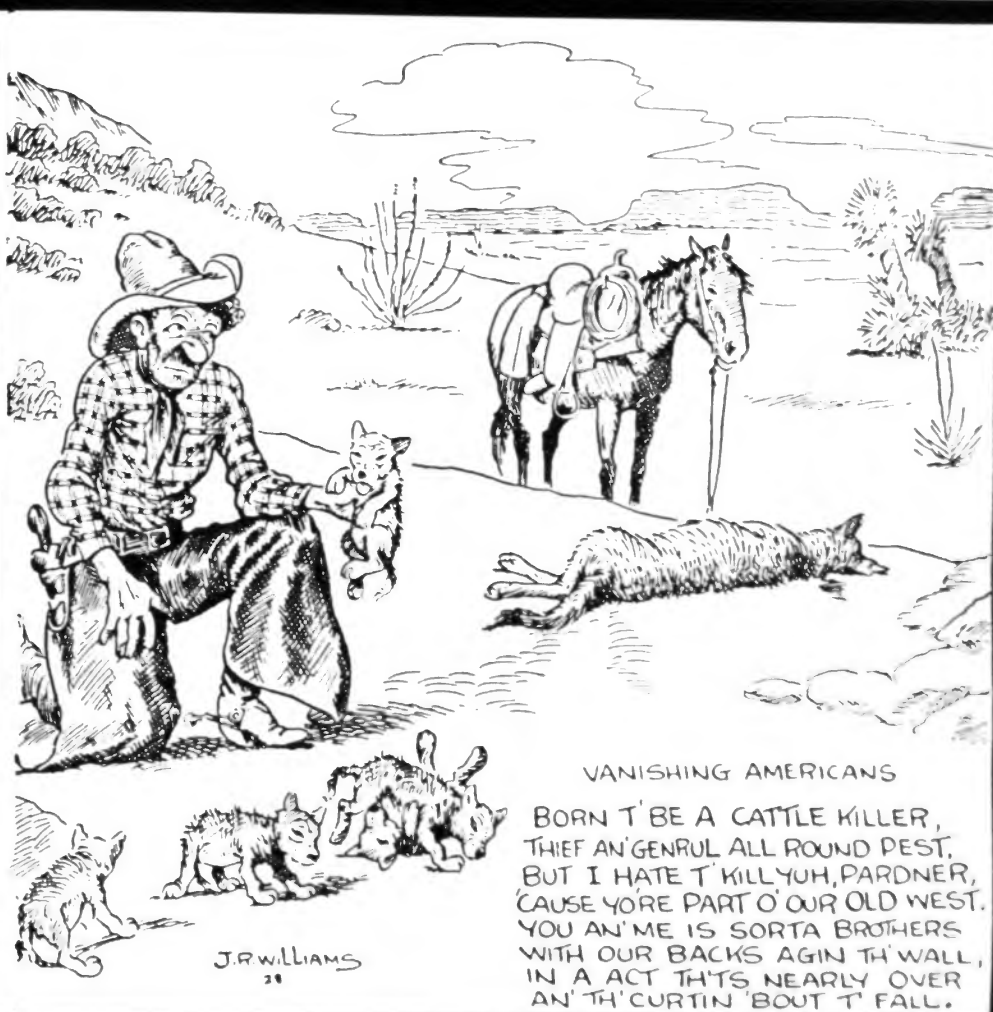
FIRST PLACE: Dylan Hannon for his Pelargonium xerophyton
 SECOND PLACE: Millie Williams for her Mammillaria aureilanata
 THIRD PLACE: Joey Betzler for his Huernia zebrina var. magniflora - what a magnificent bloom!

Researcher: 3,000 plant species gone

MERIDA, Mexico — About 3,000 out of 60,000 species of plants have disappeared from an extensive tropical area of southern and eastern Mexico with the reduction of rain forests, a university researcher here said Thursday.

Salvador Flores Guido, a biologist with the Yucatan Autonomous University, told reporters the deforestation has spread through the Yucatan Peninsula and the states of Chiapas, Tabasco, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Campeche and parts of Veracruz.

Flores Guido said unregulated lumbering in the area, especially for hard woods, has upset the ecology and extinguished those species, some of them unique.



VANISHING AMERICANS

BORN T' BE A CATTLE KILLER,
 THIEF AN' GENRUL ALL ROUND PEST,
 BUT I HATE T' KILL YUH, PARDNER,
 'CAUSE YO'RE PART O' OUR OLD WEST.
 YOU AN' ME IS SORTA BROTHERS
 WITH OUR BACKS AGIN TH' WALL,
 IN A ACT TH' TS NEARLY OVER
 AN' TH' CURTIN 'BOUT T' FALL.

J.R. WILLIAMS
 21

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



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LETTERS

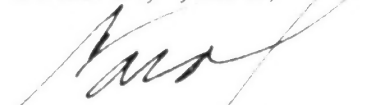
Dear Friends.

April 20, 1992

You can probably imagine our delight and appreciation when we opened the March issue of *Espinas y Flores* and learned that The San Diego Society of Natural History Library is assured of receiving the *Cactus and Succulent Journal* for six more years. The Journal which began in 1929 is one of the many titles which we have as an entire series on our shelves and such unbroken continuity is treasured by the researchers.

One of the nicest things about this gift is that not only will we continue to have the valuable journal on our shelves, but we will be receiving copies of your *C & S Bulletin* (that Spinach Dip recipe looks terrific). We have noticed over the years that many of our museum members and library visitors as well as people on our staff are C & S members and so we thank you very much for including our library among such excellent company.

Sincerely yours,



Carol Barsi, Librarian

We'd like to hear from you!

Dear Editor:

I'm new to the society consequently, I wonder what procedure a cactus-handler might do to clean the skin (human) of cactus needles?

My "rockaphile" cousin from Massachusetts sent me a copy of her newsletter "Lynnerologist". Enclosed was a note: Tip Top Tips--Cleaning Hands: Elmer's Glue can be used to remove cactus needles from your hide. Cover the area with glue, let dry, and then peel it off. All the needles will come out with the glue.

-from Arkansas Rockhound News, Mar/91

What do you think? What can you add? Other remedies? I have yet to put this proposal to the test.

Signed,
DP

Dear DP,

Well, I'm certainly going to try this remedy in the near future, as I know I'll end up with a hand full of spines sometime during preparation for June show and Plant Sale!!!! I usually lose the gloves within the first thirty minutes! I have reason to doubt any remedy that uses the word "all"; I've personally had spines in me for years! Readers? Please write and tell us what your remedies are!

To SDC&SS:

"The last issue is a great piece of information and talent. I didn't realize that Joey Betzler did so much either! I appreciate his sending material for "Now is the Time" for the "California Garden" by San Diego Floral Association.

Just wanted you to know I read the entire issue, even though I didn't know about some of the plants!

It's a wonderful bulletin."

Penny Bunker

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CACTUS OF THE MONTH

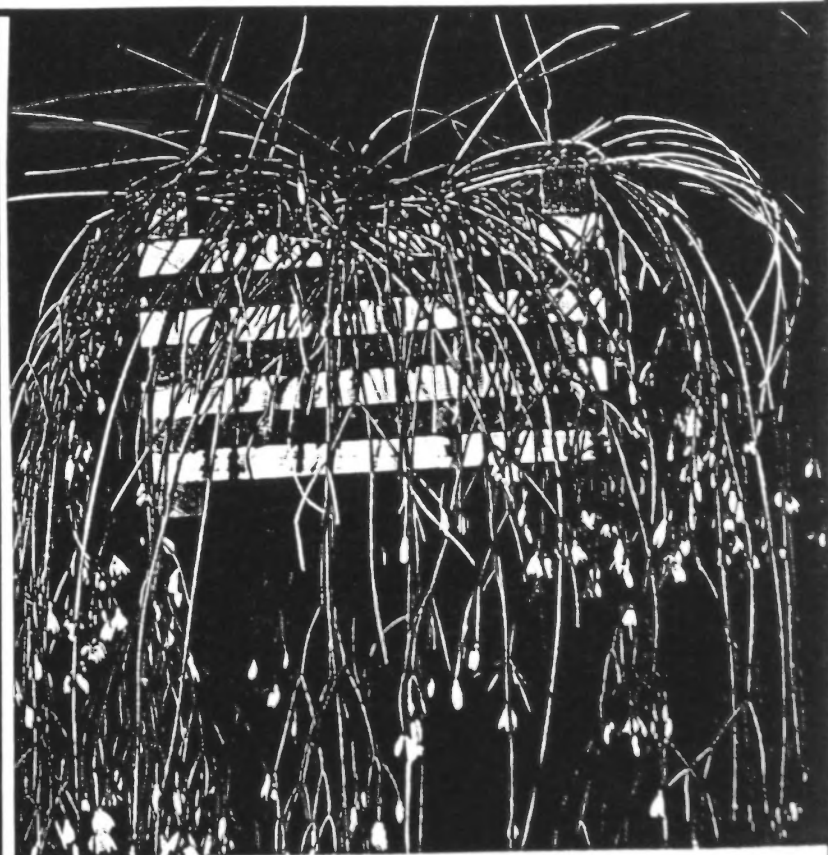
RHIPHALIDANAE

Warren Buckner

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When friends first visit our patio the first question is always "What are those long green hanging things?" When I reply "Rhipsalis, a member of the cacti family" I'm usually regarded with a great deal of skepticism and outright doubt. I've given up explaining why they are cacti and usually just reply "Believe me, they're cacti from Central and South America and grow as epiphytes in the rain forests and other moist shaded tropical areas." After another blank look I explain that epiphytes live and grow along with bromeliads and orchids on the branches and crotches of trees or on cliff faces. These are not parasites such as mistletoe, but obtain their nourishment from decayed leaves, branches, and detritus. Their natural growing sites give broad hints to their cultural requirements, excellent drainage, plenty of moisture, shade and a rich humus for the roots.

Rhipsalis occupy a niche in the Cactaceae family under the Cactoideae sub-family in subtribe 3, Hylocereinae along with genera, Aporocactus, Discocactus, Epiphyllum, Heliocereus, Hylocereus, Morangaya, Napalxochia, Rhipsalis, Schlumbergera, Selenicereus, and Weberocereus. Britton and Rose define subtribe 8, Rhipsalidanae in Volume IV of "The Cactaceae" as "Mostly epiphytic cacti, generally growing on trees but sometimes clambering over rocks or pendent from them, much branched; branches alternate or often in whorls, slender, terete, angled or flat and thin, spineless, except in Pfeiffera and Acanthorrhypsalis; flowers regular, mostly small, rotate and without any tube or with a very short tube; stamens usually few attached to disk or near base of flower-tube; style usually short; fruit a small juicy berry, white, red or purple; seeds minute."



Rhipsalis penduliflora (in an orchid basket).

According to those truly great botanists Nathaniel Lord Britton and Joseph Nelson Rose there is eight closely related genera (reduced to four by Barthlott) in this subtribe; namely *Erythrorhipsalis*, *Rhipsalidopsis*, *Pfeiffera*, *Acantorhipsalis*, *Pseudorhipsalis*, *Lepismium*, *Hatiroa*, and *Rhipsalis*.

There has been many species described over the past seventy years since the monumental four volumes of "The Cactaceae" in 1923. The most comprehensive recent work on this subtribe is the doctoral work by W. Barthlott of the University of Heidelberg in 1987. This thesis I don't believe has been published to date except for a brief excerpt with photos and drawings by Frank Supplie in "Rhipsalidinoe" published by Intebok of the Netherlands, 1990. I haven't changed any of my labels nor do I plan to in the near future. This subtribe could use a great deal of sorting, lumping and reorganization by some bright, energetic young botanist; until then I'll just grow and enjoy these graceful hanging cacti with their great variety of stem shapes.

The best description I've ever read of this genus is once again by Britton and Rose.

RHIPSALIS Gaertner 1788

Cacti sometimes growing in humus, but usually epiphytic and hanging from trees, sometimes erect, sometimes clambering over rocks, more or less rooting or when hanging - irregularly producing aerial roots; roots always fibrous; stems usually much branched (often heteromorphic), terete, angles or much flattened and leaf-like, very slender and thread-like or stout and stiff; leaves wanting or represented by minute bracts; areolas borne along margin of flat-branched forms, along ribs or scattered irregularly in other forms, usually small, bearing hairs, wool, bristles and flowers; flowers usually solitary, but sometimes several from a single areola, opening night or day and remaining open for 1 to 8 days, small for the family; perianth-segments distinct, few, sometimes only 5, usually spreading, sometimes reflexed; filaments few or numerous, erect, slender, borne on outer margin of disk in one or two rows style erect; stigma-lober 3 or more, usually slender, spreading; ovary small, sometimes depressed or sunken in branch; fruit globular or oblong, sometimes angled when immature, but finally turgid, juicy, white or colored, usually naked (setose at areolas in 1 or 2 species) or sometimes bearing a few scales; seeds small, few to many.

Type species: *Rhipsalis cassutha* Gaertner.

I have grown them in a loose soil rich with humus mix in plastic pots, clay pots, ceramic pots and wire baskets with the most success in spagnum lined wire baskets with a rich mix of either leaf mold or supersoil in the center of each basket. However, I start all my cuttings in small plastic pots and a loose rich mix; half Supersoil and half sponge rock. In the inland area of San Diego they need water at least monthly from October to February with an occasional spraying; the rest of the year they require weekly watering. I usually immerse mine in a twenty gallon tub with half strength liquid fertilizer 10-10-10. The larger heavier baskets just get a hosing every three or four days. Failure to keep them slightly moist is a great way to lose plants as I have proven many times over the past thirty years; most recently a *Rhipsalis mesembryanthemoides* in a clay pot that dried out over the December holiday season.

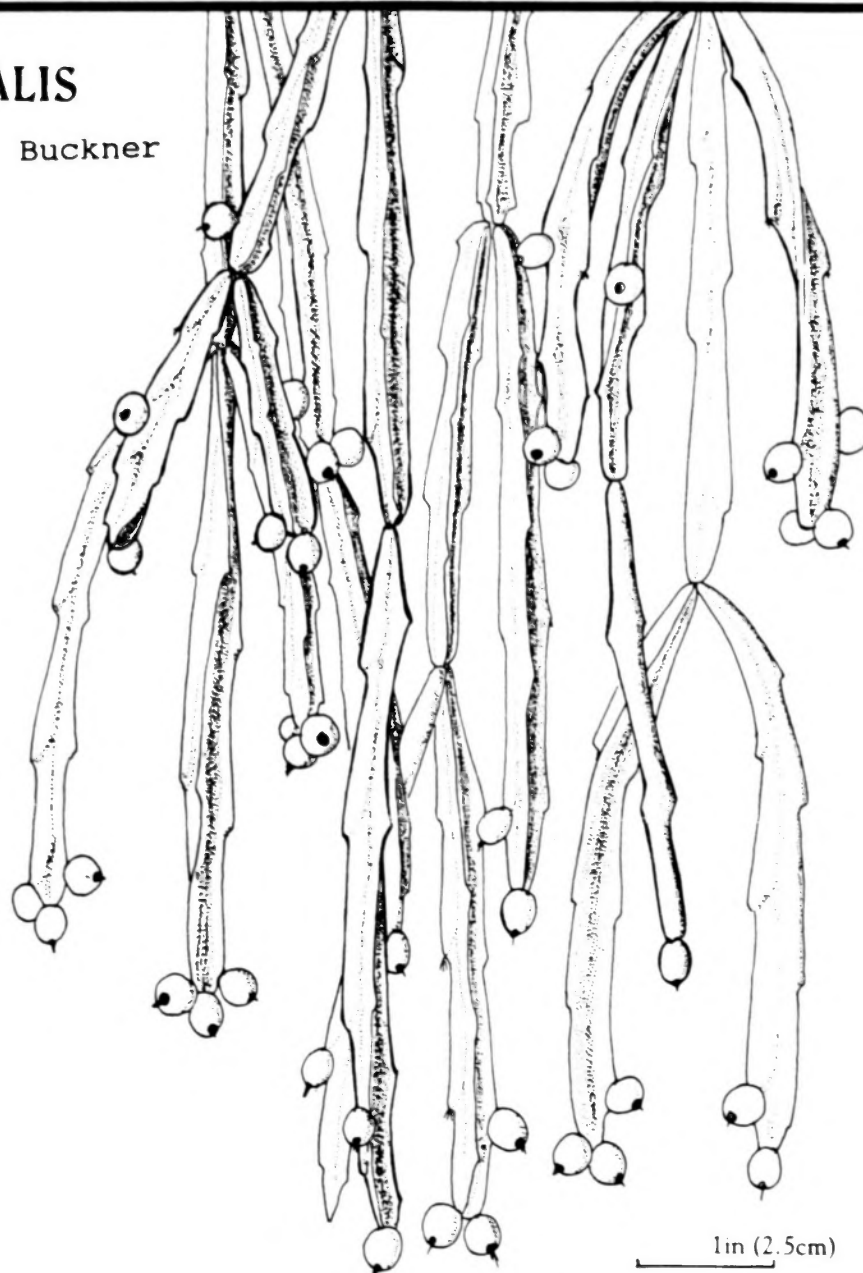
Their graceful varied hanging shapes I find truly fascinating. The varying stem shapes from the flat wavy edged *R. pachyptera* with thick flattened three by six inch joints to the short circular half inch joints of the aptly named *R. mesembryanthemoides* and the weirdly zigzag links of *R. paradoxa* deserve a spot in all shaded patios.

There are somewhere around one hundred described species in this genus so that a species by species description is beyond the scope of this article; I would recommend Britton and Rose Volume IV and Supplies's "Rhipsalidinae" for further reading on this truly fascinating and highly variable sub-family. Supplie has an extensive bibliography for those interested in further research.

RHIPHALIS

Warren Buckner

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Rhipsalis tonduzii, from Costa Rica, a rain-forest cactus which appreciates a rich compost and humidity. The small, whitish flowers are followed by white berries.

Species that I have grown and recommend for this area are the flat leaved *R. pachyptera*, *R. rhombea*, and *R. oblonga*, all will become an interesting bronze green when given morning sun. Others are the afore mentioned zigzag *R. paradoxa* that has been covered with white flowers, two or three at each areola this spring; the fast growing and aptly named *R. grandiflora* with hundreds of white 3 cm flowers, the dainty *R. cappilliformis* with may short branchlets forming dense clumps on elongated main branches, the *R. petaptera* with stiff bright green branches with 5 or 6 ribs forming a star in cross section with small white flowers along the whole length of the branches, and the whole series of round cross section long pliable branches, up to 3 meters in my patio, such as *R. cassutha*, *R. cereuscula*, *R. clavata*, *R. neves-armondii*, *R. teres*, *R. tucumanensis*, *R. puniceo-discus* and *R. tonduzii*.



Echeveria agavoides.



Echeveria elegans.



Echeveria laui.

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH

Marylyn Henderson

Echeverias are exclusively from the Americas, growing primarily in the mountains of Mexico, but extending over 4,000 miles --- from Texas to Northwestern Argentina.

There are over 100 species and varieties and numerous hybrids, but few can be considered desert plants, like most other cacti and succulents. Less than a dozen are found growing with other xerophytic plants in dry regions. *Echeveria strictiflora* from Brewster County in Texas is the only species of *Echeveria* native to the United States, and grows in a dry limestone region.

Most *Echeverias* are from the high mountains in reasonable moist and cool areas, the greatest number growing in the eastern and southern states of Mexico. Over 60 species are native to the three Mexican states of Hidalgo, Oaxaca, and Puebla. Few species, if any, are found below 3,000 feet, while some are even found above 14,000 feet elevation. They are found on rocky hillsides among bush and pine forests, or on vertical cliff faces. Many are found almost alone on mountaintops in unfiltered sunlight. In very warm, moist, and humid areas, some *Echeverias* grow as epiphytic plants with the wind distributing seeds that cling and grow in almost any medium. *Echeveria rosea*, *maxonii*, *nuda*, and *racemosa* are found growing on roofs, tree bark, and moss covered branches with *Tillandsias* and orchids. *Echeveria elegans* is one of the more hardy, growing in the mountains northeast of Mexico City at elevations to 10,000 feet.

Echeverias are some of the most beautiful leaf succulents with varying forms of leaf rosettes in all shades of green, tinted with red to purple, through frosty white, with highlights of pink, rose, blue and amethyst.

Most intense colors are produced in cool weather of February and March from crowding of the red and blue pigments (anthocynins) in the leaves. However, the appearance can be dramatically changed by growing conditions --- amount of light or sun, and ground versus pot culture.

In the wild *Echeverias* shed their lower leaves during the dry period as a way of conserving moisture. When the leaves shrivel on cultivated plants, they should be removed as fungus may develop in the dead leaves which can rot the entire plant. The dead leaves are also a haven for mealy bugs.

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: ECHEVERIA BY MARYLYN HENDERSON

When plants have lost a lot of lower leaves and become leggy, the heads can be cut off, leaving one or two inches of stem attached. Allow them to callous and reroot in fresh soil. You may leave the old trunk potted and continue to water it. Just be careful not to get water on the top of the trunk before it heals or it may rot. Trunks will usually grow offsets at some of the old leaf scars. These may be detached and potted when large enough to handle, and should quickly root and grow. Plants can also be propagated from leaves and offsets.

Most of the plants will do well in equal parts of pumice and Supersoil. They need a bright location with good air circulation.

References:

- L. Carruthers and R. Ginns, ECHEVERIAS
- Eric Walther, ECHEVERIA
- Riha and Subik, THE ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CACTI AND OTHER SUCCULENTS
- Brown, White, Sloane, SUCCULENTS FOR THE AMATEUR
- Childamian, THE BOOK OF CACTI AND OTHER SUCCULENTS



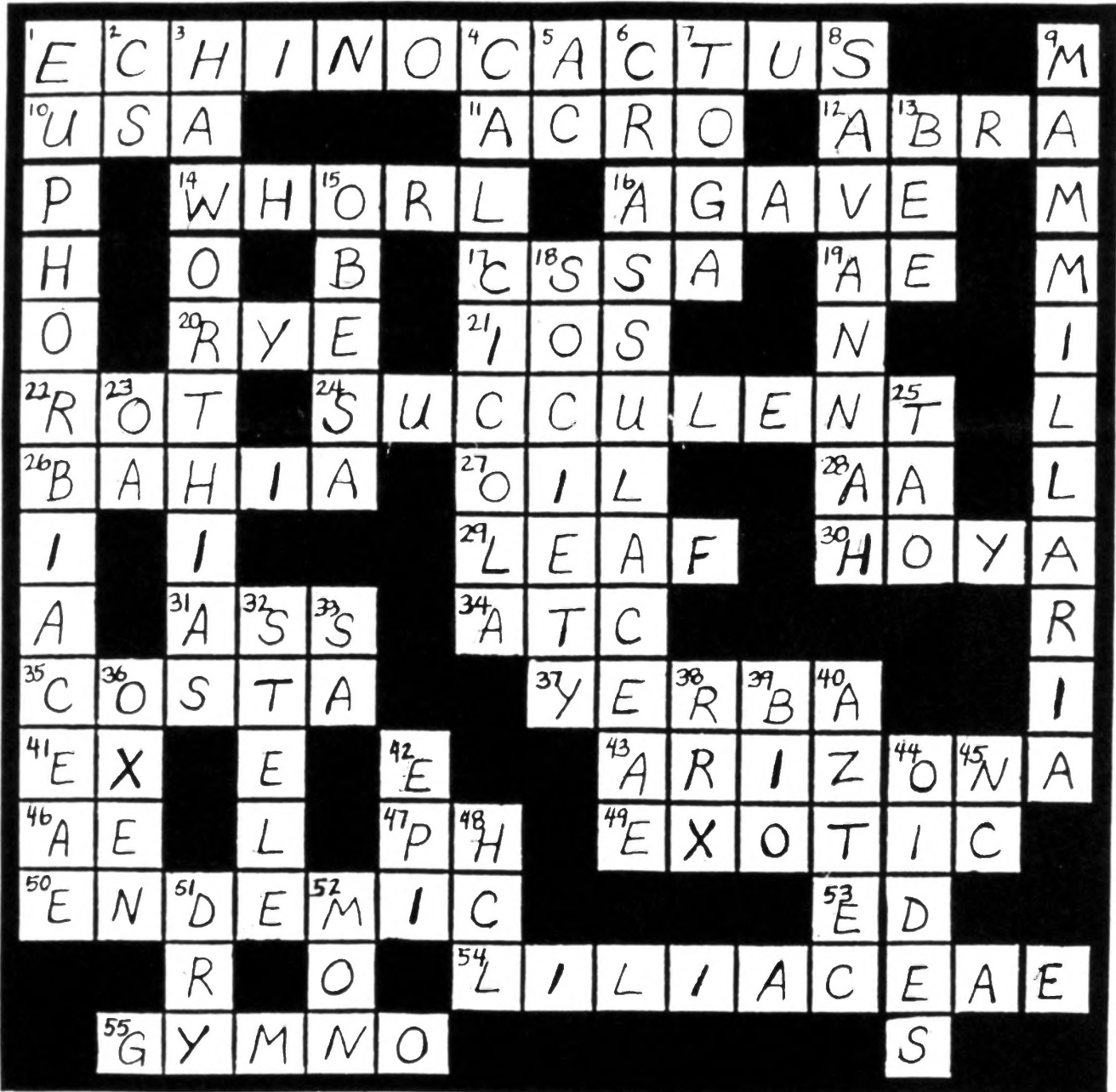
From the Show Chairman
Please remember to bring all the trophies from last year's show to the May meeting.

"Thanks so much to all my friends of SDC&SS for their much needed prayers and support.

It does make it easier to know that so many people care and share my sorrow.

Sincerely,
Marylyn Henderson

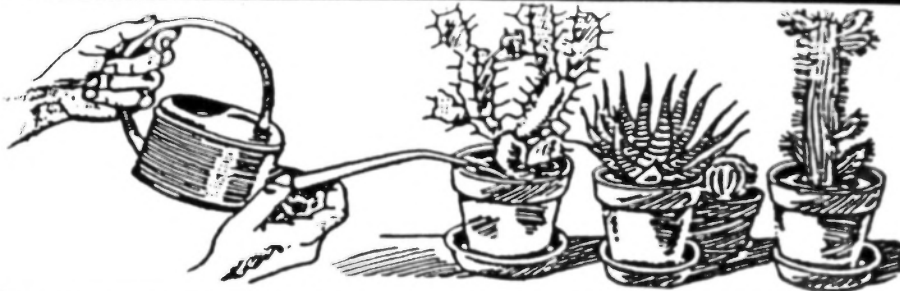
We are all thinking about you and praying for you Teresita.
Please get well soon - we all miss you!



HERE'S THE ANSWERS TO JOYCE'S CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CROSSWORD PUZZLE. HOPE I DIDN'T FRUSTRATE ANYONE TOO MUCH. RICK LATIMER TELLS ME THAT THERE ARE CACTI (OPUNTIAS) IN NORTH CAROLINA - SO I GUESS A SORT OF MESSED THAT ONE UP! MANY TERMS WERE PARTICULARLY IN REFERENCE TO CACTI AND SUCCULENTS AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN NOTED ON PUZZLE CLUES - I'LL DO BETTER NEXT TIME - NO! NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO SEND IN A PUZZLE!!!!

"From All Corners"

by Shirley Berry



Continuing the subject "Nutrition in Succulent Plants" from the April issue of this paper, Roy Mottram, in the British Cactus & Succulent Journal of March 1986, Mr. Mottram goes on to say that another way of dealing with PH problems is to use a compost with lots of organic material such as peat, well rotted leaf mold, or manure. However, these are not common substances in succulent habitats; rather, rock, clay, grit, and sand mixtures are more suitable.

He feels that slower growing plants have a smaller intake of basic nutrients than the faster growing plants, and the nitrogen content is lower. More significant than the N P₂ K ratios are the trace elements which control the complex chemical reaction in the plant tissues. For succulent plants, half of the manufacturer's suggested rate of fertilizer use is more appropriate, and gives the maximum results.

"Generally, the shortage of most elements will result in a poor growth rate, lack of flowering, and vitality. However, the change in appearance resulting from correction of a particular deficiency can be quite spectacular.

With agricultural crops, problems of aborting tips usually equates to a boron deficiency. Sure enough, in cacti and Euphorbias the most chemically active cells just below the apex of the plant may bleach, and then within a short time, necrosis sets in, eventually spreading to the apex, and results in a corky cap.

This symptom is commonly misinterpreted and dismissed as red spider mite or sun scorch. Red spider mite causes a uniform pale brown discoloration and is not specific to the most active cells at the apex. Widespread losses generally point to a mineral deficiency problem. Other symptoms of trace element deficiency include distortion of the stems such as coalescence of ribs and tubercles or lack of spines. Trichocereus respond by producing large black blisters on the sides of the stems. Mineral deficiency makes all plants more prone to loss by low temperature, pests, and disease."

I am personally heeding Mr. Mottram's advice and adding boron and aluminum sulfate to occasional waterings, but it is too early for me to report on observable results.

"What Can I Do?"

PLEASE SAVE ALL YOUR BOXES
AND BRING THEM TO JUNE PLANT SALE.

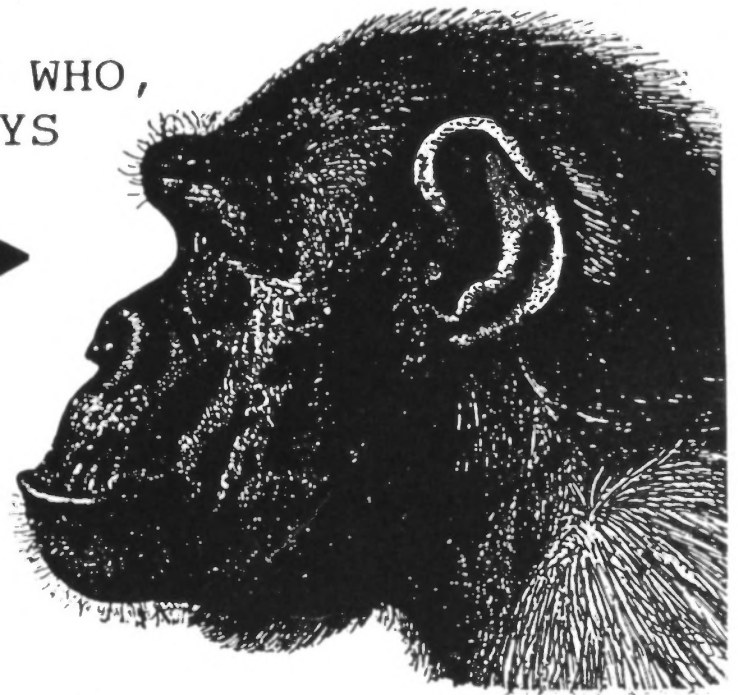
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CHLOE BAJWA
MARK PALANDRI
VIRGINIA INNIS

FOR MAY

PAGE 11

A NATURE LOVER IS A PERSON WHO,
WHEN TREADED BY A BEAR, ENJOYS
THE VIEW. Anonymous



WISE AND OTHERWISE

"MEN ARGUE, NATURE ACTS."
Voltaire (1694-1778)

"In the 1950s the scientist who went furthest with the idea of the integrity of the ecosystem was Rene' Dubos (1901-1982). A brilliant bacteriologist who would win a Pulitzer Prize, Dubos dedicated his early career to killing a particular form of life: germs. His research contributed significantly to the identification and application of antibiotics. Like predator-control programs and insecticides such as DDT, the new "miracle" drugs such as penicillin tempted humanity the edenic vision of a sanitized world. But as he matured Dubos experienced doubts about the ends of his research helped make possible. By the 1950s he was well acquainted with ecology and was prepared to say that even germs should not be eradicated. Let the antibiotics control disease-causing germs but not exterminate them. A healthy human organism, Dubos believed, could and should rely on natural resistance to infection. People and germs should coexist, just like people and wolves. Here was a completely new point of view. As one of Dubos's colleagues remarked, these ideas "marked the first time that anyone grasped the point that disease is part of the total harmony."

from THE RIGHTS OF NATURE by Roderick Frazier Nash.

"The arrival of spring produced a multitude of plant foods for harvest. Honey mesquite blossoms were picked and roasted in a pit of heated stones, then pressed into balls and stored for later use. Flower buds of various cacti were collected and parboiled to remove the bitterness. The pads of the beavertail cactus were gathered throughout spring and into early summer. Blossoms of the ocotillo could be eaten fresh or made into a savory drink by soaking the flowers in cold water for a day. Young roots of arrowweed were roasted the bulbs of the desert lily were eaten raw or baked, and the tuberlike underground stems of broomrape were dug up and baked in hot coals. Agave, a main food resource in winter, continued to be a staple in springtime. For the Indians the desert was a large market of vegetables and legumes."

from THE FORGOTTEN ARTIST - INDIANS OF ANZA-BORREGO AND
THEIR ROCK ART by Manfred Knaak

"September 23, 1835--The Beagle proceeded to Charles Island. This archipelago has long been frequented, first by the Bucaniers, and latterly by whalers, but it is only within the last six years, that a small colony has been established here. The inhabitants are between two and three hundred in number: they are nearly all people of color, who have been banished for political crimes from the Republic of Equator, of which Quito is the capital..... The inhabitants, although complaining of poverty, obtain, without much trouble, the means of subsistence. In the woods there are many wild pigs and goats; but the staple article of animal food is supplied by the tortoises. Their numbers have of course been greatly reduced in this island, but the people yet count on two days' hunting giving them food for the rest of the week. It is said that formerly single vessels have taken away as many as seven hundred, and that the ship's company of a frigate some years since brought down in one day two hundred tortoises to the beach."

from THE VOYAGE OF THE BEAGLE by Charles Darwin

OTHERWISE

"The first law of ecology is that everything is related to everything else.

Barry Commoner (1917)
American microbiologist and writer

INITIATION OATH OF THE DES MOINES CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY: "I hereby solemnly vow that in becoming a member of the Des Moines Cactus & Succulent Society, I will hold foremost in my mind the purpose for which the organization was founded, that is, to promote the interest of Cacti and Succulents not as a hobby, but a means whereby I can study and better myself with a living subject.

I will constantly aim to stimulate the interest in Cacti to all I come in contact with, in giving generously of what information I feel will be of help in the growth, culture and propagation of Cacti.

I sincerely promise to uphold the desire of the National Cactus and Succulent Society to create an interest in Cacti in all persons and help with any problems they may have to the best of my knowledge.

In becoming a member of the Society, I will put all personalities aside, devote my attention to the study of Cacti at all meetings and give freely of my information and appreciate the same given me. I will endeavor to keep my heart free from all jealousies and to rejoice in any good fortune of my club members, and be charitable at all times.

For the sake of Cacti, I now submit myself for membership in the Des Moines Cactus & Succulent Society, Inc, and I stand willing to abide by the above promises with all my heart.

Signed _____

Sponsored by _____"

From Cactus & Succulent Journal of America, August 1939.

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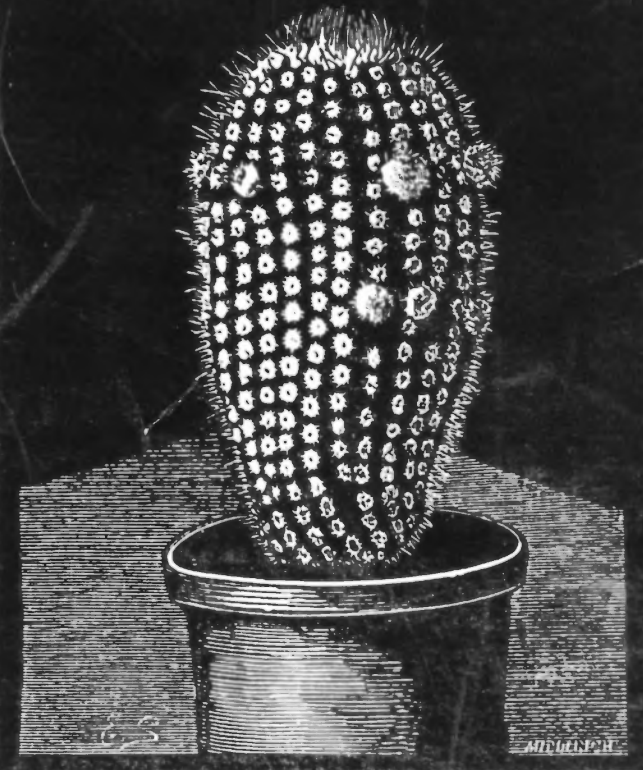
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P.O. Box 33181
Hillcrest Station 102
San Diego, CA 92163-3181



Editor - Michael Buckner Joyce Buckner
1958 Sunset Cliffs #103, San Diego 92107



The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Incorporated 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 at 11:00 A.M. prior to general meetings. Annual dues are \$10 per single member per year, and \$5 for each additional member of same household. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are \$1 per copy sent within U.S.A. Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Incorporated.

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