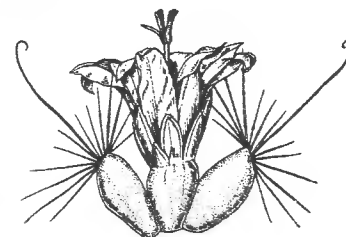
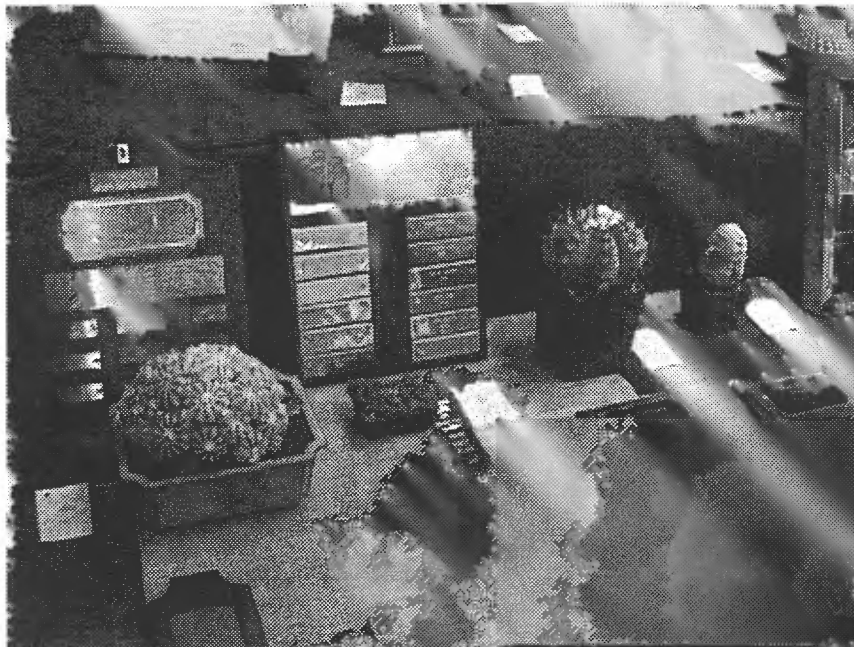


Espinas y Flores

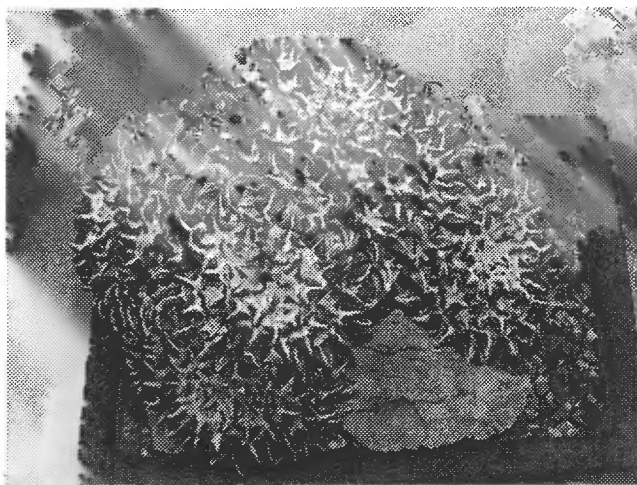
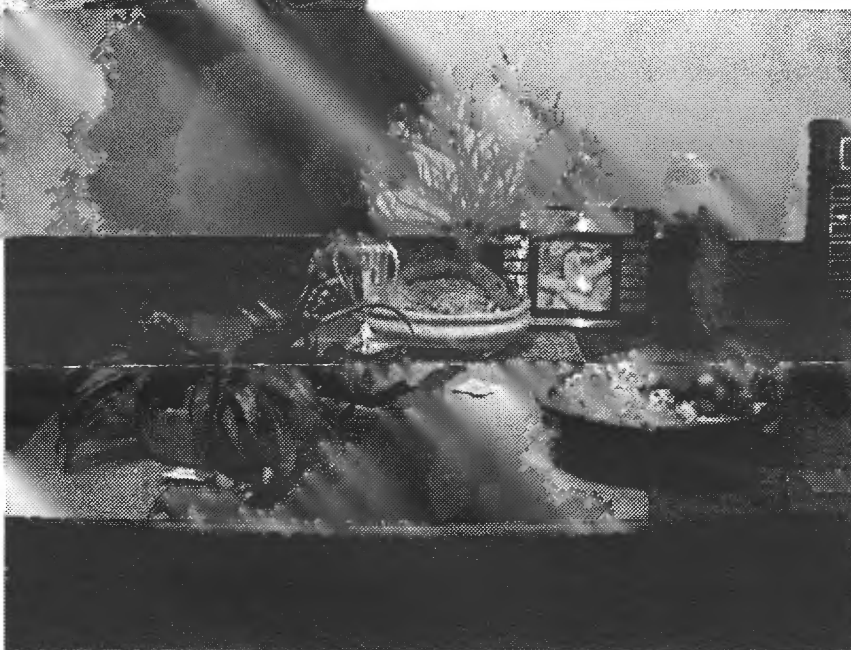
Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Inc.
Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America
Volume 36, Number 8, Meeting on Saturday, August 11, 2001 at 1:00 PM
PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE, STUDY AND INTEREST IN CACTI AND SUCCULENT PLANTS, VISIT US AT SDCSS.COM.



Buiningia brevicylindrica
Best Cactus below

Aztekium ritteri
Best Mexican Plant above

Woody's Winners

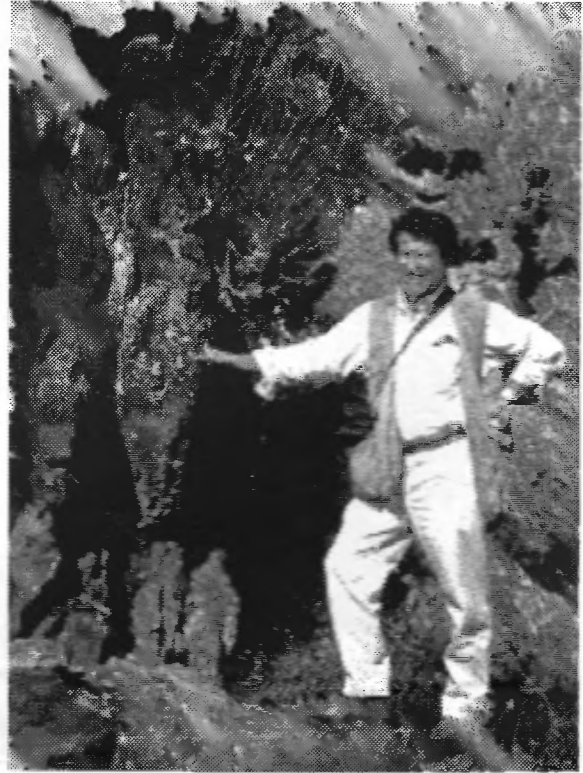


Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus and *A. retusus* crest, two more blue ribbon winners!

UP THE AMAZON

This month's program speaker will be Woody Minnich with a program titled "Up the Amazon!" I am told it will have a few cactus and a few succulents plus a lot of nature. This will cover a trip he made just this last summer. I can assure you it will be of high caliber and as always, a program not to be missed! See you there! Casa del Prado, RM 101, Balboa Park, Aug 11, 1:00 PM

Cover Pictures: Woody's winners from the summer show and sale. Woody has contributed so much to our show, club, and hobby. He is a consummate nurseryman, talented artist, photographer, and a tenacious plant explorer. The photo at the right shows Woody in Chile, next to a beautiful Calandrinia. He was hiking up and down these cliffs, photographing plants despite a terrible bout of food poisoning the night before.



Please send your letters, artwork, poetry, Cactus or Succulent of the Month articles, puzzles, comments, or criticisms, etc. to:

Tom Knapik
4669 71st street
La Mesa, CA 91941
Phone (619) 462-1805 e-mail eyf2000@aol.com
FAX (858) 569-8510

Newsletter submissions are due before the 14th each month unless other arrangements are made.

Espinas y Flores, the newsletter of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Incorporated, P.O. Box 33181, San Diego, CA 92163-3181, is published monthly with the exception of a combined May-June issue (11 issues per year). Newsletter circulation is approximately 350, with an additional 20-30 issues going to educational institutions, botanical societies, cactus and succulent nurseries, local publications, related natural history events, exhibits, and other interested groups or individuals upon request. Subscriptions are \$15 per year for bulk mail within the U.S.A.

Opinions stated in the articles and editorials of *Espinas y Flores* are solely the opinions of the authors or editor and do not necessarily represent the opinions of other SDCSS members, the Board of Directors, or the organization in general. All materials submitted to *Espinas y Flores* for possible publication may be edited in form and content. All material in the *Espinas y Flores* may be reprinted by other nonprofit organizations (unless such permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the material) provided that: proper credit is given to the SDCSS, *Espinas y Flores*, and the author. Please send one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material to the editor. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization of publication without the permission of the editor is prohibited. Volume 36, Number 8, Published Aug 1, 2001.

President's Message for August 2001

The July meeting was awesome! So good to see so many of you at the meeting and what a treat - Dylan Hannon presented wonderful slides of a tour of Soqotra he participated in earlier this year. The slides and commentary were great! Thanks Dylan.

Thanks also to our other speakers: Marylyn Henderson for talking about growing and propagating Echeverias, and Mark Fryer about grafting cactus. Both are true masters of their craft. I have never seen such mayhem at a meeting since Michael Buckner used to butcher the occasional show plant for our amusement and edification.

A New Committee ... In the interest of art and esthetics we have developed a new committee - the Show Decorating Committee. If you are interested in adding your flair to our shows, contact Collette Parr (619-460-9111). It is never too soon to start planing for the next show!

The Anza Borrego Foundation is looking to expand the area of land protected as park land in our neighboring treasure: the Anza Borrego State Park. The Mason Valley Project is looking to acquire an 842 acre parcel of land bordered on three sides by the park. This plant rich area is an important transitional zone between the mountains and the desert. The board has voted to donate to this project and has elected to match any member donations up to one thousand dollars toward the Mason Valley Acquisition. If you are thinking of donating to this very worthy cause, contact myself or any board member to arrange a matching donation.

**** THERE WILL BE NO PICNIC IN SEPTEMBER **** - Please see the note on page 7, pertaining to the BUS TRIP we are planning in place of our usual picnic. We hope many of you will participate in this very fun event!

BOB TAYLOR turned 93! He was acknowledged at our meeting as our oldest founding member. Best wishes Bob, we love you!

Trophy Winners from the June show were announced and congratulated for their efforts.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the August meeting!

Sincerely, Pam Badger pambadge@earthlink.net

BRAG TABLE WINNERS — Judged by Dylan Hannon

CACTUS

1. Don Patterson for his *Copiapoa longistamenia*
2. Kelly Griffin for an *Astrophytum* crest
3. Don Patterson for a *Copiapoa tenuissima*

SUCCULENTS

1. Don Patterson for *Rhytidocaulon macrolobum*
2. Kelly Griffin for a *Senecio articulata*
3. Kelly Griffin for a large *Pachypodium* crest

Let's give these guys a hand for consistently bringing in such beautiful plants and lets give them some competition next month.

Would you like to see a short summary of the brag plants brought by our members? We are looking for someone to provide this information for all the newsletter readers who may have missed a part or all of the meeting. Please contact Tom Knapik at eyf2000@aol.com or call 619-462-1805 if you would like more information.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

⇒ AUGUST — 2001 —

- 10-11 Mid-Iowa C&SS Show and Sale, Merle Hay Mall, Des Moines, Iowa. Info. from Rebecca Hoepfner 515-292-1289 or email her at rhoep10170@aol.com
- 18-19 Intercity Show and Sale, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia CA. Info. from Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or e-mail: tglavich@aol.com

⇒ SEPTEMBER

- 1 Huntington Symposium, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino CA. Info. 626-405-2160 or 2277
- 2 CSSA Board Meeting, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino CA, All CSSA Members are welcome. Call Duke Benadom, 805-526-8620 or email dukebenadom@earthlink.net
- 8 SDCSS Road Trip see page 7, THE PICNIC IS canceled!
- 15-16 Kansas City C&SS Show and Sale, Blue Ridge Mall, Kansas City MO. Call President Eva Allen 816-444-9321 emallen@earthlink.net for more details.

⇒ *OCTOBER

- 20-21 San Gabriel Valley C&SS Winter Show, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia CA. For info call Vince Basta 714-738-1422 or e-mail: cactoholic@aol.com

⇒ APRIL — 2002 —

- 7-13 27th Congress of the International Organization for Succulent Plant Study (IOS) at the Desert Botanical Gardens, Phoenix, AZ. See IOS Web Page: www.iosweb.org

⇒ JUNE

- 1-2 SDCSS Spring Show and Sale. Start planning for those award winners, it is never to soon!

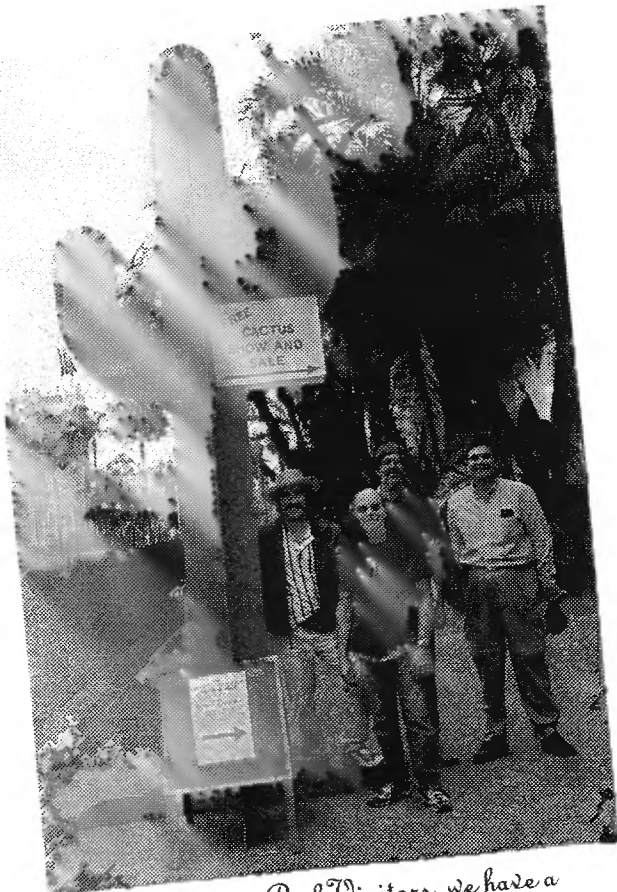
⇒ JULY

- 6-7 CSSA Show and Sale at The Huntington Botanical Gardens

FYI FYI FOR YOUR INFORMATION FYI FYI

- ⇒ Applications for Quail Botanic Garden docents are being accepted till August 17 for the fall training. call 760-436-3036 for an application and more information.
- ⇒ Ric and Marilyn Newcomer wrote the following note: We are saddened to announce the passing of Argyll Smith, who was born on January 9, 1910. He was the owner of Smith's Cactus Nursery in Lucerne Valley and later in Sun City, CA. Many of us were introduced to his vast collection of South American plants where he offered many for sale. Dorothy Smith passed away in 1981. Argyll will be missed by all of us who knew him and have his plants in our collections.
- ⇒ Paul Steward put the *Cactus Courier* (Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society newsletter) in the fore front again by producing an all color issue. NICE JOB PAUL, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!
- ⇒ Don't forget our September picnic has been canceled and a Field Trip will take its place. See page 7, in this issue for details!
- ⇒ Don't forget to wish Joey Betzler good luck with his new job for the Zoological Society of San Diego. Joey just started his new position as Plant Conservation Specialist. He will be stationed in the Wild Animal Park's new Seed Banking Facility. His duties will be collecting and storing native plant seeds as well making an survey of native plant species and exotic invasive plants at the WAP. His new home dept. will be CRES (Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species) in the Ecology and Applied Conservation Division. Now CRES is about Animals and *Plants!* Joey has been employed in the Horticulture dept. for almost 6 years, at the Wild Animal Park.
- ⇒ Would you like to see a short summary of the brag plants brought by our members? We are looking for someone to provide this information for all the newsletter readers who may have missed a part or all of the meeting. Please contact Tom Knapik at eyf2000@aol.com or call 619-462-1805 if you would like more information.
- ⇒ Buy any collected Cycads lately? Recently special agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have arrested six persons charged with crimes related to the illegal importation of internationally protected cycads. Cycads are protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) a treaty through which the United States and more than 150 other countries regulate global commerce in imperiled animals and plants. This was a big money bust, the prices paid amounted to around \$800,000!

Images from our 2001 Spring Show and Sale



Attention Balboa Park Visitors, we have a show and Sale going on! This plywood cactus was designed and built by Tom Knapik (leaning against his creation). John Williams, Tom Stiko (left to right) and Lee Badger in the front, helped put it up on the mall at Balboa Park. Who could resist not visiting our show.



Let's hear it for our loyal book sellers, Chuck Everson (seated) and Jerry Williams of Rainbow Gardens Bookshop (that's Jim Hanna in the back). Look at all those new book offerings! We are so lucky to have them at our Show and Sale. They are a real asset to the Cactus and Succulent community. Don't forget to support them in the off season. Give them a call at 760 - 758 - 4290 or send email to rbgdns@aol.com.



Collette Parr and Chris Miller hard at work, keeping up with the show scores as they come in. Counting up all the show points is one of the important aspects of the show that is often overlooked. Sandy Frost caught them concentrating on their task.



Trophy winners from left to right: Lee Badger, Pam Badger, Jean O' Daniel, Marylyn Henderson, Rudy Lime, Jerry Parr, Collette Parr, Mark Fryer and Joe Kraatz. Unfortunately the following winners were not available for the photograph: Dick Kulett, Woody Minnich, Juergen Menzel, Rowena and Steve Southwell, Steven Hammer, or Chris Miller for the Baja Volunteers. Congratulations to you all!

Thank you Sandy Frost, Pam and Lee Badger for your great photos.

Member Profile: Joseph W. Kraatz

by Joe Kraatz

TO SAY I WAS SURPRISED UPON LEARNING THAT I HAD WON the Schwartz Travel Grant of \$2,000 is a definite understatement! The irony is that I have been looking for a chance to visit South Africa since some of my favorite genera are endemic to this area.

My mother, starting when I was about five years old, instigated my interest in horticulture. She was an incredible gardener, growing wonderful flowers and vegetables every year. I watched her intently, always fascinated by the miracle of planting tiny seeds that gave rise to such abundance and beauty! My fondest memory is of the wonderful fence that overflowed with sweet peas every winter and spring. Sweet peas are not often seen anymore.

Before the I-5 freeway was built, the way to San Diego was down the old 101 highway. One day when I was about eight years old, we stopped at a cactus and succulent nursery in Encinitas. It had a very eclectic frontage with plants to match. It looked like a strange castle to me. It took only one trip through this emporium and I was hooked.

I started a collection through purchases at nurseries in San Diego County and also through some mail order nurseries. I wish I had kept all those early catalogs. One day I discovered a wholesale grower of cactus and succulents within walking distance of my home. Owned by a fascinating lady by the name of Ms. Cleo Morgan, I stood around and watched her sowing seeds, cleaning flats, pots, and transplanting. I was totally transfixed. At this time the process was definitely more laborious, since all the flats were wood and frequently needed repair. I was 12 when Ms. Morgan offered me a part time job. I started by moving flats, cleaning pots, weeding, and transplanting. As we all know, once you're bitten by the plant growing virus, there is no cure. You just have to learn to become obsessed (or possessed?) and ignore your friends when they suggest rest in a padded cell.

It would be difficult for me to pick favorite plants or genera. I grow 95% of my plants from seed. I do this because it is the only way you can produce a plant that is very similar to the way it appears in nature. This is especially true of pachycauls and caudex type plants. Plants with very fat leaves or that grow very symmetrical are also favorites. Growing Bromeliads has also turned out to be a passion since I discovered how easy they are from seed. Aechmeas, Vriesias, and Nidulariums make wonderful ground cover. I am also a member of the Palm Society and have grown many palms from seed. I have about 65 species on my property of which most are now approaching maturity.

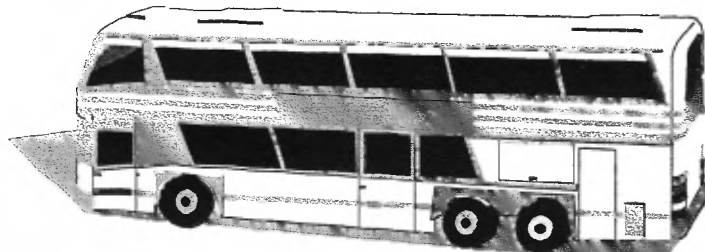
Even though I am retired, my plants are a part-time business. I also make stoneware planters and have been developing pots to complement cactus and succulents. My growing area gets some frost most winters, however, I don't believe in greenhouses. They turn into insect breeding factories. If the plant cannot take the cold then I don't want to waste time with it. Since everything is exposed to the ambient temperatures, I have found many plants, tender according to the literature, appear not to mind the cold at all.

In addition to my CSSA membership, I am also on the board of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society. Other societies of which I am a member: North American Rock Garden Society, Bromeliad Society International, The Botanical Society of South Africa, International Asclepiad Society, Mesemb Study Group, International Geranium Society, The Southern California Palm Society, and the California Rare Fruit Growers.

My main interest in South Africa is to observe the soils that the mesembs have adapted to in this harsh environment. Seeing the plants in situ will definitely help my understanding of the proper culture of these great succulents.

[Editor's Note: Joe informs me that he will be visiting the summer rain area of the Eastern Cape in South Africa at the end of January. I'm sure he'll return with some wonderful stories of his adventure. Thanks to Herman Schwartz for this generous gift to our hobby. —TRK]

“See You * * *



BUS TRIP! BUS TRIP! *Lets take this show on the road!*

If you were there at the July meeting you heard the discussion about the bus trip we are planning in place of the picnic in September. It came down to a choice between the Getty Museum and The Huntington Botanical Gardens. The vote was a virtual tie so we flipped a coin and came up with THE GETTY! [Stay tuned, there may be a problem with getting reservations for bus parking at the Getty. We are looking into the possibility of also attending the South Coast Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale, see page 11.] The bus will only be able to accommodate 50, so we will take reservations on a first come basis. We will plan on doing a North County pick up at a convenient location The cost will probably be \$15.00 and we will provide a picnic lunch and soft drinks. Sign up at the August meeting or call to reserve a seat.



* * * *on the Road”*

*** New and Renewing Members ***

The following list is of new members, or past members that have renewed a lapsed membership in 2001: Curtis Awbrey, Phil Baum, Stacy Bermingham, Andrea Bois, Wesley Briggs, Chris Carley, Fernando Cervantes, Paul Chan, John & Mary Cooper, Denise Croft, Jim Dice, Richard & Vickie Ezneker, Jesse Guerreo, Donald & Carol Hale, Sylvia Hatcher, Faith Hoiberg, Max Hyde, John Isbell, Nancy Jackson, Mr. Shigeru Kasashi, Herb Kulman, Alice Lashbrook, Dennis Lundquist, Wanda Mallan, Cena Martin, Roger Martin, Brendan Park, John Pitcairn, Mary Jo Ross, Sue Sieracki, Lisa Snyder, Kit & Trixie Stowell, Phil Tackhill, Don Wendland, Susie White, Robert Wilcox, and Sam Wilshire.

There are 40 new members listed above, this is to date, for 2001. We hope to have more by the end of the year. We have exceeded last years total of 27. Currently we have about 310 members, one of the largest CSSA affiliates in the world! Please pass on the word about our great club, and encourage others to join.

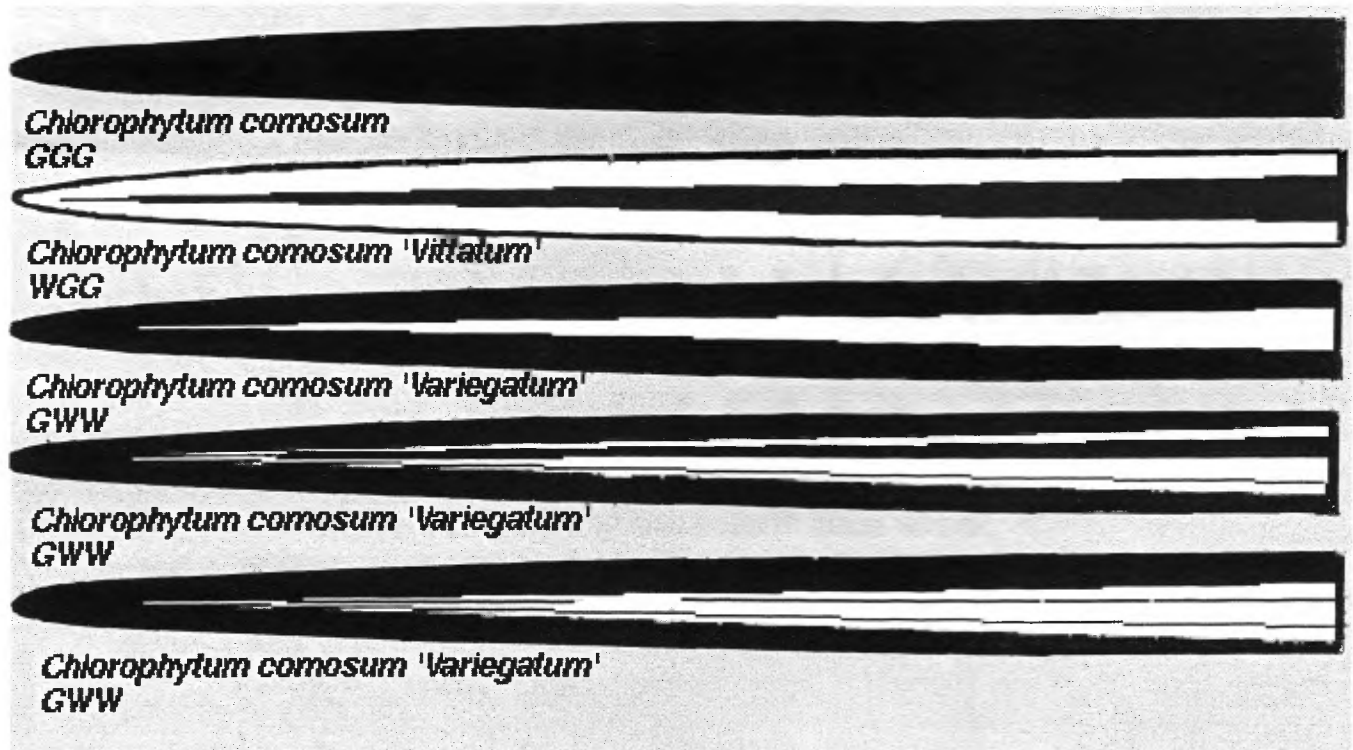
Variegation in Succulent Plants (Cactus inclusive!)

by Kelly Griffin

Variegated plants have captivated me for as long as I have been keenly interested in botany. It is true that I have been known to grow thousands of seedlings in the sole quest of finding one that is variegated.

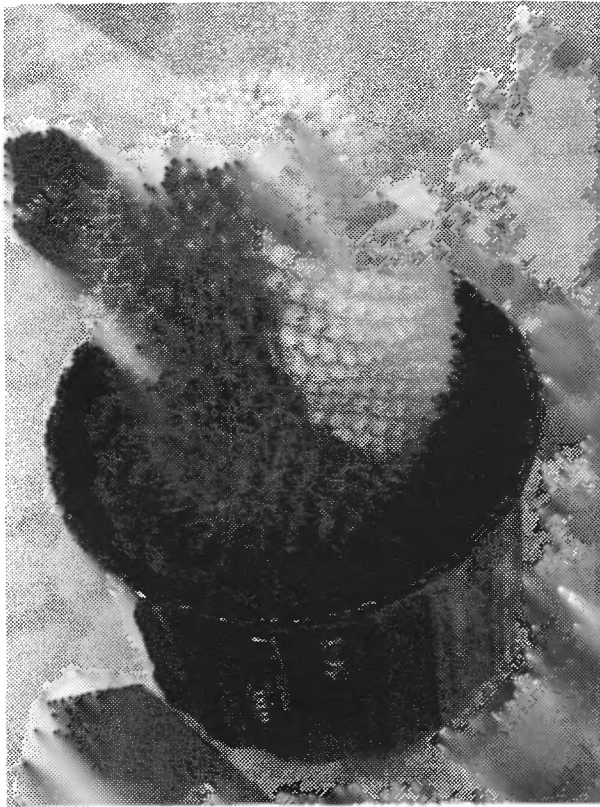
Variegation occurs in almost all plant forms, from palms to ferns to succulents, and it is the most common form of chimera. Simply stated, a plant is referred to as a chimera when it has cells of more than one genetic makeup growing adjacent in its tissue. In the variegated leaf sections, the cells are characterized by the inability to synthesize chlorophyll.

The apical meristem of a shoot is where the cells that form the structure originate. Chimeras arise when cells mutate. Depending upon the position of the mutated cells at the meristem, the variegation may appear as marginal, medial, striated or sectoral.



The marginal and medial forms, for example *Agave americana* variegata and medio-picta, tend to be consistent and stable. The sectoral and striated variegates vacillate, sometimes throwing all white shoots and sometimes reverting back to all green forms. *Haworthia cuspidata* variegata is a good example of this kind of unstable sectoral variegation. Some pups will be entirely white while others are a mix or even all green.

Now the infamous question: "What causes variegation?" Speculation abounds! *Opuntia vulgaris* variegata is reportedly virus induced but I strongly doubt that all variegation is so



Mammillaria sp. shown by Joe Quijada

induced. I have observed that in virus infected variegated plants the cells are often not just different color, but also size and shape. These plants often have a not so pleasing appearance because of the cell structure deformation although the plant manages to survive with it. The often imported and very popular “moon” cactus grafts are for the most part irradiated chlorophyllless plants that gather sustenance from the stocks they are on. Sometimes it just happens! They will show up in seedling batches or sport off a “normal” green plant.

Are variegates special? I guess that truly depends upon whom you talk to. Some might suggest that you are propagating a virus or at the very least genetically inferior material. Well, yes they are genetically weaker and chlorophyll- challenged, but they can be some of the most captivatingly beautiful specimens. The low frequency with which variegates occur makes them that much more difficult to come by. When you add to that the factors of slower growth, a higher susceptibility to rot and

sensitivity to too much sun, you have the perfect four letter catch word for collectors — “RARE”

Not all chimeras are variegates. While variegation is very obvious visually, other mutations can result in unique chimeras as well. For instance, thornless roses, fuzzless peaches, and spineless cactus all exhibit a mutation in the epidermis as it is formed in the meristem.

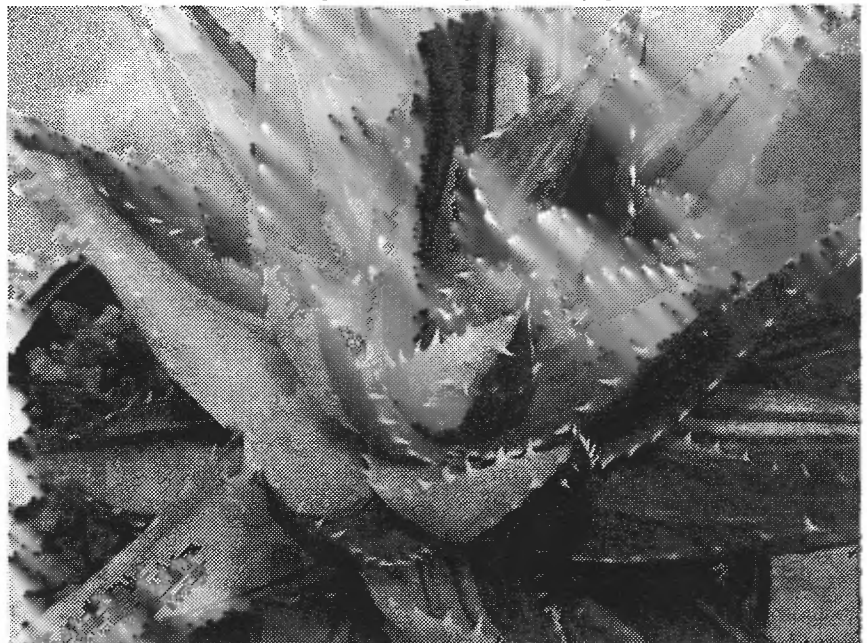
Please bring in your best, favorite or most unusual variegated cactus or other succulent. There will be a special award for best variegated cactus, variegated succulent and most unusual!

References:

R Daniel Lineberger. Origin, Development and Propagation of Chimeras.
Texas A&M University: Dept. of Horticulture

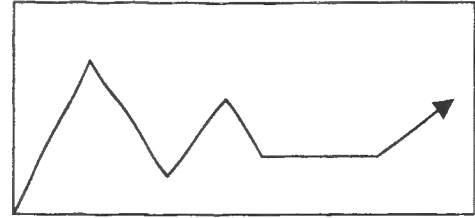
Stewart and Derman. “Ontogeny in Monocotyledons as Revealed by Studies of the Developmental Anatomy of Periclinal Chloroplast Chimeras”
AJB 1979
vol. 66 pp47-58

Aloe nobilis variegata, belongs to Marylyn Henderson



WHAT'S THE STATUS?

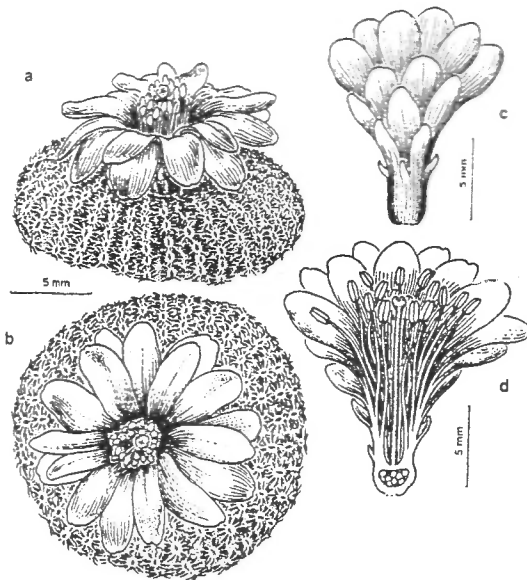
by Tom Knapik



Topic #15: *Yavia cryptocarpa* R. Kiesling & Piltz

Cactus connoisseurs around the world have a new plant for their wish list, *Yavia cryptocarpa*. A description was published in the German Journal, Kakteen und andere Sukkulenten, March 2001 issue. The summary states;

A new genus and species is described: *Yavia cryptocarpa* R. Kiesling & Piltz, from the border of Argentina with Bolivia, in the province of Jujuy, Department Yavi, at 3700-m a.s.l. The new monotypic genus is characterized by the hidden fruits which are sunken into the single stem for several months, drop out only in the late spring, when the new buds develop, just at the beginning of the rainy season. The fruits have the uncommon character to loose the dry perianth, as happens frequently at the subfamily Opuntioideae, but very rarely at Cactoideae. The putative relationships with *Blossfeldia*, *Cintia*, *Neowerdermannia* and *Weingartia* are discussed.



Kiesling originally collected this fantastic little gem in 1986 while he was looking for *Anacamperos kurtzii*. He thought it was a new *Rebutia*, however, all the collected plants died before flowering. Kiesling revisited the type locality in July of 2000 when more plants were collected. He returned once again in November 2000 to observe flower buds forming in the center of the plant. ...definitely not a *Rebutia* which flowers from the side. These strange little plants have flowers that open in the morning, close at noon, and then open again in the late afternoon. INTERESTING! The fruits dehisce basally, and produce only 5 seeds.

When can you expect to see these wonders on our plant sales table? Well, it might be a year or two. Kiesling is providing seed to the British Cactus

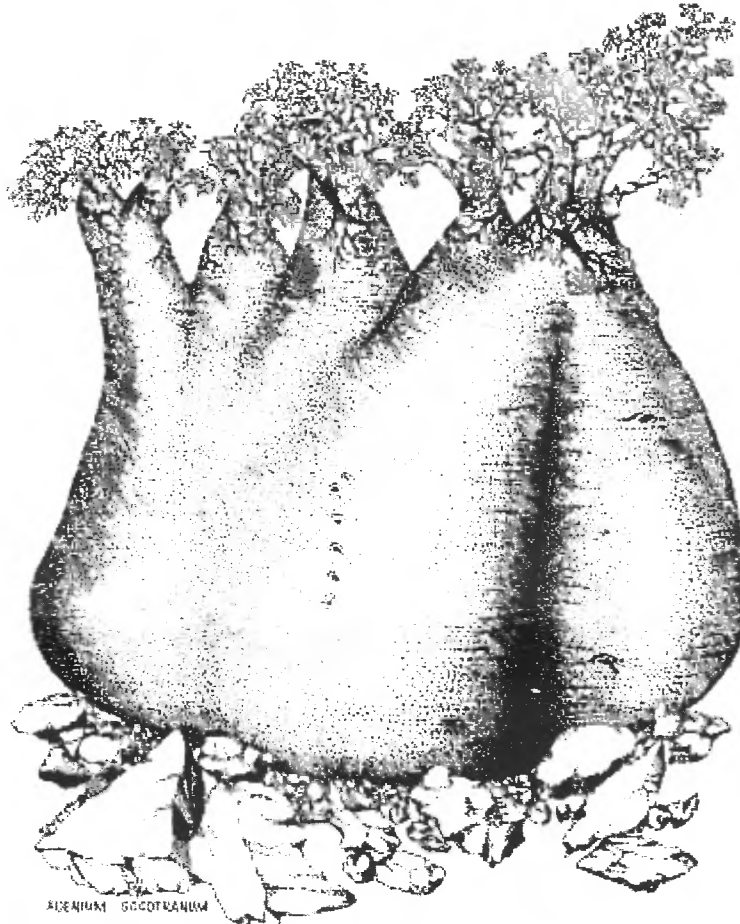
and Succulent Society (who are helping to fund his expeditions) and they are in turn distributing the seed to the top professional growers. At the CSSA convention we all saw habitat shots of this new genus and species during Kiesling's presentation. A friend told me that he had learned of the plant that morning and had already obtained a cutting to propagate by the afternoon. Such are the benefits of attending a conference.

If you have any information about new species or those that have been lost to cultivation or you want to find a mate for your one and only flowering rarity, please contact me at eyf2000@aol.com, I may be able to help. I want to thank Juergen Menzel for translating the German journal.



2001: A CACTUS ODYSSEY
16TH ANNUAL INTER-CITY
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SHOW

SAT. & SUN. AUGUST 18TH AND 19TH - 9 TO 5 EACH DAY
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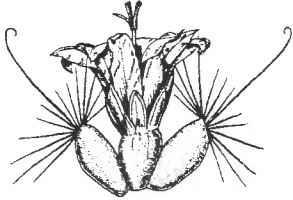
For information call 310-832-2262 or email airobatic@aol.com

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ESPINAS Y FLORES

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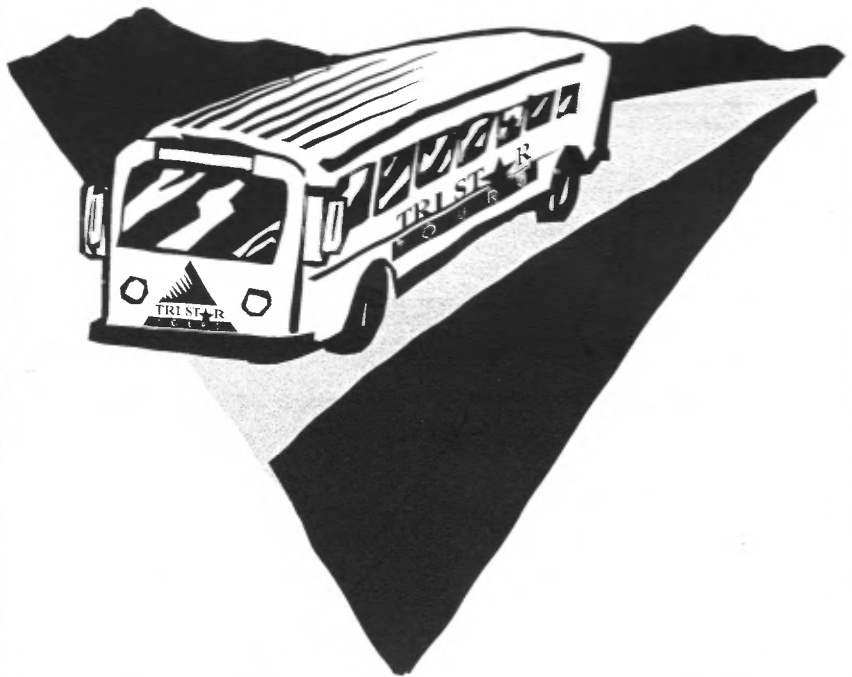
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A Road Trip in September — see page 7

The SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY, Inc. is open to all persons interested in growing cacti and other succulent plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month (except June, Sept. and Dec.) at 1:00 PM in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Executive Board meetings are open to all members; call any officer or director for the time and location. Annual dues are \$15.00 per single member per year, \$5.00 for each additional (associate) member within the same household. Single copies of *Espinas y Flores* are \$2.00 per copy sent within the USA; foreign subscriptions are \$30.00. Affiliated with the CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc. The *New* SDCSS Web Page is: SDCSS.COM - please take a look and give feedback to the webmaster.