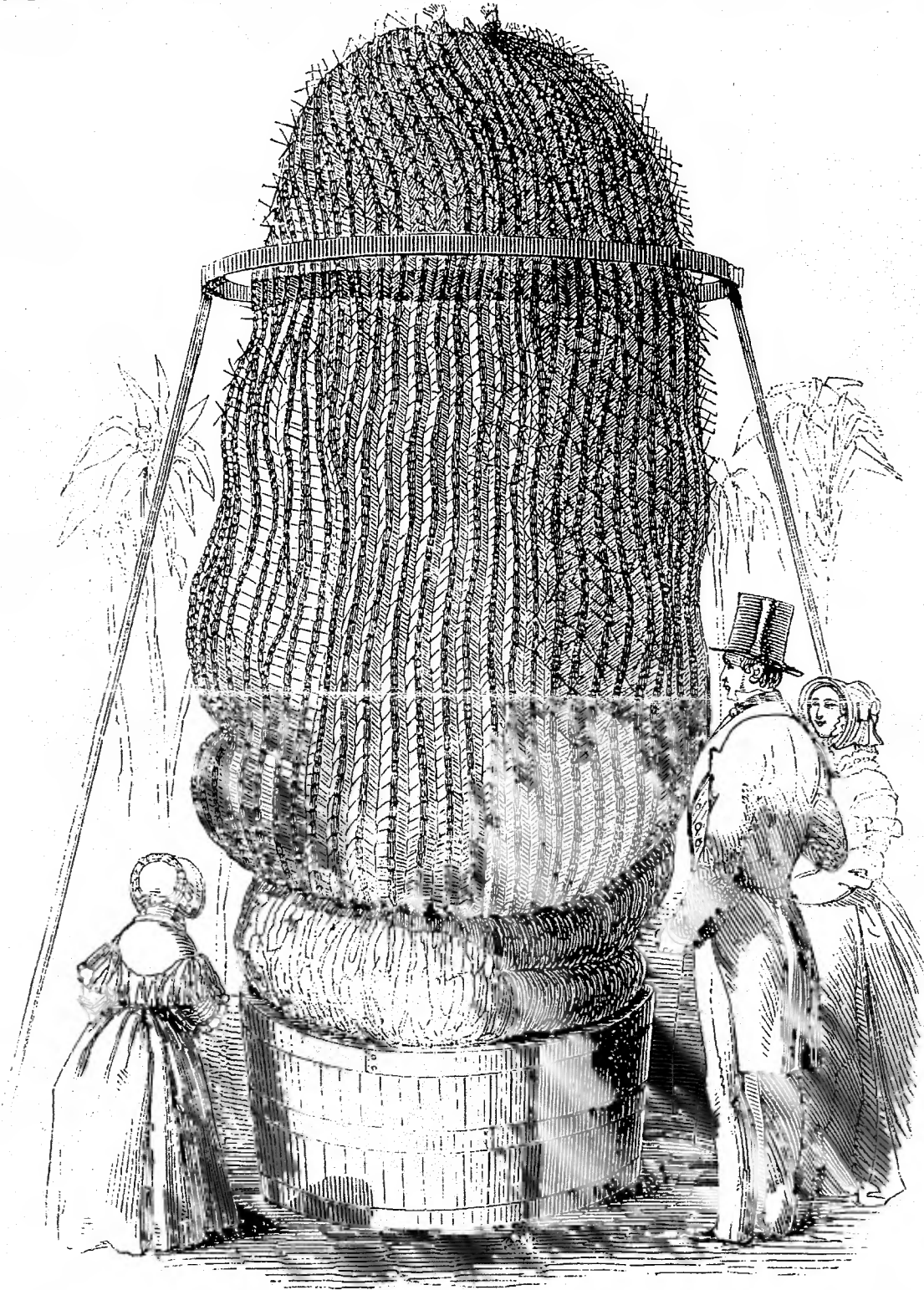


Espinas y Flores

Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Inc.

Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

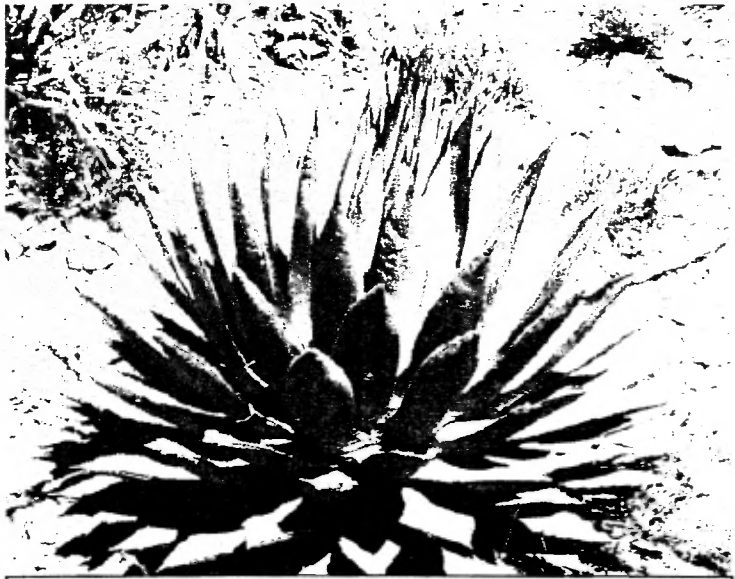
Volume 35, Number 5 & 6, Saturday, May 13, 2000 at 1:00 PM



GET READY—ITS SHOWTIME AGAIN

Presenting : Brian Kemble

Brian is a great plantsman with a keen ability to show the plants we love in a different and refreshing light. As most of you already know, his first love is the genus *Aloe*, but that isn't the extent of his interests what so ever. This talk will be about plants from Arizona and into Northern Mexico. He also informed me he was going to show us several interesting *Agave* habitats, which included such rarities as the illusive *Agave arizonica* and a special Mexican grassland agave, *Agave flexispina*. Brian is a great photographer and I am sure this will be an enjoyable & informative program so mark your calendars, Saturday, May 13, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Room 101.



Agave arizonica from the New River Mountains north of Phoenix

.....

Cover Plate: " 'Monster Cactus' at Kew" from the Illustrated London News, Oct. 17, 1846. We can't be sure about the species, but some possibilities are, *Ferocactus diguetii* or *Echinocactus palmeri*. The picture is to serve as a reminder to get your 'monster' plants ready for our **BIG SHOW AND SALE, June 3,4 Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park.**

.....

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

Tom Knapik
4669 71street
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 330, with 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.

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Presidents Message:

The April meeting featured Andrew Wilson whose program on the South Africa Richtersveld was as good as any I'd ever seen. Andrew has a special enthusiasm that inspires his audience. He also donated the program stipend back to the club. Chris Miller was a heroine for the succulent of the month as she brought in an outstanding collection of *Gasteria* and delivered a fine talk as well. Phyllis Flechsig as so many times before, enlightened us on *Echinocereus*. Thank you for the contribution.

The club had an exhibit and sales booth at Earth Day 2000 at Balboa Park. I'd like to thank the following members for participating: Lee & Pam Badger, Nubia & Phil Bunch, Laura De Merritt, Phil Favell, Jeff Harris, Tom Knapik, Gary Noel, Si Osgrove, George Plaisted and Sara Schell. Pam, as usual did a fantastic job of catering lunch!

Upcoming is our last general meeting prior to our June Show & Sale. This is our club's **BIGGEST EVENT** of the year - and as such - demands **HEROIC EFFORT** to continue with the success we've

had in the past. The key ingredient is participation so, I would ask all members to please join in and help. There are many, many positions to be filled. For example: cashier, table setup, plant "watchers", kitchen help, Q. & A. for the buying/show crowd, etc... We need as many volunteers as possible. The show itself has had some weak divisions and categories, so if you've been contemplating showing a plant please do, as each exhibitor is extremely valuable to the quality of the show. Perfection although desired isn't required, as the intention of the show is to illustrate the culture. **My plea: Please CARE and PARTICIPATE! Tom De Merritt**



Lee Badger talking to some potential members at last year's Earth Day

Show report

Our big show and sale is right around the corner and we all need to get ready. If you won a trophy last year, please have it engraved with your name, using the same font, and bring it in to our May meeting. Start thinking about which plants of your collection are at their peak and get them ready also. Tell them they are going to a big event to be shown off in June. They will need an entry card that will be available at the May meeting.

The show schedule is printed in this edition and there are some changes to be aware of. The specialty division IV has trophy awards that have been donated over the years. If you wish to enter your plant in one of these categories, it will **not** be considered for another division trophy. For example, if you have a fantastic *Mammillaria* from Baja, you need to decide which trophy, best *Mammillaria* or best Mexican Plant you want your plant to be eligible to win because, it can not be both. We do this to simplify the judging process, which takes hours. With more than 800 entries last year, I hope we can grow in size without being limited by the judging time.

On Friday June 2, there will be members helping unload cars of those who would like the help. Also, please bring in those empty boxes for our sales area. If you are interested in selling please contact Tom Birt our Sales Chair. You must obtain a bar code number before the deadline or you will not be able to sell at our event. As our president mentioned, we need your help and participation to make this, our first show of the new millenium a huge success. See you there! Tom Knapik

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

☑ **Mar**

— 2000 —

- 13-14 San Jose C&SS Show & Sale info. Carole Keeton 406-773-9277
- 14 San Diego Epi Soc Show, 9:00 AM, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego CA.
- 20 Carmichael C&SS Show & Sale. Info. Pearl Lemkuil 916-483-4496
- 20-21 Gates Show & Sale in Redlands, call Barry Urman, 909-796-6417
- 20-21 Huntington Botanical Gardens Plant Sale, call 626-405-2160 or 2277 for more info.
- 21 Santa Barbara CSS Show & Sale, McKensie Park, Las Positas & State Sts, Santa Barbara

☑ **JUNE**

- 3-4 SDCSS Show & Sale at Casa del Prado, for show call Tom Knapik, 619-462-1805, for sales call Tom Birt at 858-452-0389.
- 10-11 San Francisco S&CS Show & Sale, SF County Fair Bldg, Info. Dean Kelch 510-787-3186, Helen Lindquist 415-789-0703.
- 17-18 LA Cactus and Succulent Soc. Show & Sale in Encino. Call Artie at 818-363-3432

☑ **JULY**

- 1-2 CSSA Annual Show & Sale at Huntington Botanical Gardens call 626-405-2160 or 2277 for more info.

☑ **AUGUST**

- 19-20 Intercity Show & Sale, LA County Arboretum. Phone Woody Minnich at 626-944-2784 or Dick Hulett at 310-832-2262 for more info.
- 21-25 Succulenta 2000, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, Capetown, RSA. Info, Phone 27-11-884-5588, FAX 27-11-884-5685. email: kambroo@cis.co.za



FYI FYI FOR YOUR INFORMATION FYI FYI

SHOW & SALE & SHOW & SALE & SHOW & SALE & SHOW & SALE & SHOW & SALE & SHOW & SALE & SHOW

⇒ **Please mark your calendars for June 2, 3 and 4, GET READY—ITS SHOW TIME AGAIN!** Please set aside some time to help out with the show set-up, and tear down. Call **Tom Knapik** (619-462-1805) or **Joey Betzler** (858-569-8510) to help with the Show or **Tom Birt** (858-452-0389).

The SDCSS **Show schedule** has changed this year: read the schedule and rules carefully. These changes should speed up the judging and take some wear and tear off of the show helpers. Please pick up your show tags at the next meeting and have them filled out when you come in on Friday June 2. If you need help there will be folks to assist you. If you have questions please call **Joey** or **Tom** about entries. More supplies will be available at set-up time including more tags and an alphabetical listing of the genera related.

Sales Questions should be directed to **Tom Birt** (phone above). If you want to sale plants please contact him immediately to get a sales contract and arrange for bar codes for your plants. Tom needs advance notice and there is a deadline of May 27 for participation. For more details please go to Tom's message on page 3.

Please **bring in those plants** to display! We need you to **enter plants** to show San Diego what a great diversity of succulents that we are enthusiastic about. Here in San Diego county we have the most plant and garden clubs of anywhere else. Participate and have fun. We have special entry cards to help out those that have not shown many plants, **green** cards and for those with a bit more experience there is **yellow**, and for commercial growers and advanced participants there is **blue**. Read the bottom of page 8 for the details.

⇒ **The San Diego Natural History Museum** will be sponsoring a field trip to the Sea of Cortés. The trip will be lead by Baja Discovery Staff. Take a seven-day adventure to La Unica, a remote, peaceful nature camp nestled in a cove on the Sea of Cortés, 15 miles south of Bahía de Los Angeles. Call 619-232-3821 x 203 or see: www.sdnhm.org/education/brochure/overnights.html#desert for more details and costs of this trip.

⇒ Early in April San Diego lost a champion of the flora for the region when **Jennifer Stone** passed away after a long and courageous battle with breast cancer. She had just turned 51 and kept her illness private. Jennifer was by training a Soil Scientist and Botanist. She worked for the Navy's Natural Resource Division, Southwest Command, but she was a devoted volunteer and conservationist. Adrienne Russel wrote a memorial in the California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter Newsletter, May, 2000.

⇒ On another sad note **Prof. Dr. Werner Rauh** passed away recently. Earlier in April I heard that he was getting around and with his son doing a little work on the plants that he loved. He added so much to our hobby and science. He will be missed by many. The Editors would welcome an article on this man, who gave so much to our hobby and to science. J. A. Betzler, Associate Editor.

CONVERGENT EVOLUTION by Pam Badger

"Nice *Euphorbia*." Gina said, fingering the small oval leaves on a two-foot cylinder of spines. "That's an *Alluaudia*," Rand said. "So it is. Lights not too good." I looked up from where I was poking around under a bench. "It does kind of look like some of the Madagascar euphorbs. It's a good example of convergent evolution..."

from **The Cactus Club Killings** by Nathan Walpow

Convergent evolution can be defined as the phenomenon by which organisms of different ancestry adapt to similar environments in similar ways. This can also include plants that are distantly related which possess similarities, though they evolved continents apart. These adaptations occur on various levels: morphological (form), physiological (function,) and anatomical (function.) In this article I will be focusing on convergence of form and function.

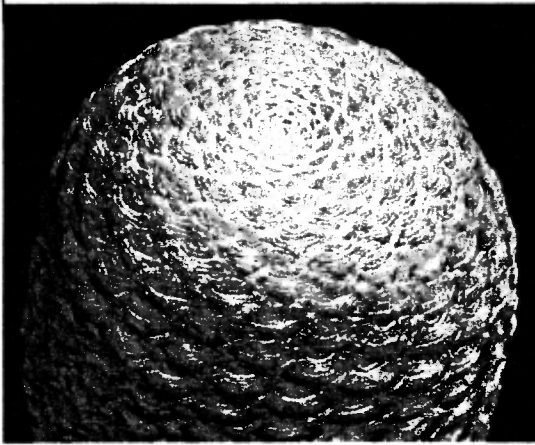
Morphological convergence (similarity of form)

Amongst cactus in general, there is an incredible amount of morphological convergence. Similar growth form, floral designs, fruit and seed features appear in completely unrelated genera. Though this is interesting, even more striking is the similarity in form between the stem cactus of the Western Hemisphere and the cactus-like euphorbias of Africa. Throughout the 1800's, evolutionists commonly sited this as an example of convergent evolution. Those of us with large collections of cactus and other succulents have little trouble distinguishing the difference, but to the untrained eye, a common *Euphorbia ingens* is quite a remarkable 'cactus.' The tall, branching arms of *E. ingens* can be reminiscent of the classic Saguaro shape, which is the essence of cactus to so many. *Euphorbia meloformis* with its flattened, globular body and several broad ribs bears a resemblance to *Astrophytum*; particularly *A. nudum*, especially in it's juvenile form. Another interesting example is *Euphorbia piscidermis* and *Encephalocarpus strobiliformis*. Both are 'strobiliform' or 'looking like a pine cone,' however, the main difference between the two (other than one being a cactus and the other a *Euphorbia*) is reflected in their names. The scales of the *Encephalocarpus* are curved tubercles which stud the surface of the stem; on the euphorb, the same structures are thinner and more closely resemble fish scales as reflected in the name (piscis, meaning fish plus dermis, meaning skin.) Euphorbias can easily be distinguished from cacti in several readily identified ways. The euphorbs all have white, milky latex, insignificant flowers, and three chambered, dry seedpods. While some cacti will exude a white substance when injured



Encephalocarpus strobiliformis

Euphorbia piscidermis



(some Mammillarias) it is not common and does not bleed freely like Euphorbias. Cacti also display relatively large, colorful flowers, and usually produce fleshy fruits with many small seeds. Another example of vegetal convergence involves two species which both belong to Euphorbiaceae, however, the similar forms of these distantly related plants evolved continents apart. *Euphorbia dregeana*, widespread in Namaqualand, Cape Province, South Africa and Namibia forms clumps a meter or more high and up to three times as wide of slender, terete (cylindrical) branches. If you have ever been to Baja you would

recognize this description as fitting to *Pedilanthus macrocarpus*, which is widespread throughout that region. Both species have the same growth habit, both possess terete stems with small leaves raised on decurrent thickenings of the stem and thick milky sap. Both also have a tendency to crest and form similar broad, twisting contortions. Although similar in many ways, *Euphorbia dregeana* and *Pedilanthus macrocarpus* employ completely different pollination mechanisms, reflected in their very different flowers. *E. dregeana* has small yellow cyathia type flowers near the tips of the branches, typical of the fly/bee pollination syndrome common to many Euphorbias. *P. macrocarpus*, on the other hand, has the odd slipper-shaped (or tiny horse head as I think of it) inflorescence typical of *Pedilanthus*, and a bright red to attract hummingbirds. So what we have are two distantly related plants, which have evolved a similar growth form but a very different flower form, each catering to a specific pollinator.

Other examples of morphological convergence can easily be spotted in botanical gardens, which display both Old and New World succulents. Some obvious example are the rosette form of the Agaves of the New World and Aloes of the old; *Haworthia* of the Old World, *Dudleya* and *Echeveria* of the New World. The Pachypodiums of Madagascar bear a strong resemblance to the Boojum (*Idria columnaris*) of Baja, though I have not seen any Pachy's that take on the fantastical twists of the dancing Boojums! The Alluaudias of Africa, especially in their juvenile forms, remind me of the spiny *Fouquieria splendens* or Ocotillo of the California and Mexican deserts. The Alluaudias also resemble some of the Euphorbias, such as *Euphorbia splendens* (though I am not sure if that is the reference being made in **The Cactus Club Killings** opening quote from Nathan Walprow wonderful succulent mystery.)

Another type of morphological convergence occurs in the "pollination syndrome" or flowers shaped to attract particular pollinators. Bird pollinated flowers occur in hundreds of species belonging to many plant families. In the New World such divergent succulent plants as *Pedilanthus* (mentioned earlier) and various cactus such as *Cleistocactus*, *Cochemia*, and *Borzicactus* display trumpet, tubular shaped flowers with bright red flowers to attract hummingbirds. All these plants are coincident with the natural range of the Hummingbirds. Convergent bird pollination appears in the Old World, pollinated by Sunbirds, another nectar feeding species, the most familiar to succulent collectors being the Aloes. Those of us with

large *Aloe* collections will readily attest to the adaptation of the pollinators as we watch the hummingbirds busy on our Aloes during their blooming cycles.

Physiological Convergence (similarity of function)

On a broader scale, the succulent habit (plants storing water in stems, leaves or roots,) which allows plants to survive periods of drought, occur in more than thirty different families of flowering plants from widely divergent branches of the tree of life. There are a number of orchids that have large succulent bulbs to store water and tough leaves to prevent dehydration. The succulent pelargoniums, which make such beautiful succulent bonsai under Rudy's masterful care, are a far cry from my grandmothers geraniums. Common milkweed of the *Asclepiadaceae* family, which we work to keep from our beds, has several handsome succulent cousins.

In conclusion, I want to say that though I have been thinking about this subject for a long while, doing some research in the area has been a real eye opener. It has left me asking more questions than when I started. My hope is that I have given you some things to think about as you collect, propagated, and disperse these fascinating plants. I know the more I learn affects the way I look at my plants. I think about how they have evolved to look the way they do. How are they related to other species? How can plants that are so closely related look so very different, while at the same time, looking so much like and being completely unrelated? Maybe this is just what attracts us to these Wonders of the World...

References:

The Cactus Primer Gibson and Nobel, Harvard University Press. 1986
Euphorbia Journal vol.3&4 Strawberry Press, 1985

*** My challenge to all of you is to look at your collections for examples of convergent evolution, most particularly examples of MORPHOLOGICAL CONVERGENCE and bring them to the May meeting. I will award some benefit drawing tickets to what I judge to be the most outstanding examples...Thanks, Pam Badger**



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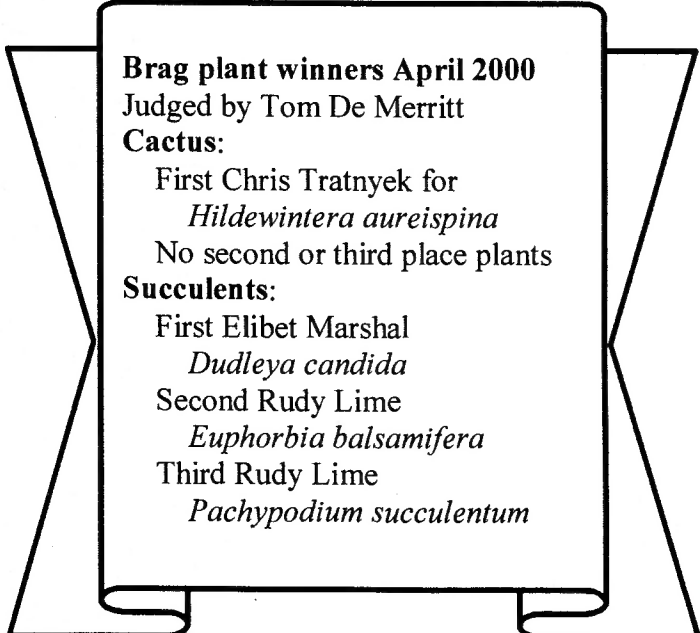
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Brag plant winners April 2000
Judged by Tom De Merritt

Cactus:
First Chris Tratnyek for
Hildewintera aureispina
No second or third place plants

Succulents:
First Elibet Marshal
Dudleya candida
Second Rudy Lime
Euphorbia balsamifera
Third Rudy Lime
Pachypodium succulentum

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SHOW — JUNE 3 & 4, 2000

Plant Entry Classification Schedule for the SDCSS Spring Show

◆ DIVISION I - CACTI

1. *Frailea, Blossfeldia*
2. *Uebelmannia, Buiningia*
3. *Parodia*
4. *Notocactus*
5. *Gymnocalycium*
6. *Rebutia, Sulcorebutia*
7. *Echinopsis, Lobivia, Weingartia, Soehrensia, etc.*
8. *Melocactus, Discocactus*
9. *Copiapoa*
10. *Neoporteria, Neochilenia, Islaya, Pyrrhocactus, Horridocactus, Erioseye, etc.*
11. *Borzicactus, Matucana, Oroya, Denmoza*
12. TUBE FLOWERED CEREONDS:
Arrojadoa, Haageocereus, Cleistocactus, Oreocereus, Espostoa, etc.
13. WIDE FLOWERED CEREONDS:
Trichocereus, Pilosocereus, Cephalocereus, Pachycereus, Stenocereus, Myrtillocactus, Peniocereus, Wilcoxia, etc.
14. *Echinocereus*
15. *Gymnocactus, Hamatocactus, Neolloydia, Pediocactus, Sclerocactus, Thelocactus, Turbinicarpus, Ancistrocactus, etc.*
16. *Coryphantha, Escobaria*
17. *Mammillaria* and allies:
Both single and multiple
18. *Ariocarpus, Obregonia, Strombocactus, Aztekium, Epithelantha, Pelecyphora*
19. *Astrophytum*
20. *Ferocactus*
21. *Echinocactus, Echino-fossulocactus, Stenocactus*
22. EPIPHYTIC CACTI: *Selenicereus, Hylocereus, Heliocereus, Aporocactus, Epiphyllum, Disocactus, Rhipsalis, Schlumbergera, etc.*
23. *Pereskia, Opuntia, Tephrocactus, Pterocactus, Quiabentia, Maihuenia, etc.*
24. Other genera of cacti
25. CRESTED, MONSTROSE & VARIEGATED CACTI

◆ DIVISION II - OTHER SUCCULENTS

30. *Alluaudia, Didierea & Decarya*
 31. *Lithops, Conophytum, Argyroderma, Pleisopilos, Fenestraria, etc.*
 32. *Trichodiadema, Mestoklema, etc.*
 33. *Anacampseros, Portulaca, Portulacaria, Ceraria & Talinum*
 34. *Kalanchoe*
 35. *Cotyledon, Tylecodon, Adromischus*
 36. *Crassula*
 37. *Aeonium, Greenovia, Monanthes, Sedum, Sempervivum, etc.*
 38. *Pachyphytum, Tacitus, Graptopetalum, Orostachys, etc.*
 39. *Echeveria*
 40. *Dudleya, etc.*
- MADAGASCAR ENDEMIC EUPHORBIAS:
41. *Euphorbia - Miliu Type: miliu, duranii, beharensis, horombensis, etc.*
 42. *Euphorbia - Stem Type: neohumbertii, pachypodioides, ankarensis, viguieri, stenoclada, platyclada, etc.*
 43. *Euphorbia - Thickened Root or Caudex: decaryi, francoisii, cylindrifolia, etc.*
- ALL OTHER EUPHORBIAS:
44. *Euphorbia - spiny*
 45. *Euphorbia - non-spiny*
 46. *Euphorbia - caudiciform*
 47. *Jatropha, Pedilanthus, Monadenium, etc.*
 48. *Senecio, Kleinia, & Othonna*
 49. *Pelargonium & Sarcocaulon*
 50. STAPELIADS: *Caralluma, Huernia, Stapelia, Hoodia, Pseudolithos, etc.*
 51. VINE FORMING ASCLEPS: *Hoya, Ceropegia, Cynanchum, Sarcostemma, etc.*
 52. *Fockea, Brachystelma, Raphionacme, Gonolobus, etc.*
 53. *Pachypodium & Adenium*
 54. *Cissus & Cyphostemma*
 55. *Ficus & Dorstenia*
 56. *Fouquieria & Idria*
 57. *Ibervillea, Gerrardanthus, Kedrostis, Seyrigia, Xerosicyos & Adenia*

58. *PACHYCAULS (thick stems, other than those listed): Bursera, Commiphora, Bombax, Adansonia, Pachycormus, Operculicarya, etc.*
59. CAUDICIFORMS & GEOPHYTES (thickened rootstock, other than those listed): *Ipomoea, Dioscorea, Bowiea, Sinningia, etc.*
60. *Aloe*
61. *Gasteria, Astroloba, etc.*
62. *Haworthia*
63. *Sansevieria*
64. *Agave, Yucca, Hesperaloe, Nolina*
65. *Beaucarnea, Calibanus, Dasyliirion, Dracaena*
66. *Deuterochonia, Dyckia, Hechtia, etc.*
67. Any other genus
68. CRESTED, MONSTROSE & VARIEGATED SUCCULENTS

◆ DIVISION III - COLLECTIONS

A set of 6 - 10 different specimens that are related by a common theme: genus, form, shape or other character.

75. Cacti
76. Other succulents
77. Dish gardens and planters (no tags necessary here)

◆ DIVISION IV - SPECIALITIES

These categories combine cacti and succulent plants that are related by the classes listed below:

78. San Diego County Succulent
79. Baja Plant
80. Mexican Plant
81. Grafted Succulent
82. Seed Grown by Exhibitor
83. Miniature (≤ 3 inches)
84. Pachycaul or Caudiciform
85. Succulent Bonsai

◆ DIVISION V - DISPLAYS

86. Displays and Exhibits

◆ DIVISION VI -ARTWORK

- NON COMPETITIVE
87. Succulent Plant:
Photography and Artwork

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLASSIFICATION NUMBERS HAVE CHANGED AS WELL AS THE DIVISION MAKE-UP

Entry Notes: PLEASE USE THE MOST CURRENT CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE. The classes and numbering have changed.

Classes 1-68 are divided into two pot sizes: A and B (A=5 inches and under, B over 5 inches - measurements are of the maximum inside dimension). Note that one plant per container is allowed in these classes.

Three categories for entries are as follows: **GREEN** cards for exhibitors that have won 10 or less blue ribbons in a recognized cactus and succulent show. **YELLOW** cards are for participants that have won more than 10 blue ribbons. **BLUE** cards are for commercial exhibitors and those that want to compete against them. Awards will be selected from any category.

Show Rules

Read the Entry Notes below the Plant Entry Classification Schedule. The show is open to anyone that grows succulent plants. There is no limit to the number of entries per class or the number of classes entered, though no entry can be entered in more than one class. All property shall be marked with the owner's name, not visible to the judges. Plants must be grown by the exhibitor for at least six months.

All entries must have properly filled entry cards and must be entered on the appropriate Division and Class to be eligible for some of the awards. Exhibitors are responsible for placing these items with their entries. For the best plant grown from seed, the exhibitor must have raised the plant themselves. Plants may be species or hybrids. Hybrids may be exhibited in the class of either parent. Grafted plants will be accepted in any class, though awards for grafts will be selected from Division IV.

Entries must be clean, healthy and dry. Remove Plant name tags in pots (except for collections and displays). Awards must remain with exhibits until the close of the show. Classes with few entries may be combined, classes with too many entries may be split into B and C (for oversize). The show committee reserves the right to reject plants or exhibits and to readjust entries for the good of the show. Show hours must be followed. The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society will exercise due caution in safeguarding exhibits, however, it cannot assume responsibility for loss of property. Entries are judged against perfection. The judges' decisions are final. In the case of disputes the show chair(s) shall make final decisions.

TROPHIES AND PLAQUES, are perpetual, except the educational and novice awards. First, Second and Third place ribbons will be awarded in each class; however, should the judges feel that: First, Second or Third place is not merited, it will be withheld. To receive the CSSA Award two or more educational displays must be entered.

CACTUS

Best Cactus Phillip Corliss Plaque
 Best Novice Cactus SDCSS Plaque
 Best Epiphytic Cactus Plant
 William & Ruth Nelson Trophy
 Best Mammillaria Elibet Marshall Trophy
 Best Opuntieae James & Shirley Berry Trophy

OTHER SUCCULENTS

Best Succulent Ruby Falk Plaque
 Best Novice SDCSS Plaque
 Best Agave Doris Rake Plaque
 Best Aloe Barbara Jeppe Trophy
 Best Echeveria Oliver & Sophie Loyland Trophy
 Best Euphorbia Russell & Lydia Evans Cup
 Best Mesembryanthemum
 Samuel & Adela Markey Trophy
 Best Pelargonium or Sarcocaulon
 Wilna Johnson Trophy
 Best Sansevieria Richard G. Latimer, Sr. Trophy

CACTI OR SUCCULENTS

Best Baja Plant
 Richard G. Latimer Jr. Memorial Trophy
 Best Graft Bob & Suzanne Taylor Trophy
 Best Mexican Plant in Show Dudley B. Gold Trophy
 Best Plant From Seed Grown ... Tegelberg Family Plaque
 Best San Diego County Succulent . Julianne Rice Trophy
 Best Miniature Monte & Mary Woodworth Plaque
 Best Pachycaul or Caudiciform
 H. Warren & Virginia Buckner Trophy
 Best Succulent Bonsai Rudy & Teresita Lime Trophy
 People's Choice Award
 Rose D'Attilio Memorial Plaque

DISPLAYS, EXHIBITS AND HIGH POINTS

Best Educational Display CSSA Award
 Best Exhibit Reuben Vaughan Plaque II
 Most Artistic Display Walter & Hazel Scott Plaque
 High Points 50 or fewer entries
 James & Shirley Berry Trophy
 Sweepstakes Trophy Ronald & Marcia Monroe Trophy

SET UP TIME: Friday, June 2, Noon-9:00 PM, Saturday, June 3, 7:30-8:00 AM TAKE OUT TIME: Sunday, June 6, after 4 PM

❖ JUDGING SCALE-SPECIMENS, COLLECTIONS AND DISPLAYS ❖

Condition 70%, Staging 15%, Size & Maturity 10%, Nomenclature 5%

❖ EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY ❖

Two or more entries must be exhibited for CSSA award. Educational Value, 80%, Staging & Originality 20%

❖ AWARDS POINT SYSTEM ❖

Divisions I, II and IV, 1st-3 pts., 2nd-2 pts., 3rd-1 pts., Division III, 1st-7 pts., 2nd-5 pts., 3rd-3 pts.

Division V, 1st-12 pts., 2nd-10 pts., 3rd-8 pts., Plaques and Trophies, 10 pts.

❖ SHOW COMMITTEE ❖

Show Chairs Thomas Knapik & Joseph Betzler, Head Clerk Kay Quijada, Luncheon Pam Badger
 Sales Chair Tom Birt, Sales Managers Tom Birt & Jeff Harris, Refreshments SDCSS and the membership

❖ JUDGES ❖

Joe Clements Tom Glavich Jim Hanna Lee Phelps
 TIEBREAKERS WILL BE JUDGED BY THE HEAD CLERK OR THEIR APPOINTEE

❖ THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY ❖

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 Your donations are graciously accepted.

[Herb Stern received this note and passed it to me awhile ago, it was written in January when Tom wrote What's the Status? Topic #4: Whitesloanea crassa. I decided to print a copy of the letter here. No editing or retouching, just our first piece of fan mail. Since we started as editors in August 1999, it has been fun and a lot of work. Letters and thoughts like Joan's really go to our goal, to share with others the wonders of these plants that we love so much. I hope that through these pages we might be able to share the 'diversity and beauty' possible in these unique plants. Sincerely, the Associate Editor.]

Joan E. Fleer

San Diego, January 8th 2000.

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, Inc.
PO. Box 33181,
San Diego, CA. 92163-3181

I have just finished reading my January issue of the "Espinass y Flores", as usual from beginning to end. I am so fascinated by Tom Knapik's article "What's the Status". It's beautifully written and easily understood by anyone who has only limited knowledge about cacti and succulents like me. Still, it awoke in me the desire to help searching for more of the species to prevent them from disappearing all together. For me, closer to 'resigning' myself, it's impossible, but I hope, many others will try.

The plants we cherish in our club are truly unique. I very much regret that through the long years I have been a member I have not learned much more than to love them and admire them. I enjoyed the "Espinass y Flores" every month and tried not to miss a meeting, though, I hardly understood the discussions. It's a "Stand Still" in Learning when you can not hear. Still, I loved, what I saw. At every meeting and every exhibition I could hardly comprehend that such a diversity and beauty is possible among these categories, Cacti and Succulents.

For a fleeting moment I hesitated to renew my membership because I won't be able to attend many meetings, but Tom's "What's The Status" shows me that I'd have made a great mistake to give up something that gives me such pleasure.

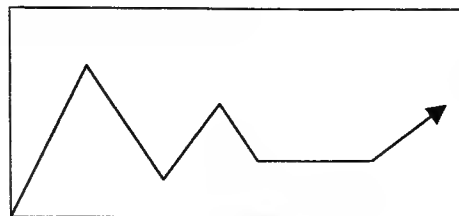
Sincerely!

Joan E. Fleer.

WHAT'S THE STATUS?

by Tom Knapik

Topic #6: *Adenium socotranum*



One of the most beautiful succulent genera is *Adenium*, with their huge caudex and incredible flowers. These fast growing plants are usually well represented in most succulent collections. Many hybrids are now appearing on the market making this group even more desirable. One species has eluded the collector though; *Adenium socotranum*. Mark Dimmitt has created a web site for those interested in this genus at <http://cactus-mall.com/andre/> and writes the following information about this rare species;

“*Adenium socotranum* Vierh. is endemic to the island of Socotra in the Indian Ocean south of the Arabian peninsula. It is the giant of the genus, forming a conical trunk/caudex several meters tall and up to 2.4 m (eight feet) in diameter (Balfour, 1888; Rowley, 1983). It resembles a miniature baobab. The stems of the single clone available to us are strongly vertical and distinctly striated, a unique character in the genus. The leaves are about 12 cm (4.7") long, are widest (4 cm, 1.6") near the tip, and are dark green with a white midrib and light major veins. Balfour described the flowers as bright pink and twice the size of those of "mainland *A. multiflorum*" (he considered the Socotran population to be of this species), which would make them 10-13 cm (4-5") in diameter.

This magnificent species is virtually unknown in cultivation, so its performance cannot be described with confidence. The six-foot tall specimen in Hanson's collection is in leaf only during the summer months, leafing out even later than *A. boehmianum*. It has not flowered in seven years, although it did once when Frank Horwood owned it. A specimen at the Huntington Botanical Gardens has also not flowered to date. The only other cultivated specimen known to us is in the collection of the Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria, South Africa (Myron Kimmach, written comm.)”

Now, seeds have recently been obtained from a botanical expedition and grown by Dylan Hannon,

horticulturist at Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden and past board member of our own club. Of the 40 or so seeds he set, 25 germinated and are growing well. Hopefully, they will soon flower in cultivation and provide the first propagated seeds and plants ever. Great going Dylan! Cultivated *Adenium socotranum* will be a long awaited addition to an already fantastic genera.

If you have any additional information about this species or would like to inquire about another that has changed its status, please contact me at; eyf2000@aol.com.



From R. Von Wettstein, 1905

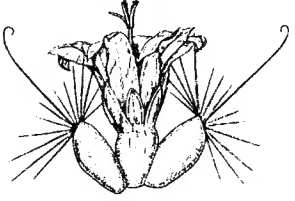


Seedlings of *Adenium socotranum*

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Name this type of root formation. It is very common with many plants. These roots will form often without any coaxing from us, as these ones have. These type of roots will form on other plants that are not succulent like: corn and spider plants.

The plant pictured is the monstrose form of *Lophocereus schottii*, the Old Man Cactus or Senita of Baja. These large 8 to 12 foot specimens are at the Desert Botanical Gardens in Phoenix. This plant was collected many years ago and is thriving at DBG.

If you have a chance to get out to this part of the Southwest make it a point to see this collection. The specimens are fantastic, with a wide range of succulent as well as xerophytic plants.

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. SDCSS Web Page available soon please stay tuned for address.