

ESPINAS Y FLORES



2005 WINTER SHOW & SALE

The Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Inc.

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

Volume 40 Number 2

Saturday February 12th

Room 101 Casa Del Prado

Balboa Park, San Diego CA

See Details Inside

Presidents Message

January 14th, 2005

Greetings and salutations!

I hope this finds everyone with copious plants ready to go for our February 12th show and sale. Fortunately this year we're not competing with Valentine's day for attention.

We had an exceptional meeting in January. One thing that really impressed me was our library on display near the entrance with new books prominently displayed on top of our old bookcase. Kudos to the Phils for getting this properly staged and promoted! Our library is a wonderful asset to all of us, and I encourage you all to make use of it. Jeff Harris showed off our newly constructed bookcase and gave a nice talk on a number of books he considers to be indispensable for those of us who consider ourselves students of succulent plants.

Woody Minnich gave a nice presentation of his recent trip to Argentina. Joe and Kay Quijada were also on this trip, so it will be nice to get their perspective in a program later this year. Another regular speaker, Gary James, may also be giving us his perspective on a similar trip through the area later this year, so we should all be fairly familiar with the cacti and succulent plants of Argentina by this time next year!

Our brag table plants were in such wonderful abundance that it took Mr. Minnich nearly an hour to judge and briefly discuss each one. Juergen Menzel's *Digitostigma (Astrophytum) caput-medusae* grafted on *Pere-skiopsis* was an absolute show-stopper, along with *Turbinicarpus niebla* and a few other goodies he brought along. Keep it up, folks, we seem to always have such an amazing and beautiful array of plants at our monthly meetings, it is great practice for our annual shows!

Can we stop praying for rain yet? Every year around this time I think I should water my plants a little more often in the winter. With the 10-15 inches we've had since October. This may be the first year I'm not quite so worried about it, at least with regards to the plants in the landscape and otherwise subjected to the elements. It's unfortunate to lose so many big trees here around the Morley Field area of Balboa Park, and I hear that palm canyon in the Anza-Borrego was next to devastated by flash flooding. The bright side to our wetter than usual winter will no doubt be exemplified by an incredible flowering season this year in the deserts. Bring us your requests for field trips (phone, fax, or email on the back of this issue), and let's start planning to get out there now!

Don't forget to tell all your friends about our **Winter Show and Sale Saturday, February 12th from 10:00am 'til 4:00pm in Room 101 Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park!!!**

See you all there!

Mark Fryer

Cover: *Astrophytum onzuka* closeup
Photo Credit: Mark Fryer

F.Y.I.
For Your Information

SDCSS WINTER SHOW & SALE

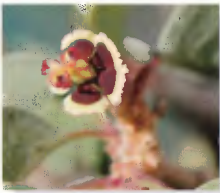
Setup begins at 8:00am, all vendors and exhibitors need to be finished setting up by 9:59 AM so we can open the doors at 10:00am

Wildflowers at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Updated January 28, 2005

<http://www.anzaborrego.statepark.org/wildflowers.html>

—All the rain that we have had has transformed our park. The hillsides, valleys, and mountains are sporting a palette of many shades of green. The wildflowers are taking a stand amidst the grasses and mustards and, upon a much closer look, on foot, the tiny wildflowers can be seen in some areas: The mouth of Coyote Canyon at the end of DiGiorgio Road has a jump start on the season and is proudly displaying the delicate dune evening primrose, the purple sand verbena, a myriad of Spanish needles and brown-eyed evening primrose, as well as the tiny popcorn flower. These particular wildflowers can be viewed in many different sections of the park, except for the sand verbena which is slower to bloom elsewhere. In fact, the brown-eyed evening primrose is lining the roadsides in Ocotillo Wells, Canebrake on S2, as well as DiGiorgio Road.



This year's bloom should be a lasting one from mid-February through mid-March. This is not exclusive timing as we anticipate the cactus and higher elevations will keep blooming after March. For the rest of this season, the updates will continue on a weekly basis.

January Flowering Mammillarias

By, Mark Fryer

Most cactus enthusiasts dread the winter months, especially when growing in climates less favorable than the heavenly environment of the San Diego region. The vast majority of cacti genera really are spring and summer flowering, but there's a dizzying array of species which truly are winter-flowering. A certain smattering of various genera will happily bud up and flower for us this time of year; *Uebelmannia*, *Turbinicarpus*, *Submatucana* and *Matucana*, *Pilosocereus*, among others, but it is the genus *Mammillaria* which must get the award for the highest propensity for winter-flowering. Aside from being one of the largest genera of the Cactaceae, the ability of *Mammillaria* to inspire and raise expectations for spring flowering being "just around the corner" has to be one of their many characters that makes them so desirable as ornamental subjects.

This year I am comparing notes taken last year where I was simply trying to make a list of plants in full flower in January. While some cactus genera like *Submatucana*, *Sulcorebutia*, or *Pilosocereus* can be a few weeks earlier or later (depending on how well watered I've been keeping them), *Mammillaria* seems to be like a faithful clock, always having certain species in high-flower during the month of January.

Using Hunt's classification (Sections and Series), here follows a brief listing of species I find to be at their height of flowering in January here in San Diego. I have intentionally omitted sections and series that appear to be void of flowering species during December/January, and unintentionally omitted species that I don't grow. If you have any feedback or additions/corrections, I'm always interested to hear your comments.

Section Hydrochylus

* Series Longiflorae:

***M. longiflora* group:**

M. longiflora to a lesser degree than it's form *M. stampferi* (which looks almost identical except that the floral tube and outer perianth parts of *M. stampferi* are considerably smaller than *M. longiflora*), and that *M. stampferi* flowering peaks in January, as opposed to *M. longiflora* which will a month later.

***M. saboae* group:**

M. goldii will be the January flowerers champion, as *M. theresae* and *M. saboae* (and var's) peaked back in December. *M. luethyi* can go off anytime during the winter and early spring around here, so it's difficult for me to gauge whether this month is it's typical flowering month.

*Series Stylothelae:

***M. bombycina* group:**

M. bombycina, *M. stella-de-tacubaya*, *M. mathildae*, *M. mercadensis*, *M. moellerana*, *M. perezdelarosa*, *M. unihamata*, *M. weingartiana*, *M. zacatecasensis*, and *M. zeilmanniana*. While the *M. zeilmanniana* are still revving up for a major floral flush in the

spring, a few flowers here and there are not uncommon. *M. bombycina*, *M. perezdelarosa*, and others may be at the height of their annual flowering now. I think *M. unihamata* has the most fragrant flowers of any of these species, with just a few plants one can create their own aroma-therapy.

*Series Proliferae:

***M. prolifera* group:**

M. schwarzii is the real show off in this series/group in January, usually covering itself with little delicate, creamy white flowers.

*Series Lasiacanthae:

Of all the series of *Mammillaria*, these groups must have one of the largest numbers of species in flower in January here in San Diego.

***M. lasiacantha* group:**

M. lasiacantha and var. *denudata*, *M. egregia*, and *M. magallanii*.

These forms are a little tricky to tell apart, as they look so similar to one another. As miniature cacti go, it's hard to beat the charm and delicate nature these species possess. January is their month to shine, and yes those little tiny gems are flowers.

***M. schiediana* group:** While *M. schiediana*, the namesake of this group, has probably finished up its flowering cycle by the time January rolls around, *M. carmenae* and *M. plumosa* should be hitting the peak of

their flowering by early to mid January. *M. giseleae*, a slightly less common species in cultivation is also a December-through February flowerer, if cultivated properly.

***M. humboltii* group:** *M. humboltii*, and *M. lauii* (and its varieties) are usually in high flower from mid-December through January.

***M. lenta* group:** *M. aurielanata* flowers like crazy in January, provided it's had plenty of fall-watering.

***M. pectinifera* group:** *M. pectinifera* and *M. solisiodes* here have a habit of bi-weekly bursts of flowers, usually starting in early to mid-December and continuing through February, thus I consider January to be their peak month of floral performance. Without

question *M. sanchez-mejorada* holds January as its preferred month for floral activity.

*Series Sphacelatae:

***M. spha-celata* group:** Only *M. kraehenbuehlii* will have the renegade plant in high-flower this



Mammillaria rubrograndis

time of year, not entirely surprising for a group of plants from south-central Mexico. Usually early spring (before our June gloom rolls in) is their preferred time of year for full-on flowering.

Section Subhydrochylus

*Series Heterochlorae:

***M. rhodantha* group:**

M. pringlei (and forms) are just coming on in early January, a pre-cursor to early spring flowering, nonetheless it is not unexpected that a particular plant may find it's preferred month to be January.

*Series Polyacanthae:

***M. spinosissima* group:**

M. spinosissima, *M. pilcayensis*, *M. backebergiana*, and *M. matudae* should all be hitting their flowering stride at some point in January.

*Series Supertextae:

***M. supertexta* group:**

M. crucigera, *M. dixanthocentron*, *M. albilanata*, *M. huitzilopotchli*, and (of course) *M.*

supertexta are all in high flower from late December through January.

Other species in this group can flower sporadically in January, but it's been my experience these are usually 'flukes' and not reliable flowering dates.



Mammillaria unihamata

Section Mammillaria:

*Series Macrothelae:

***M. heyderi* group:**

A number of *M. heyderi* forms will have peak flowering performance here in January, while others will appear to be in the depths of deep sleep. *M. heyderi v. meiacantha* seems to want to do all of it's flowering within the confines of the month of January, while

M. heyderi v. hemisphaerica (for instance) will wait until spring.

***M. petterssonii* group:**

M. rubrograndis is the real showoff in late December through January around here, usually tapering off by the end of the month when it's cousins begin to wake up and flower.

***M. magnimamma* group:**

M. krameri begins to hit it's flowering stride by mid-month, and given proper conditions can continue flowering through early spring, while some of the other forms of *M. magnimamma* may require the additional heat of early spring to open their buds.

*Series Polyedrae:

***M. karwinskiana* group:**

M. eichlamii is often at it's peak of flowering in early January.

Respectfully,

Mark Fryer

Ramblings of a Succulentophile

By: Meena Singh
u4bias4meena@hotmail.com from the
IOCS Journal - India

Succulentophile is a word you won't find in any dictionary but for all of us in the hobby of growing succulents it holds a great deal of meaning. It is our identity - it identifies us, in the words of my fond husband, as a bunch of loons who go gaga over some spiny plants!! What does he ever mean? What spiny plants? Doesn't he know that all succulents don't have spines? And so what if they do? So do roses and bougainvillea, to name a few. And those are more vicious and cause greater damage than our poor cacti spines ever do. But the part of the statement I wholly agree with is that bit about being a 'bunch of loons' I am loony about my beautiful succulent plants, thorns and all.

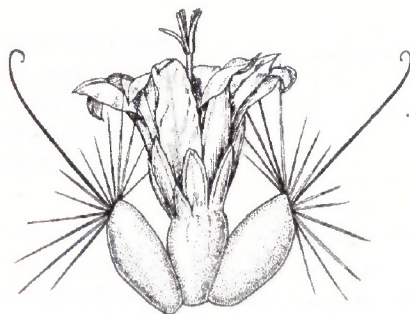
Succulentophilly, like any other hobby, has its trials and tribulations as it has its joys. For me the joys far override the trials. When I see my large, over a foot across, *Echinocactus grusonii*, I remember the small seedling I purchased 15 years ago. The joy it has given me all these years, and also when it will flower one day. It was bought as part of a 'collection of 12 assorted cacti' from Kalimpong. I was just beginning to get interested in cacti then and did not know much about growing them. I was working then and living in Hyderabad. I had met a couple who had a lovely collection of cacti. They gave me a couple of pups and addresses of cacti nurseries in Kalimpong. I began by ordering the

above mentioned '12 assorted cacti' and then '12 assorted mammillarias' and so on. These gave me joy when they grew big and flowered. They gave me joy when I could share pups with friends.

Over a period of time I find that my interests have changed a little. The 'other succulents' have slowly edged in and taken over. Unfortunately the nurseries in India cant meet up with my desires now, I have to look further a field. I read books and surf the net and see not only what gems there are in cultivation and how they are grown but also what is new in the hobby. Acquiring them is one of the trials faced. Also there are very few books on the subject in India. These books can be ordered but plants are more difficult. One manages.

What can be more joyous than seeing my *Uncarina grandidieri* tree in full bloom in spring? Or for that matter the *Adenium* flowers in their myriad shades of white to deep red. The Aloes also flower at the same time and the purple sunbird then becomes a regular visitor. As it sips nectar it pollinates. When I am very lucky, it builds its nest in the ardarium and raises its family there. At these times I forget the fact that I cant buy plants that I want easily or buy prepared compost. I forget the mealy bugs and the rot that often comes with high humidity and torrential rains during the monsoons.

Finally I remember all my friends, all over the world, who have given me so much love and have become a part of my family and me. Thank you God for succulentophilly!!!



Mammillaria thornberi

San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

P.O. Box 33181, San Diego, California, 92163-3181

PRESS RELEASE

Please release: February 2005
Name of club: The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society
Event: Annual Winter Show
Dates: Saturday, February 12th, 2005
Show Hours: Saturday, 10:00 AM - 4:00 P.M.

Place: **Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101**
(near the west side of The San Diego Natural History Museum)

- FREE ADMISSION -

The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society is hosting its annual winter show featuring Winter "growing" Cactus and Succulents. This show features spectacular specimens of cactus and other succulents from around the world. Exhibitors will be in on hand to answer your questions concerning culture of these plants. **The show is free to the public.**

For more information please contact:
Thomas DeMerritt, Publicity 858 270-5544

Thank You for publicizing our San Diego Cactus Society !

The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society is a nonprofit tax exempt organization

Straight Spined Mammillaria Clusters

By, Tom Glavich

Editor's Note: Reprinted from the January 2005 "Communique" the newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society

Mammillaria is one of the larger genera in the *Cactus* family, and one of the most variable, with some members remaining as solitary columns for their entire lives, some remaining as fingernail size solitary globulars, some clumped and heavily spined with hooks. However, some of the most attractive are the straight spined clusters.

Although most *Mammillaria* are native to Mexico, some species in the genus can be found from Columbia to Kansas and California. With this wide distribution, the cultivation requirements obviously vary considerably. The species from the tropics and warmer areas are rarely tolerant of cold and damp. Those from the drier desert regions are also intolerant of continued damp, but can take considerable cold. With these restrictions aside, most *Mammillaria* are easy to grow.

The secrets to good growth are a continued supply of fertilizer during the growing season, strong light, and maintenance of a clean and insect free growing environment. The appearance of white mealy bug egg cases (*Mammillaria's* worst enemy) on the tips of the spines or the appearance of

ants means that mealy bugs are sucking the sap and life of the plant. Immediate treatment is required, with a thorough washing, and spraying with an insecticide.

Propagation of *Mammillaria* clusters is easy. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season (April to early November), left to dry for a few days and replanted in a clean potting mix. Rooting is rapid, with short white roots generally appearing after a couple of weeks. *Mammillaria* are one of the easiest species to grow from seed. The seeds are simply placed on top of a damp potting mix, covered with a light coating of gravel, placed in a plastic bag in bright light, but out of direct sun and allowed to germinate.



Mammillaria humboldtii entered in the 2001 Innercity Show by Bill Munkascy

Germination usually occurs in a week or 10 days. The seedlings can stay in the plastic bag for several weeks until they get large enough to survive unprotected, and should then be removed to a still shaded, but brighter and drier environment. Most will survive, and grow quickly. Show quality plants can sometimes be

grown in just 4 or 5 years, and entries can be ready for seedling classes in as little as 6 months.

Classic Straight Spined *Mammillaria*

Mammillaria decipiens subsp. *campotricha* from Queretaro, long known as the birds nest, has a dark green body and long twisting spines that can vary from white to yellow (most common) to red, depending on the clone.

Mammillaria crucigera produces clumps by splitting dichotomously (each head splitting into two). The body ranges from green to almost brown to almost purple. This species is a slow grower.

Mammillaria elongata, one of the first cacti that everyone grows is easy, and extraordinarily tolerant of abuse. It has the odd characteristic of being very popular and also unfairly neglected, since advanced growers ignore this easy grower, even though there are a variety of forms and colors, many of which can make a spectacular plant.

Mammillaria geminispina, is a variable species with some varieties having short white spines, while others have long flexible centrals.



Mammillaria herrerae entered in the 2000 Inncity Show by Woody Minnich

Mammillaria herrerae is a spectacular small white species, with very dense interlacing spines, shown at the right. It comes from Queretaro Mexico.

Mammillaria lenta, from Coahuila forms mounds of off-white to white. Slower growing than the somewhat similar *M. plumosa*, described below, it is often a show winner.

Mammillaria luethyi from Coahuila, and discovered in 1996 is now available in cultivation. A breathtaking miniature, it has very short white spines on a dark green body.

Mammillaria nivosa generally has a dark green body, offset with woolly areoles, and open yellow spines.

Mammillaria plumosa is a relatively quick grower, forming mounds of white heads. The heads are covered with white feathery spines, which must be kept dry if the color is to be maintained.

Mammillaria viperiana from Puebla Mexico, is generally a white spined species, that clumps from the body, particularly as the main body elongates.

Mammillaria voburnensis v. *eichlamii* from Guatemala is a quick and dense clumper, with areoles covered with yellow wool.

References:

E. Anderson, The Cactus Family
J. Pilbeam, Cactus for the Connoisseur
R. Craig, The Mammillaria Handbook
C. Innes & C. Glass Cacti

Tom Glavich December 2004
Pictures T. Nomer

Upcoming Events

2005

January 15 : CSSA Board Meeting at Huntington Botanical Gardens

February 12: SDC&SS Winter Show- Details in this issue of EYF

April 3-4 : 2005 Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale at the Denver Botanical Gardens

April 9,10th: 9am-5pm; South Coast CSS, plant show & sale at South Coast Botanical Garden; contact Dick Hulett at 310-832-2262 (E-mail pet-plants@sbcglobal.net); Carol Causey at 310-675-5843; Jim Hanna at 562-920-3046 or aloecats1@aol.com. This is a unique artistic non-judged show with multiple displays.

April 16 : CSSA Board Meeting at Huntington Botanical Gardens

April 24th: South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show, South Coast BG; 310-831-1209

April 30th: May 1st: Sunset C&SS show & sale; Veterans Memorial Ctr, Culver City 310-822-1783

May 15th: 10-5 Huntington Gardens Plant Sale, 1151 Oxford Road San Marino, CA

May 15th: Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale, LA Arboretum 310-831-1209

May 21st: 1-4, 22nd: 9-4 Gates C&SS show & sale, Jurupa Mtn Cultural ctr; Glen Avon CA; 909-360-8802

May 21: First Annual Encinitas Garden Festival and Gardeners Marketplace. Info: arosado@ci.encinitas.ca.us

June 4,5th: San Diego C&SS Summer Show & sale, Balboa Park 619-477-4779

July 1 - 3 : CSSA Annual Show and Sale at Huntington Botanical Gardens

August 5 - 11 : CSSA 31st Biennial Convention, Scottsdale Plaza Resort, Phoenix, Arizona Host Club: The Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society Special Rate for Rooms \$89 per night (Normally \$300)

Convention Chairman, Duke Benadom Program Chairman, Leo Martin e-mail: leo1010@attglobal.net Confirmed speakers already include Sheila Collenette, Chuck Hanson, John Lavranos, Mark Muradian, Gard Roper, Guy Wrinkle.

August 20, 21st: Intercity Show & Sale, 18th annual; LA Arboretum 626-798-2430, 818-998-9306

Sept 3rd: 21st Annual Succulent Symposium; Huntington Gardens

Sept 4th: CSSA Board Meeting, HBG

September 25th: Long Beach C&SS Annual Auction; 18127 So. Alameda St, Compton CA

October 15,16: San Gabriel C&SS Winter show & sale; LA Arboretum; 301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia, CA

2006

January 14 CSSA Board Meeting, Ahmanson Class Room, HBG

April 15 CSSA Board Meeting, Ahmanson Class Room, HBG

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