

MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

Espinas y Flores

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

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PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER.

Dr. David Hardy will speak on "Succulents of Malagasy".

Dr. Hardy is Chief Technician at the Botanical Research Institute in Pretoria, South Africa. He authored "Aloes of the South African Veldt", and has spent long periods of time in Malagasy (Madagascar), the Maccarene Islands, Namaqualand, South West Africa and Angola.

Plants named by Dr. Hardy include: Aloe erinacecea, A. pictifolia, and A. prinslooii. Plants named in his honor include: Stultita hardyi (Dyer), Stapelianthus hardyi (Lavranos), and Euphorbia platyclada var. hardyi (Rank).

BE SURE YOU DON'T MISS THIS INTERESTING
PROGRAM!

Saturday, September 11th.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH: Brazilian Cereoids.

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: Euphorbia.

Hi, fellow members:

What a busy, exciting, hot and, yes, exhausting year this has been - so far. In addition, upon arrival back from our trip, we took over all the trappings of "Espinas y Flores" only to discover (to our dismay) that we had only some 10 days or less before going into print! (Temperatures in Escondido have been in the 100's these past few days, which hasn't exactly helped.)

This venture is, for both Geoff and myself, entirely a FIRST, so please bear with us. Inspired by the success of past Editors, and helped by various faithful and active members of the Club too numerous to mention, we hope to improve with time. Meanwhile, we would very much appreciate any further contributions with which the rest of you knowledgeable people may provide us.

Hopefully,

Audrey Johnson

Your new Lady Ed.

CACTUS-OF-THE-MONTH

Brazilian Cereoids

George Radwin.

Among the more attractive cactus discoveries of the past several years has been a substantial number of more or less tall, cylindrical cereoid types. In South America, where most of these remarkable plants originate, there seem to be two major groupings; an eastern group from Venezuela, Guyana, and Brazil. These are strictly tropical plants most closely related to the Pilosocereoids and, surprisingly, to Melocactus. The other, western grouping, from Peru, Bolivia, and Chile, as well as parts of Paraguay and Argentina, is most closely related to Espostoa and Borzicactus. This month's article deals with the former group and next month's with the latter.

Aside from the large and well-known genus Cereus (derived from the Latin for taper or candle) the great tropical portion of the South American land mass, largely in Brazil, has seen the radiation of the columnar cacti into an amazing diversity of generic or subgeneric forms.

PILOSOCEREUS: The most prevalent group of cereoids after the true Cereus, this group differs from that genus in the formation of a hairy, white, lateral reproductive zone extending down from the apex for some distance. Typical cereoid flowers and fruit arise from this region. Although latter day authors, especially Backeberg, have subdivided this genus into several nominal groups (Pseudopilocereus, Subpilocereus) on the basis of minor distinctions of flower and fruit, there seems to be little gained from such "cephalium-hair-splitting". If viewed as a single group there are at least 80 nominal species presently known. Some of the recently described species include: P. pachycladus, P. fulvilanatus, P. supremus, P. flavilanatus, P. magnificus, and others.

ARROJADOA: was described in 1908 for two new species in which flowers and fruit arise from a dense apical tuft of bristles. Subsequent growth continues as a new joint is added apically, the tuft of bristles being retained as a collar. Eventually, the shrubby plants reach about six feet in height, consisting of a series of joints with bristly collars at the junctions of the joints. The small, day-blooming, pink or red flowers are never more than narrowly open. In addition to the two original species, A. penicillata and A. rhodantha, there have been four others described in the last few years: A. canudosensis, A. dinae, A. eriocaulis, and A. albiflora.

BUININGIA and COLEOCEPHALOCEREUS are two cereoid types of comparatively short stature. Both appear to be only superficially similar to the true cereoid groups, as the flower, fruit, and seed, and the position of the cephalium are all strongly reminiscent of Melocactus. Of the two genera, Coleocephalocereus reaches a greater size, the maximum being six feet tall, and up to three inches in diameter. Buiningia looks very much like a Melocactus whose cephalium has slipped to one side. Rarely do these reach over 15 inches in height. Although the lateral position of the cephalium suggests that it is a pseudocephalium, the presumed close relationship to Melocactus

would favour its consideration as a true cephalium. There are six nominal species in Coleocephalocereus, including the beautiful C. goebelianus, and three nominal species in Buiningia, these being B. aurea, B. brevicylindrica, B. purpurea.

STEPHANOCEREUS is a comparatively brief-stemmed cereoid with solitary (i.e. unbranched) stems the rule in cultivation. Widespread in southern portions of the Brazilian State of Bahia, it grows to a maximum height of 10 feet and produces an apical ring of bristles as in Arrojadoa, except that its greater stem diameter and consistent columnar form serve to distinguish it clearly. In addition, the blooms are white and typical of the Pilosocereus group, except that the scent has an intensely garlic-like quality. An apical zone of densely curly wool almost covers the bluish-green stem for perhaps 10-30 percent of its extent. The genus has only one species assigned to it, S. leucosteles.

MICRANTHOCEREUS, another genus from the Bahia region of Brazil, grows into a small shrub with many short (up to four feet tall) upright stems. A very large number of very small pink, red, or yellow-orange blooms are produced in a densely woolly and bristly apical region. Although smaller, the blooms are like those of Arrojadoa, to which this genus is closely related. In Micranthocereus, however, the blooms arise from a lateral pseudocephalium, rather than from apical areoles as in Arrojadoa.

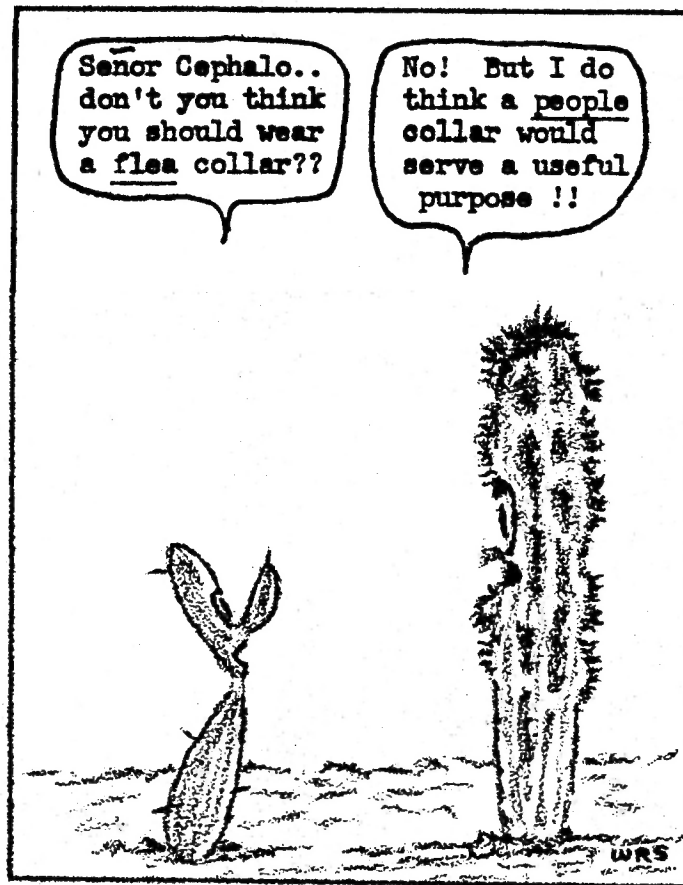
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- Mace, T., 1973, Stephanocereus leucosteles (Gurke) Berger. Nat. Cact. & Succ. J. (Gt. Britain) 28(1): 8.
- Mace, T., 1973, The genus Arrojadoa. Nat. Cact. & Succ. J. (Gt. Britain) 28(2): 37.
- Mace, T., 1973, The genus Micranthocereus. Nat. Cact. & Succ. J. (Gt. Britain) 28(3): 87.

HEARTY "THANKS" to those who volunteered help for the plant sale:

- to Doris Rake, Perlso Lewis, Ricky Latimer and Betty Athy for transporting those heavy loads to and from the show.
- to those who helped me behind the plant table... Wayne David and Doris Rake.
- and thanks again to those who brought plants for the sale... Perlso Lewis, Frances Johnson, Floyd Gable and Gene Lund.

Reed Pierce.



Thanks a million, Scottie, for honouring our first edition with one of your much-missed cartoons. Many more of the same, please! A.J.

-BARTER BOX

The San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society has, as the result of a recent salvage operation, a large number of specimens of Ferocactus viridescens, the Coast Barrel Cactus, and Mammillaria dioica, Pincushion Cactus. These plants, in all sizes, are being offered for sale at very reasonable prices, or as donations to any botanical preserves, educational institutions, etc.

Please call:

Jim Dice
276-6739 (evenings)

or

Fred Sproul,
President SD CHAPTER
California Native Plant
Society

461-0649

SUCCULENT-OF-THE-MONTH

Euphorbia

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Madelyn Lee

This large, world-wide family consists of over 6000 species, most of which are not succulent. The spurge that aggravates most gardeners, the Christmas poinsettia, and the common "Christ-thorn" are all of the euphorbia family.

The succulent euphorbias number between four and five hundred and are mostly found in Africa, India and the Arabian peninsula. Also, a few species are found in Mexico and South America.

The first record of the family was in 460 B.C., when Hippocrates wrote of its medicinal uses and values. In 25 B.C., King Juba II named the first succulent species after his physician, Euphorbus. The 'Medusan Medicinal Aloe', as it was generally called, was used to cure everything from a headache to bladder infections. The powdered latex was mixed with pepper, cinnamon and other ingredients and either rubbed on the afflicted area, or fed to the patient. This must have been incredibly painful as most of the euphorbias produce a toxic latex that is intensely irritating, or in some cases poisonous. It is understandable why it fell out of us by the late seventeen-hundreds.

The odd shapes, strange tuberous roots and wide variety of spines make this family a joy to collect. A collector can choose from miniature plants (E. decaryi, E. cylindrifolia, E. turbiniformis) to huge tree plants (E. lactea, E. ingens). There are those that form small bushes (E. aeruginosa, E. heptagona), and those that form large bushes (E. grandicornus). There are plants that form large tubers (E. persistens, E. tortitrama, E. squarrosa) and plants that look like a pile of green tubers (E. globosa, E. ornithopus). There is a whole group of leafy plants from Madagascar in the milii or "Christ-thorn" type (E. duranii, E. lophogona, E. leuconeura). And there are those plants that are hard to describe (E. bupleurifolia, E. Obesa, E. platyclada, E. esculenta), because they don't look like any other plant. It is even possible to have a whole collection of just the 'Medusae' (E. caput-medusae, E. flanaganii) type of euphorbias. The list is endless - and fascinating.

A large number of these plants are easy to grow, and, if you live in a frost-free area, can be grown outside here in Southern California. The rest of the euphorbias do require warm (above 45 degrees F.) conditions in the winter time. Most of them require feeding at regular intervals, and good amounts of water during the growing season.

Bring one of your euphorbias to the next meeting and share your plant and your experience with the other members.

A TRIP TO - NOT BAJA, BUT -
SAN FRANCISCO.

This busy, exciting year started, for me, last March, when I commenced an extensive publicity campaign for the big Quail Gardens Spring Plant Sale - a huge success. Almost before this was completed, I was deep into my duties involved with keeping our own particular area from being annexed to Escondido - again success! By this time, Mike's graduation activities were well under way, but this was fun stuff, and we enjoyed every minute of it. Geoff and I even survived the all-night activities at Disneyland, where we acted as Chaperones on Grad Night!!

With something like relief, we all settled down for awhile to recuperate, attend to our long-suffering gardens, and, finally, to commence last-minute arrangements for our various trips. Mike had planned a back-packing trip in Yosemite, whereas Geoff and I were hoping to make a long deferred visit to San Francisco. It was quite a business fixing Mike up to cover every possible emergency in the wilderness, but finally the adventurers were on their way.

It was many years since Geoff and I had had just ourselves to consider, and, with the dogs at local kennels, the birds with friends, and the garden well watered, it proved a simple task to pack our bags for an early start next day. Suddenly it all seemed so easy.

We were not looking forward to the first part of our journey through Los Angeles, and, as we hit the extremely heavy traffic and heat going through, our worst fears were realized. Furthermore, on the outskirts, we saw for the first time the devastation which had come to the hills from this year's lack of rainfall. They were yellow and sick-looking, and, in many places, bare and dusty down to the parched earth. Somehow, at this point, I began to hanker after cooler temperatures and moister air, and, with Geoff in agreement, we decided to follow the coastline whenever possible from that time on. It took us much longer, of course, but we never regretted our decision.

Leaving the poor, sad hills behind us, we ambled happily along the coastline that day, enjoying immensely the cooler air and the dampness. Later that afternoon we reached the quaint little town of Morro Bay (with which I instantly fell in love), and it was here that we decided to spend our first night. Our tour of the many tiny shops in the town was a fascinating one, and the restaurant we chose for our evening meal, overhanging the little harbour, a huge success. The local fishermen delivered their catch straight into the restaurant kitchen, so it just had to be fresh!

In Morro Bay, also, I was delighted to discover the "Garden Gallery," whose owners, in this moist and watery place, specialized in cacti and succulents, surprisingly enough. The plants proved to be in perfect condition, and were displayed in gorgeous containers - indeed they were truly works of art! Naturally, Geoff had a hard time dragging me away from this fascinating place, but finally, with a promise to return later and some last minute pictures of photogenic Morro Rock, he managed to get me back into the car.

Driving along beside the ocean, and later high on the cliffs, through the Big Sur country, was delightful, and we could have dallied indefinitely, but we had to press on. Somehow, this trip, we missed the 17 mile scenic drive along the Monterey Peninsula, perhaps owing to the excessive crowds of people and cars in Carmel as we passed through. Oh well, that's another excuse for a return trip - as if we need one.

By this time, naturally, I was getting very excited about my first glimpse of San Francisco, but in this, again, I was to be disappointed. For some time I had been looking with concern at the parched trees and the lack of luxuriant vegetation for which I had been hoping. As we approached, from the south, the outskirts of San Francisco, I could hardly believe my eyes. This ugly, cheek-by-jowl jumble of houses was San Francisco? Surely not!

Fortunately, our road led us directly to the Golden Gate Bridge, so over we went, to get our first satisfying glimpse of the Bay. Despite a howling gale, we took time to gaze across the Bay and enjoy the spectacular views, before I impatiently urged Geoff to drive on to Sausalito. Once in Sausalito, I was no longer one whit disappointed, and it was on the north side of San Francisco that we spent the rest of our stay, with forays across the bridge to view the usual tourist highlights. In Sausalito, also, I found some of the flowers, including fuschias and hanging-basket tuberous begonias, which I had hoped to discover in profusion in the San Francisco area. Shortage of water had a lot to do with this, no doubt, and we were shocked to learn that water conservation was so strict that a glass of water, in a restaurant, was only supplied upon request.

We enjoyed our trips into San Francisco despite the heavy tourist traffic, and took in crowded Fisherman's Wharf, where the seafood, we decided, was not a patch on that of Morro Bay. Chinatown we found quaint and interesting, but dirty. Even the little cable cars didn't quite come up to expectation. Ours (after a 40 min. wait in line) took us up a couple of hills, after which it broke down and we got out and walked. Those little cable cars certainly didn't reach "halfway to the stars" that day. We did, however, get a number of delightful pictures of Lombard Street (the Crookedest Street in the World) both from our car, and while walking down it afterwards.

On the other side of the bridge, besides Sausalito, we particularly enjoyed the little town of Mill Valley, which nestles in the middle of a forest, and our hikes through the redwoods of John Muir Woods just 4 miles away.

On the whole, we found San Francisco and its surrounding areas quite fascinating, and, knowing now the whys, whens and wherefores, we shall undoubtedly return - many times. Surprisingly enough, we had to return to our own area before enjoying flowering plants and luxuriant vegetation again, but I must admit that we really did enjoy the moist and cool temperatures we experienced while on vacation. Here, in Escondido, it is presently 107 degrees - oh well!

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Officers

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1ST V.P.	-	Madelyn Lee, 2310 Bella Vista, Vista, Ca. 92083	1-727-1364
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PROGRAMS	-	Madelyn Lee.
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Rep. to S.D. Floral Association	-	Verna Pasek.

MEMBERSHIP: The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing cacti, other succulents and exotic plants.

Dues: \$5.00 annually, due in December of each year.
Single copy of E y F : \$ 0.50.

Meetings: 2nd Saturday of each month, 1.30 p.m., Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, unless otherwise indicated.. Board convenes after the general meeting.

Deadline for October publication is September 18th, 1976.

PLEASE NOTE:

The October Meeting will be held on OCTOBER 16TH instead of October 9th.

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