



Prepare your entry for a Blue Ribbon!

# Espinas y Flores

BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

VOLUME XXVIII NUMBER THREE, MARCH 14, 1992

CASA DEL PRADO

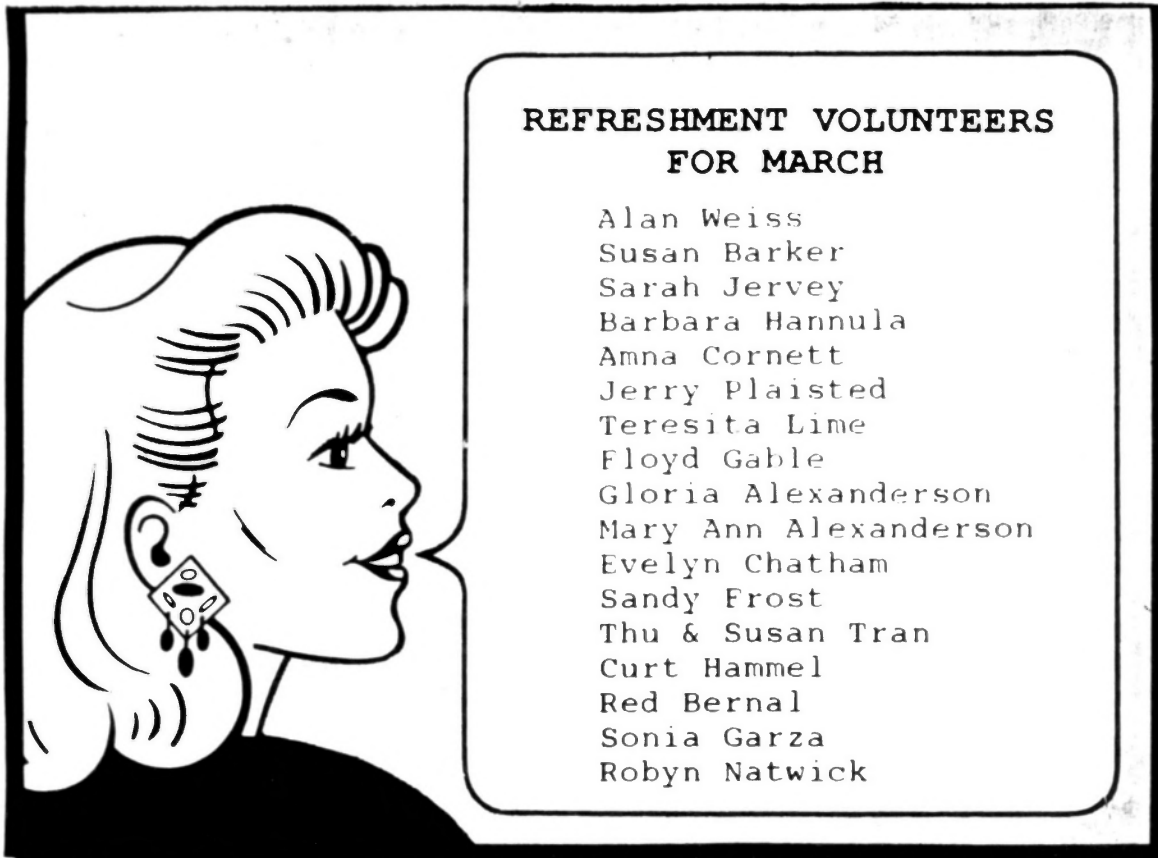
ROOM 101

Mini Show



**Saturday, March 14**

THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY'S FIRST ANNUAL WINTER MINI-SHOW WILL BE JUDGED AND EXPLAINED OUTLOUD BY TWO EXPERIENCED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE JUDGES: WOODY MINNICH (FROM FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM) AND LARRY GRAMMER, BOTH PRODUCERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE TRI-CITY SHOW (LARGEST C & S SHOW IN WORLD) AND RESPECTED GROWERS OF MANY FINE PLANTS. WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION AND PLANTS TO MAKE THIS EDUCATIONAL EVENT A SUCCESS. MORE INFORMATION INSIDE.



**REFRESHMENT VOLUNTEERS  
FOR MARCH**

Alan Weiss  
Susan Barker  
Sarah Jervey  
Barbara Hannula  
Anna Cornett  
Jerry Plaisted  
Teresita Lime  
Floyd Gable  
Gloria Alexanderson  
Mary Ann Alexanderson  
Evelyn Chatham  
Sandy Frost  
Thu & Susan Tran  
Curt Hammel  
Red Bernal  
Sonia Garza  
Robyn Natwick

**News...**

WOW, GREAT!!!! WAS OUR RESPONSE TO REFRESHMENT VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR REFRESHMENT BREAK, THANKS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION AND THANKS TO EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS! PLEASE FILL THE JAR WITH YOUR DOLLARS SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO BE GREAT - EVEN BETTER! AND THANKS TO DIANE AND BILL CROWLEY AND THE MANY HELPERS IN THE KITCHEN!

.....

Harold Richter was missed last month at our Board and Regular Meeting, but we're pleased that he and Mildred are on a major tour of South America. Ruth and Francis Richardson just returned from the Yucatan Peninsula where they enjoyed all of the major pyramids and archeological sites.

.....

The society has purchased six years of membership (1991-1997) to the Cactus & Succulent Society of America for the San Diego Museum of Natural History, librarian Carol Barsi, so that the museum can continue receiving the Scientific Publication of the American Society.

.....

Michael Cullen, committee chairman for plant and supply sales has a new co-chairman, George Plaisted and new committee members Marylyn Henderson and Shirley Berry (who have been assisting with purchasing appropriate supplies). Please stop by and check out all the new supplies, from soil amendments, fertilizers, top-dressings, ceramic and plastic containers, plant tags, to moisture meters, pens, cedar boxes and much much more. We now have everything you could possibly need for your plants and at a tremendous discount for all club members! Some of these supplies are available only by advance order, so please make your selections early so you have plenty of time to prepare your plants for June show. Thank you new volunteers - your energy and knowledge is welcomed by all!!!

.....

CONGRATULATIONS TO ED AND KARLA NOLEN WITH OUR NEWEST AND YOUNGEST MEMBER, BABY SHANE!

.....

FIRST ANNUAL WINTER

JUDGES: WOODY MINNICH

AND LARRY GRAMMER

Mini Show

**WHAT:** Something new; a mini-show featuring winter growers and Bloomers. We need every member's participation in this rewarding and educational event. You may bring in any healthy insect-free plant regardless of growth season. Please bring them in clean, labeled and ready to show! We will arrange the plants categorically after we see what is brought in. Examples of winter growing /flowering succulents would be Aeoniums, Aloes, Aichrysons, Adromischus, Tylecodons, Crassulas, Sedums, Dudleyas, Echeverias, Idrias, Fouquierias, Cotyledons, Othunnas, Talinum, many Euphorbias and Mesembs, and bulbs (especially South African bulbs like Haemanthus, Bulbine, Ornithogallum, Veltheimia, Cyrtanthus, etc). Pelargoniums, many blooming cacti species (what have you in bloom?), and others. We need your plants to make this a success.

**WHEN:** Meeting will start on time at 1:30, but we need you to bring in your plants at least thirty minutes prior to meeting and doors will be open at 11:00 with to assist with carrying and arranging.

**JUDGING:** Larry Grammer and Woody Minnich will speak on the intricacies of showing, arranging, staging, arranging and judging. Plants will be judged "out-loud" for all to learn and judges will award first, second and third place ribbons in a variety of categories. As an extra incentive, six trophies will be awarded to entrants: Best Succulent, Best Cactus, Best Blooming Plant, Best Novice (individuals who have won less than ten ribbons or have never displayed before), and two "Judge's Choice" trophies for outstanding plants, These trophies are non-perpetual "keepers".

**PLEA:** So please, clean up a few plants, check for bloomers and enter. We all will benefit tremendously in this educational and fun event. And we are especially looking forward to viewing the plants of new participants. Now is not the time to be shy! Bring them in and you will learn! Any questions please call Michael at 222-3216.

BRAG TABLE WINNERS:

(THAT WE HOPE WILL BRING THEIR PLANTS BACK FOR THE MINI-SHOW)

MITCH BAHR FOR HIS PELARGONIUM ALTERNANS FIRST PLACE.

SHIRLEY BERRY FOR A VERY NICE ECHEVERIA MINIMA SECOND PLACE.

MILLIE WILLIAMS THIRD PLACE FOR HER OPUNTIA MICRODASY.

THANKS FOR SHARING!

NOTES FOR PLANT EXHIBITORS

~~One~~ of the programs presented at the CSSA Convention in San Antonio last summer was a panel on "Judging & Showing Plants". Mary Jo Gusset, CSSA Vice President, took some notes from the presentation which she passed along via the Houston newsletter:

- ... Name tags in pots at shows are redundant and detract from the plant.
- ... In many cases, it is okay to have a large plant in a small pot. (You can water the pot from the bottom.)
- ... You can use different sized rocks in a pot of show plants to provide the "habitat" look.
- ... Round plants in round pots can be boring. (Boring to the judges?)
- ... Blend pot color to gravel color to plant color so as to lead the eye to the plant--not distract from it.
- ... Some plants should be pruned before entry to approve their appearance.

## SDCSS -- CACTUS/SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH

January	Phyllis Flechsig Dorothy Byer	Machaerocereus Xeric Bromeliads
February	Rick Latimer Dylan Hannon	Platyopuntia Othonna/Sarcocaulon
March	<b>Mini Show</b>	-----
April	Joey Betzler Marylyn Henderson	Pediocactus Echeveria
May	Warren Buckner Alan Weiss	Rhipsalis Pachypodium
June	<b>Annual Show/Sale</b>	-----
July	<b>Annual Picnic</b>	-----
August	Joe Clements Joey Betzler	Turbinicarpus Caralluma
September	Rick Latimer Joey Betzler	Pereskia Portulaca Family
October	Joe Clements Dylan Hannon	Ferocactus Socotra Plants
November	Phyllis Flechsig B. Athy/A. Cornett	Copiapoa or Espostoa Anacampseros
December	<b>Christmas Party</b>	-----

THANKS TO BOARD AND ESPECIALLY LAURA DE MERRITT, TREASURER, FOR FINALLY REALIZING OUR BULK-RATE MAILING STATUS - SAVING US HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS A YEAR IN POSTAGE FOR ESPINA Y FLORES!

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 THANKS TO BEVERLY KIRKEGAARD AND PHYLLIS FLECHSIG FOR COMPILING OUR SUCCULENT AND CACTUS OF THE MONTH PROGRAM FOR 1992. THEY HAVE ENCOURAGED AND PROMPTED MANY GOOD MEMBERS INTO VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE TOWARDS THE EDUCATING THEIR FELLOW MEMBERS.  
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THIS MONTH EVERYONE BRING IN BRAG PLANTS FOR OUR MINI-WINTER SHOW! YES, WE WILL HAVE A REFRESHMENT BREAK, LIBRARY, AND PLANT & SUPPLIES TABLE!!!!!!!!!!



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Southern California

- Mar 21-22 Ikebana International 24th Exhibit Show; Casa Del Prado; Balboa Park, San Diego.
- Mar 28-29 Balboa Park African Violet Club 17th Annual Show; Casa Del Prado
- April 4-5 Exotic Plant Society 14th Annual Show; Casa Del Prado
- April 4 Botanical Drawing Workshop with Irina Gronborg (SDC&SS member - she did drawing for last years program cover) Saturday @ 10:30am Quail Botanical Gardens.
- April 10-12 San Diego County Orchid Society 46th Spring Show @ Scottish Rites Mem Bldg in Mission Valley; \$3 admission
- April 11-12 The 67th Coronado Flower Show, Coronado; includes Cacti & Succulents in 31 categories; call John Blocker 435-8397.
- April 5-12 The 22nd IOS Congress in Phoenix, Arizona.
- April 18-19 San Diego Bonsai Club 27th Annual Show; Casa Del Prado.
- April 30-May 1 Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Symposium on California's Horticulturally significant plants: "Out of the Wild and Into the Garden"; call (714) 626-1917 for information.
- May 2-3 Annual Insect Fair sponsored by Monarch Society @ Quail Botanical Gardens.
- May 10 San Diego Epiphyllum Society 22nd Annual Show; Casa Del Prado.
- May 16-17 San Diego Geranium Society 20th Annual Show; Casa Del Prado.
- May 16-17 Huntington Botanical Garden Plant Sale, in San Marino. Call (818) 405-2160 for information.
- June 6-7 The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Plant Sale; Balboa Park, San Diego; don't miss this one - it's the best!

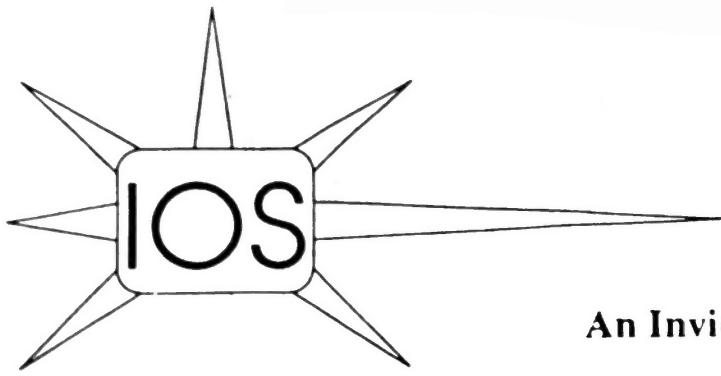
### SOME MORE TIPS FROM THE JUNE CSSA CONVENTION

- ...Store cactus seed in coin envelopes in the refrigerator where it is cool and dry, but warm up the seed before sowing;
- ...Euphorbia seed is good for years and Pachypodium seed 3 years old will germinate well;
- ...Fresh seed will germinate but seed 2 years old germinates faster and better;
- ...It is possible to sow seed and cover with Saran wrap then refrigerate for 6-8 weeks to fool them into thinking they have gone through a winter season;
- ...Lithops seed stays viable for 20 to 50 years;
- ...Welwitschia seed stays viable for many years if kept in the freezer;
- ...Wait until seedlings take on a definite "plant-resembling-shape" before starting to fertilize them;
- ...Lithops can stand temperatures down to 0 degrees if dry and not turgid;
- ...The Japanese have grafted Lithops and grown them to the size of dinner plates;
- ...Mammillaria roots may freeze in a pot but not the exposed plant. Cut off the plant and reroot it, in order to save it;

### PHOTOGRAPHY:

- ...Ecktochrome (35mm slide film) is the film that will give the truest colors;
- ...RGV film--colors have yellowish values;
- ...Fujichrome--colors have greenish tones or values;
- ...Use ASA 100 or lower and always use your flash when taking a close-up of a plant, indoors or out;
- ...Do not put plant or bloom directly in center of the picture. Work in 1/3ds or diagonals, for best effect;
- ...Good backgrounds for single subjects are blue boards or black velvet.

(Thanks to the Houston C&S Society newsletter for these notes)



## An Invitation from the IOS

The IOS, International Organization for Succulent plant study will hold its Botanical Congress at the Phoenix "Desert Botanical Garden" starting Monday April 6th and running through Sunday April 11th. Highlighting the symposium will be several optional field trips to the Arizona - Sonoran Desert Museum, Saguaro National Monument (Wed, Apr 8th, \$30), Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum (Sat, Apr 11, \$30). Sonoran Mojave Transition Zone (Sun Apr 12 - \$25), and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (two day trip Sat. & Sun, Apr 11-12, \$85).

The International Organization for Succulent Plant Study (IOS) was established to promote the study of succulent and allied plants and to encourage international cooperation amongst those interested in them. The IOS is a Commission of the International Union of Biological Sciences and seeks to achieve its goal through biennial international congresses, working sessions and its Bulletin. It is also a strong advocate of conservation and has an extensive Code of Conduct. The Board believes the IOS can play a significant role in providing researchers with the opportunity to share ideas and to support one another in their research activities.

The Executive Board of the IOS wishes to invite active succulent plant researchers and those interested in supporting the study of such plants to apply for membership in this international organization. Registration for the Congress is \$80.00 prior to March 15th; \$100.00 thereafter. Registration should be sent to Janie Holms, IOS Congress, Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 North Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, Arizona 85008. You may call (602) 941-1225 for further information. All those who wish to attend any congress sessions must register for the entire Congress.

A sample selection of some of the speakers and topics which might entice a few San Diego members is included although it must be emphasized that there are over fifty speakers and topics during the week:

PLANT SUCCESSION IN A GIANT BOOJUM COMMUNITY, BAJA CALIFORNIA by Dr. Joseph R. Mcauliffe.

SOME UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS AMONG SOMALI EUPHORBIAS by Susan Carter.

WELWITSCHIA MIRABILIS IN CULTIVATION AT KIRSTENBOSCH BOTANICAL GARDEN by Ernst Van Jaarsveld.

CACTUS FLORA OF THE STATE OF QUERETARO, MEXICO AND CONSERVATION ACTIONS by Dr. Leia Scheinvar.

SUCCULENT PELARGONIUMS by Professor Dr. F. Albers.

MADAGASCAR'S ENDANGERED SUCCULENT FLORA by Dr. Gary James.

THE ROLE OF PLANT-VISITING BATS, FROM DESERTS TO RAINFORESTS by Dr. Merlin Tuttle, Bat Conservation International.

WILDFLOWERS AND SUCCULENTS OF NAMAQUALAND a multi-media slide presentation by Dr. Gerald S. Barad, President CSSA.

One more note..... Wednesday's Cocktail hour (5:00 - 6:00) will feature agave and cactus beverages ... salute! and see you there!

Final Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title (Dr./Mr./Ms.) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_

IOS Member \_\_\_\_\_ Non-member \_\_\_\_\_

LODGING:  
Have you made reservations? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, see enclosed information sheet; we will  
reservations for you.

Date of Departure: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION:  
(\$80 prior to March 15; \$100 thereafter)

Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Have already paid \_\_\_\_\_

MEALS:  
See information sheet; please provide number in  
party and amount enclosed.

	# of people	Total
Monday lunch	_____ @ \$ 8.00	_____
Monday dinner	_____ @ \$15.00	_____
Tuesday lunch	_____ @ \$ 8.00	_____
Tuesday dinner	_____ @ \$15.00	_____
Thursday lunch	_____ @ \$ 8.00	_____
Friday lunch	_____ @ \$ 8.00	_____
Friday Banquet	_____ @ \$20.00	_____



*Echinocactus denudatus* var. *Brunnowiana*.

Thursday, 9 April 1992

G. A. Rodríguez, G. J. López, and R. J. Valdés:  
"Systematics of *Opuntia lindheimeri* Engl. in Coahuila,  
México"

Yaov Bashan and Maria-Ester Puente: "Responses of Seeds  
and Seedlings of the Giant Cardon Cactus to Inoculation  
with the Beneficial Bacteria *Azospirillum brasilense*"

Coffee break

Vinicio J. Sosa: "Seed Dispersal and Recruitment Ecology  
of Columnar Cacti in the Sonoran Desert"

Dr. Joseph R. McAuliffe: "Plant Succession in a Giant  
Boojum Community, Baja California"

Dr. Héctor M. Hernández, Verónica Alvarado, Héctor  
Godínez, Miguel Guevara, and Miguel Murguía: "A  
Perspective on Mexican Cactus Research History"

Dr. Alfonso Valiente-Banuet: "Cacti and Nurse-plants in  
the Tehuacan Valley: Patterns of Recruitment and  
Survivorship"

Fred Kattermann: "*Copiapoa*: an Overview of the Genus in  
the Family Cactaceae, Tribe Notocactinae"

Lunch (must be pre-ordered)

Dr. Donald J. Pinkava: "Usefulness of Chromosome Number  
and Behavior in Cactus Hybridization and Distribution  
Studies"

Emiliano Sánchez Martínez and Guillermo Galindo Sotelo:  
"Variation in the Diagnostic Characters of *Mamillaria  
hahniana* Werd."

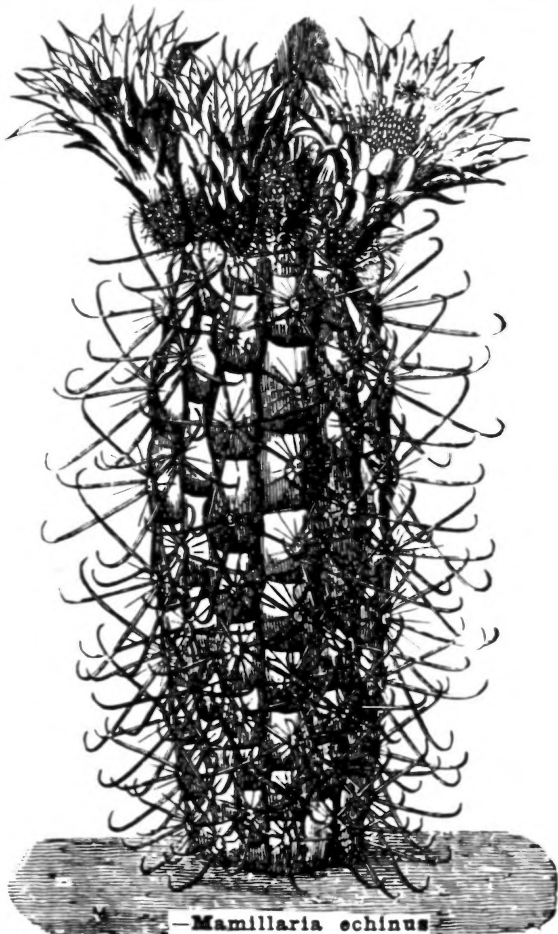
José Luis León de la Luz, Raymundo Dominguez C., and  
Minerva Cruz E.: "Annual Variations in Reproductive  
Phenology of 'Pitaya Agría,' *Stenocereus gummosus*"

J. Cancino, R. Coria, and J. L. León de la Luz: "Size  
Dependency of Cardon (*Pachycereus pringlei*) Fruiting"

Fernando Luis Carcia-Carreño: "Peroxidase Activity in the  
'Cardón' (*Pachycereus pringlei*)"

Coffee break

José Alejandro Zavala-Hurtado and Amaury Díaz-Solis:  
"Ecology of the Giant Columnar Cactus, *Cephalocereus  
hoppenstedtii* K. Sch. (Cactaceae)"



-*Mamillaria echinus*

## "From All Corners"

by Shirley Berry



Have you been searching for a means of pest control on cactus without using poisons? Many years ago I tried a recommendation using a kettle full of boiling water on the roots of a camellia bush at the start of its growth period, to kill off all pests and diseases. It worked, and I used this method once a year with great success.

A Swedish plantsman, Hakan Nilsson, reported his success using a similar method, in the February 1981 issue of the Cactus and Succulent Journal of Great Britain. In this article Nilsson feels there are drawbacks to using systemics to counter pests, among them, increasing the possible resistant strains of these pests, and also the dangers to the plants as well as the person using them.

Nilsson says, "Fortunately there is an alternative to using systemics, and it is quite simple. Just use hot water. My experience with this method shows that it is 100% effective against mealy bug, root mealy bug, and nematodes. Better still, the plants do not mind..... except Epiphyllum, Rhipsalis, and other epiphytes. I have never tried the method on grafted plants or succulents other than cacti.

The procedure is simple: unpot the plant and remove as much soil as possible. Submerge the plant in water which has been heated to 131 degrees Fahrenheit. To get rid of mealy bug the plant must be totally submerged. Try to keep this temperature for at least 10 minutes. Let the water cool and remove the plant when the temperature has fallen to about 86 degrees F. Let the plant dry for one or two days away from the sun, remove the dead roots and pot as usual.

I have treated Notocactus, Mammillarias, Ferocactus, Gymnocalycium, Rebutias, and Cerei in this way with no losses, with the proviso that the treatment has always been made during late spring or summer. If the pestilence is noted soon enough before the root system is entirely destroyed, the plant after the hot water treatment will be in growth within two weeks."

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NEW BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

SUCCULENTS: A GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND DESCRIPTIONS by R.B. Ivimery-Cook  
THE FLORA OF TROPICAL EAST AFRICA - BURSERACEAE (COMMIPHORA) by J.b. Gillett  
FANTASTIC TREES by Edwin Menninger (1967)  
VASCULAR EPIPHYTES by David H. Benzing  
NAME THAT SUCCULENT by Gordon Rowley (another copy)  
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC GARDENS - A VISITOR'S GUIDE by Eric Sigg

We have finally received mylar book covers for our library and soon all of our fine books dustjackets will be protected from what we hope will be much



OPUNTIA GLOMERATA  
(Haworth, 1830)  
Anthony D'Attilio

With its long ribbon-like spines *Opuntia glomerata* is an interesting member of a South American group known as *Tephrocactus*. Whether *Tephrocactus* is used conservatively as a sub-genus of *Opuntia* or given full generic rank remains apparently at the discretion of the specialist. Nevertheless by their growth characteristics the *Tephrocacti* form a distinctive group among these cacti having glochid-bearing areoles.

Under fair growing conditions they form spreading clumps whose branches are erect or prostrate. The globular or ovate joints possess either spines like most cacti or spines modified as in *O. glomerata*. In the species *O. floccosa* the entire plant is almost hidden below a beard-like growth of long hair-like spines.

(Note: Observations for this article were made on cultivated plants growing in San Diego.)

An ovate joint of *O. glomerata* may be five or six inches in length and is colored bright green. Owing to its variability in overall shape, length of spines, etc., many "species" have been proposed for forms which, according to Britton and Rose, may be found all growing together in one place. The tubercles may be low, roughly five sided, and conic, or they may be folded intricately into one another.

On the newly mature tubercles (Fig. 1) the areole at the tip is circular, filled with tightly appressed, straight filaments of wool. The wool, often looking like a small tuft of carpeting, is as long as the glochids, approximately four to six mm. Imbedded in the wool towards the outer edge of the areole are the many barbed glochids. The ribbon-like spines, ranging from 2 to 4 but mostly 3 in number, are located on the lower half of the areole. They are concave from above, may be six inches or more in length, with a few ridges running lengthwise on the lower side. Under magnification the soft wool is a warm, translucent silver; the glochids are rust colored and barbed along their entire length (Fig. 2). The spines appear dull brown or ashen with a paler zone at the margins and sometimes with a weak, diffused coppery zone in the center. They end in a long red brown point. Under high magnification the surface of the spine is very minutely longitudinally striate and covered by a lustrous, translucent

membrane which seems to be attached along the striae and detached between them.

(Fig. 3)

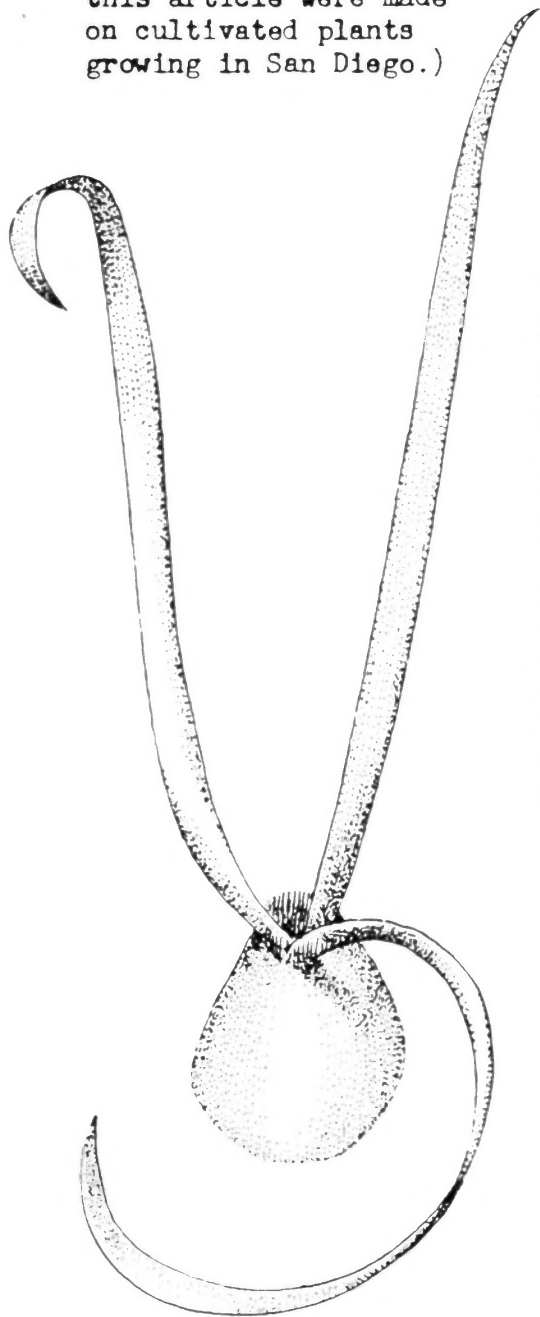


Fig. 1

Single tubercle showing three papery spines and top glochid cluster.

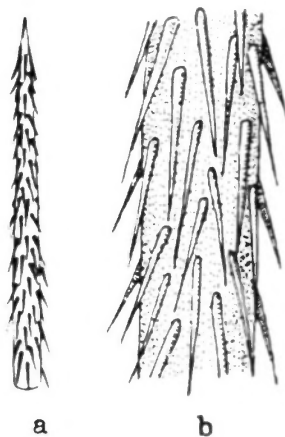


Fig. 2

Glochid, 4 to 6 mm  
a—one glochid  
b—detail enlarged

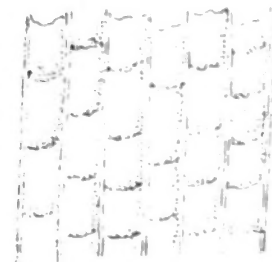
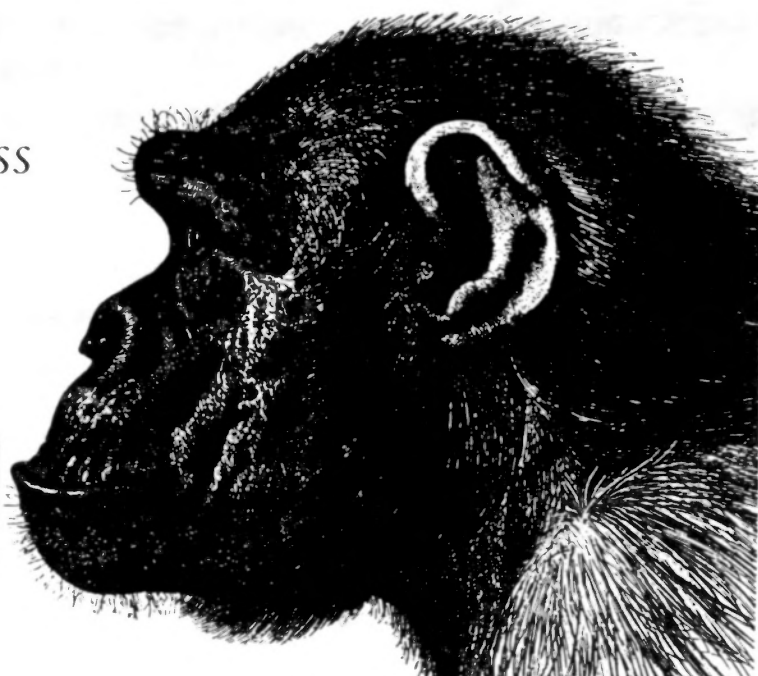


Fig. 3

Highly magnified surface detail of papery spine.

O ne's happiness depends less  
on what he knows  
than on what he feels."

—LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY



# WISE AND OTHERWISE

Michael Buckner

"MEANWHILE, IN 1927, CHARLES ELTON COINED THE PHRASE "FOOD CHAIN". HIS ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH REVEALED NUTRITIONAL DEPENDENCIES THAT STARTED WITH THE SUN, PROCEEDED THROUGH PLANTS TO PLANT EATERS AND THEN TO THE CARNIVORES. ELTON ALSO USED THE METAPHOR OF A PYRAMID: THE SIMPLEST ORGANISMS WITH THE SHORTEST FOOD CHAINS WERE THE MOST NUMEROUS AND, AS THE BASE OF THE STRUCTURE, THE MOST IMPORTANT. REMOVE THE TOP OF THE FOOD PYRAMID - A HAWK, SAY, OR A HUMAN - AND THE SYSTEM WAS HARDLY DISTURBED. BUT TAKE AWAY BASES LIKE PLANT LIFE OR SOIL BACTERIA AND THE PYRAMID COLLAPSED. IN ONE SENSE THE FOOD CHAIN IDEA CORROBORATED THE OLD NOTION OF THE LOWER ORDERS OF NATURE EXISTING FOR THE HIGHER. BUT ECOLOGISTS TURNED THIS LOGIC UPSIDE DOWN. IN REALITY, HUMANS DEPENDED ON THE BACTERIA WHICH SUSTAINED THE GRASS WHICH FED THE CATTLE WHICH BECAME STEAKS. AS THE TOP LINK IN THE CHAIN HUMANS WERE NOT SO MUCH EXALTED AS THEY WERE VULNERABLE. THE LEAST SOPHISTICATED LIFE-FORMS STABILIZED THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY AND WERE THE MOST VITAL TO ITS CONTINUATION. ECOLOGY TOOK STILL MORE CONCEIT OUT OF HUMANITY."

from Ecology Widens the Circle by Roderick Frazier Nash

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"The farmer who has mowed down a thousand flowers in his meadow in order to feed his cows must be careful on his way home not to strike the head off a single flower by the side of the road in idle amusement, for he thereby infringes the law of life without being under the pressure of necessity." Albert Schweitzer

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".....Science rests on an ethos (Philip,1991) of universalism, communality, disinterestedness, and organized skepticism. I emphasize these two points because this is where we most often fail. The very last is where most scientist particularly fail. Skepticism requires that the scientist accepts nothing in trust, but this does not give him free license to scoff at all and sundry nor at any pronouncements that they make. Organized skepticism requires a discipline of its own based on good discrimination and an allowance that anything might be true until it can be proved otherwise. The layman makes the grand mistake of replacing this organized skepticism with a mistrust borne of ignorance and misunderstanding."

taken from HAWORTHIAD publication of Haworthia Society; letters to the editor from Bruce Bayer, author of "The Haworthia Handbook" July 2, 1991.

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# WISE AND

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"They continued buying new seed and small plants wherever available. As a method of propagation and inducing rapid growth they made use of the bottoms of the plants, which were cut off and were ordinarily discarded when the tops were grafted on another stock: these bottoms were reversed on a sturdier stock, grafted bottom up. Quantities of small plants formed on these grafted bottoms, and when of sufficient size were removed and grafted upright. Plants were purchased for new stock only; no plants were bought for immediate resale. This was the Hummel's policy for all their years of business.

..... Among plants distributed by them from other sources was *Portulacaria afra* 'Variegata', which they named "Rainbow Bush." This was brought to them by a chance "cactus tramp" who had acquired it from another person who provided other shippers with cuttings from local hedges. Among these were three types, all variegations: one growing upright, like the typical green-leaved form, one prostrate, and another with the variegation reversed. Since these were from old stock, they would have been difficult to root, so several evenings were spent grafting them to the normal stock. As the stems were very fragile, they were sewn to the stock with needle and thread. From this stock the Hummels distributed perhaps millions of plants to the trade. When Mr. Hertrich, of Huntington Gardens, came to them looking for a good ground cover, they let him have several flats of the prostrate form." taken from PLANTSMEN IN PROFILE: EDWARD AND MINNIE HUMMEL, Bailey, April 1978, by Hummel and Dress.

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# OTHERWISE

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"As we drove south from El Rosario, we passed the canteen back and forth in a kind of trance, lulled by heat waves rising off the pavement. I wiped dust from the little plastic thermometer I'd clipped to my bag; it read 110 degrees. The scene out our window was a no-man's-land of reddish volcanic mountains and scorched vegetation. Mars with cactus.

"It's a thin line between life and death this time of year," Norman said. "A lot of desert plants - cholla, creosote, mesquite-go into a dormant phase during drought, like deciduous trees in winter. They die by degrees - first the tips of branches, then the branches, then the stem. The roots are the last to go, and all it takes a little rain to reverse the process"

Indians roamed this desert during pre-Columbian times, he said. They hunted snakes to supplement their diet of beetles, mice, lizards, cactus pulp, and roasted agaves. "in other words," he said "you and I would have gone hungry most of the time."

Red meat was a delicacy so prized that they customarily tied a string around each morsel, chewed and swallowed it, then pulled it back for the next fellow. During summer they gorged themselves on cactus fruit, then dried their feces in the sun, picked out the seeds, ground them up, and ate them again."

From BAJA CALIFORNIA; MEXICO'S LAND APART, National Geographic December 1989, about Norman Roberts, author of *Field Guild to the Plants of Baja*.



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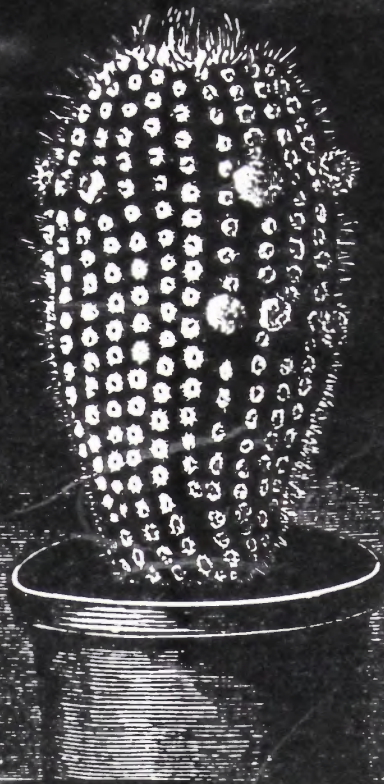
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The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Incorporated is open to all persons interested in growing cacti or other succulent and exotic plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 1:30 P.M. in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held at 11:00 A.M. prior to general meetings. Annual dues are \$10 per single member per year, and \$5 for each additional member of same household. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are \$1 per copy sent within U.S.A. Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Incorporated.

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