

Espinas y Flores

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

Volume XXI, Number 5

May 10, 1986

MAY MEETING

Saturday May 10, 1986

Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

1:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Grooming, Drying and Judging Show Plants

Lee Phelps will emcee a program on the preparation of plants for shows. Various members will be called upon to comment on special aspects of preparing plants. Some members will bring good and bad examples of show plants to be commented upon.

There will be a plants of the month and bragging table as well.

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REMINDERS -

All those who still have their trophies from last year, please bring them at this meeting.

Save June 14, 1986 for the yearly picnic at Felicita Park. There will be more in the next issue of the Espinas y Flores. Hannah Nachman is picnic director.

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Deadline for the June issue of E y F is May 31, 1986. Neither Bud or I will be at the meeting, so please get all information to be by that time. Mary

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Cactus-of-the-Month

THE GENUS NOTOCACTUS

(Echinocactinae)

Dorothy Dunn

The beautiful and free-flowering Notocacti belong to the large and diverse Echinocactus group, which also includes such a variety of plants as Astrophytums, Ferocacti, Fraileas, Gymnocalyciums, Parodias, Echinofossulocacti, and the familiar 'Golden Barrel', to mention just a partial list. Whereas the genus was at one time included under Malacocarpus (now Wigginsia) by Britton and Rose, Backeberg segregated the two genera as well as keeping separate two other genera, Brasilicactus and Eriocactus, which are now usually included under Notocactus. It has also been suggested that a new genus - Brasiliparodia - be erected for the controversial group of so-called "Brazilian Parodias" (Notocactus rechensis, N. alacriportana, N. brevihamatus, and N. bueneckeri), based on their habitat, growth form, flower structure and seeds. Buxbaum and Krainz suggested the transfer of all the groups - Eriocactus, Brasilicactus, Wigginsia, and the "Brazilian Parodias" - into the single genus Notocactus, and this proposal has gained fairly wide acceptance.

There are at least thirty species of Notocactus, inclusive, all South American in origin (the generic name derives from the Greek, meaning, literally, "southern cactus"), with their distribution being predominantly from north to southern central and east Argentina, through Uruguay and Paraguay to southern Brazil. The largest number of species are found on the Uruguay-southern Brazil border. The older described species are found principally around the first settled areas near Buenos Aires, while more recent discoveries tend to come from the more remote regions in the interior of Brazil. Many of the early species described as coming from Uruguay can no longer be found in their original habitats, probably because of the inroads of "progress" and "civilization" created by man - construction, agriculture, grazing of domestic animals, etc. However, they generally can still be found further north, as they were usually the more widespread species and in Uruguay were at the extreme edge of their range. The most widely-distributed species such as Notocactus ottonis can be found over virtually the entire Notocactus range.

The habitats of most Notocacti are not really typical of xerophytic plants. Although they vary from the dry, well-drained hillsides of Brazil to the grassy pampas of Argentina, the average rainfall is quite high - between twenty and forty inches per year, with the dry season being usually quite short. Average temperatures are relatively high, with occasional frosts in some areas, and they are often found growing beneath thin shrubs which protect them from the scorching sun. Their root systems are generally widespread and somewhat fibrous, and they seem to prefer a slightly acid soil.

Most Notocacti will flower when very young. The flowers are borne on top of the plants and are usually large and conspicuous. The majority of them are of a satiny-yellow hue, although they can also range from orange-reddish shades (N. haselbergii, N. horstii) through pink or purplish (N. rutilans, N. herteri, N. uebelmannianus) to lime-green (N. graessneri). The plants are often self-

fertile, notably in the case of N. rutilans, N. graessneri, N. leninghausii, and N. haselbergii. The plant bodies are generally globose or shortly columnar, and some species offset quite profusely from the base (particularly N. leninghausii, N. neobueneckeri, N. rechensis, N. magnificus and N. ottonis). A few species have the rather unfortunate tendency to offset haphazardly at various other places on the plant bodies, which somewhat spoils their symmetry.

The Brasilicactus species (N. graessneri and N. haselbergii) are self-fertile, as mentioned before, do not offset, and are differentiated from all other South American spherical cacti by the very short floral tube. They are among the earliest Notocacti to bloom in the spring.

The Eriocactus species (N. leninghausii, N. claviceps, N. magnificus, and N. schumannianus) are all characterized by their more columnar growth habit and relatively large flowers. Backeberg maintains that the greater body size, fruits and seeds, and the strong apical wool clearly differentiate these species from all other Notocacti.

Most species of Notocacti are easy and rewarding to grow. Many of them seem happier when grown in some degree of shade, but with strong indirect light. Notocactus scopa in particular is extremely beautiful when grown under quite low light conditions. Some species will tolerate temperatures down to 20 degrees F. They make ideal pot plants, but many species, given adequate drainage, can be grown right out in the open ground. They should be watered rather sparingly during the coldest, wettest winter months, and moderately during the growing season. They seem to have no specialized soil requirements other than the usual stipulation of good drainage.

Few pests attack a healthy Notocactus; the persistent mealy-bug appears to be the most serious, and occasionally red spider-mite.

Propagation is by seed, or by rooting the offsets of the clustering varieties. Although Notocacti grow extremely well on their own roots, they are sometimes grafted. N. neobueneckeri in particular seems to respond to grafting by offsetting more prolifically.

References used:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Backeberg, C. | Cactus Lexicon |
| Borg, J. | Cacti |
| Mace, Tony | Notocactus |
| Martin, Auger, Chapman: | Cacti and their Cultivation |

Begonias and Sinningias (Reichsteineria)

These two genera of plants belong to different families, but are discussed together because of the small number of species that are considered to be succulents. The first obvious question, of course, is--are they succulents? There is disagreement, but most people concede that they have enough characteristics of succulent plants to be considered.

The literature is almost non-existent on the growing and other treatment these plants should be accorded. The begonias belong to the family Begoniaceae, but the succulent begonias are not mentioned in most literature on the family. Of my knowledge there are two species of fibrous-rooted begonias which fit our category. Begonia incana may grow into a small shrub with stems over 1/2 inch thick and up to two feet tall. The leaves and stems are covered with felt-like hairs which may completely mask the green color of the plant. This felt is usually an off-white shading to brown, and is only formed if the plant gets very strong light with some sun. The leaves are ear-shaped and may be up to 6 inches long. I believe this plant originates in the high mountains of central Mexico.

B. venosa is said to be much like B. incana except the leaves are thicker and tend to be fuzzier on the back side. The plant is said to be somewhat smaller than the first species and originates in Brazil. I have never seen a plant that fits the scientific description.

The only undoubted succulents in the genus are B. richardsiana and B. partita, closely related species, and even the names are in doubt according to some begonia experts I have talked to. One friend of mine who collects the magnificent Rex begonias even told me that these plants are not even begonias! People who specialize in tuberous begonias refer these species to a group called semi-tuberous begonias. The odd thing about these species is that although they form a tuber, usually at ground level, the stems and foliage are perennial like the fibrous-rooted species, not deciduous like the tuberous species. They just don't fit anywhere, and we collectors of succulents are always taking up with odd plants!

Both of the succulent species just mentioned have leaves about an inch long, are typically ear-shaped, and have a generous amount of red edging the leaves. The flowers are small and white, and they are borne in great profusion. Cultivation for all the Begonia species I have mentioned is the same as with other succulents--well drained soil, part sun, watering accomplished about once a week.

The most popular species of sinningia is Sinningia leucotricha, formerly in the genus Reichsteineria. This species forms the typical large tuber at or just below the soil surface, but has the most beautiful leaves of about any plant in nature. The leaves may be over 6 inches long, oval in shape and covered with a thick mat of pure white hair. The leaves are eminently pettable, and everyone should have one in the absence of a cat or dog! This plant has a short period of dormancy here (January and February). The new growth will have flower buds evident immediately, and when the stems are full grown, the flowers will begin opening. The flowers are bright orange and many are produced. New flowers are produced over a period of about two months--April and May for me--and if seed pods are produced the seeds ripen in the fall.

S. cardinalis is a similar plant but with green fuzzy leaves and cardinal red flowers. New flowers may continually be produced on this plant. There are several blue-flowered sinningias, and all may be treated as succulents.

SAN DIEGO

CACTUS &

SUCCULENT SOCIETY

JUDGING SCALE

SPECIMENS, COLLECTIONS and DISPLAYS

Condition	70%
Staging	15%
Size & degree of Maturity	10%
Nomenclature	5%

EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY

Educational Value	80%
Staging & originality	20%

AWARDS POINT SYSTEM

Individual Plants & Specialties	1st - 3 pts., 2nd - 2 pts., 3rd - 1 pt.
Collections	1st - 7 pts., 2nd - 5 pts., 3rd - 3 pts.
Exhibits	1st - 12 pts., 2nd - 10 pts., 3rd - 8 pts.
Best of Show Trophies	10 pts.

Two or more entries are necessary for the Education Trophy to be awarded.

SHOW COMMITTEE

SHOW MANAGER	Richard Latimer
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IDENTIFICATION CHAIRMAN	Dorothy Dunn
PUBLICITY	Cathy & Sandy Frost
PROGRAM	Mary Aubuchon

JUDGES

Betty Athy
Seymour Linden
Jim Kampwirth

Judging Saturday, May 31, 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Rhipsalidopsis drawing by Helen Barkdoll

ANNUAL SHOW

& PLANT SALE

MAY 31 & JUNE 1, 1986

ROOM 101
Casa del Prado
BALBOA PARK
SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

Saturday, May 31, 1-5 P.M.
Sunday, June 1, 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

SET UP TIME
Friday, May 30, 10 A.M. - 8 P.M.
Saturday, May 31, 7:30 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.

TAKE OUT TIME
Sunday, June 1, after 5 P.M.

PLANT SALES
10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Saturday & Sunday
Casa del Prado

CLASSIFICATION

Classes 1 through 55 are "A" and "B"

"A" = 5" pot size and under, "B" = over 5" pot size

Class "A" and "B" sized will be measured at the inside dimensions of the container

DIVISION I: Cacti (one plant per pot)

CLASS

1. Pereskia, Opuntia, Tephrocactus, Pterocactus, Maihuenia, etc.
2. Selenicereus, Epiphyllum, Rhipsalis, Schlumbergera, Heliocereus, etc.
3. North American Cereus
4. South American Cereus
5. Borzicactus, Matucana, Oroya, Denmoza
6. Neoporteria, Neochilenia, Islaya, Pyrrhocactus, Horridocactus, Eriosyce, etc.
7. Copiapoa
8. Melocactus, Buiningia
9. Discocactus, Uebelmannia, Frailea, Blessfeldia
10. Notocactus
11. Parodia
12. Gymnocalycium
13. Weingartia, Sulcorebutia, Lobivia, Soehrensia, etc.
14. Echinopsis, Rebutia
15. Echinocereus
16. Ferocactus, Echinocactus, Echinofossulocactus, Hamatocactus
17. Astrophytum
18. Leuchtenbergia, Ariocarpus, Obregonia, Strombocactus, Turbinicarpus, Aztekium, etc.
19. Thelocactus, Gymnocactus, Epithelantha, Pediocactus, Sclerocactus
20. Coryphantha, Ortegocactus, Neolloydia, Echinomastus, Escobaria, Acharagma, Cumarinia
21. Mammillaria
22. Any other genus
23. Crest, Monstrose, Variegates

DIVISION III: Collections (6-10 Different Species of any Genus)

56. Cacti
57. Other Succulents

DIVISION IV: Specialties

58. Arrangements
59. Dish Gardens

DIVISION II: Other succulents (one plant per pot)

CLASS

24. Alluaudia, Didierea, Decaryia, etc.
25. Lithops, Conophytum, Pleiospilos, Fene-straria, etc.
26. Trichodiadema, Mestoklema
27. Other Mesemb
28. Anacamperos, Portulaca, Talinum, Portulacaria, Ceraria
29. Kalanchoe
30. Cotyledon, Tylecodon, Adromischus
31. Crassula
32. Aeonium, Aichryson, Greenovia, Monanthes, Sempervivium, Jovibarba
33. Sedum, Tacitus, Orostachys, Graptopetalum, etc.
34. Echeveria, Pachyphytum
35. Dudleya
36. Bursera, Commiphora, Pachycormus, etc.
37. Cissus, Cyphostemma and Dorstenia, Ficus
38. Pelargonium, Sarcocaulon
39. Pachypodium, Adenium
40. Caralluma, Huernia, Hoodia, Edithcolea, etc.
41. Ceropegia, Fockea, Brachystelma, Foltisia, etc.
42. Senecio, Othonna, etc.
43. Euphorbia
44. Jatropha, Pedilanthus, Monadenium, etc.
45. Fouquieria, Idria
46. Adenia, Ibervillea, Gerrardanthus, Kerdrostris, Seyrigia, Xerosicyos, etc. plus Ipomoea and Dioscorea, Testudinaria
47. Aloe
48. Gasteria
49. Haworthia, Astroloba, Poellnitzia
50. Sansevieria
51. Agave
52. Nolina, Beaucarnea, Calibanus, Yucca, Hesperaloe, Dasylirion, etc.
53. Hechtia, Tillandsia, Puya, Dyckia, Abromeitiella, etc.
54. Any other genus
55. Crests, Monstrose, Variegates

DIVISION V: Displays

60. Displays

SHOW RULES

Open to anyone with an interest in succulent plants. There is no limit to the number of entries per class or the number of classes entered. No entry shall 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 six months. Grafted plants will be accepted in any class. All entries must have entry cards and exhibitors are responsible for placing entry cards with their entries. Plant name tags in post must be removed. Awards must remain with exhibits until close of show. 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. The show Chairman shall make all final decisions, except in matters of judging.

AWARDS

FIRST, SECOND and THIRD place ribbons will be awarded in each class, however, should the judges feel that a FIRST, SECOND, or THIRD place is not merited, it will be withheld.

BEST CACTUS
BEST SUCCULENT
BEST EXHIBIT
BEST EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY
MOST ARTISTIC DISPLAY
BEST MEXICAN PLANT IN SHOW
BEST EUPHORBIA
BEST GRAFT
BEST ALOE
BEST ECHEVERIA

BEST EPIPHYTE

BEST SAN DIEGO COUNTY
SUCCULENT
BEST PELARGONIUM or
SARCOCAULON
BEST OPUNTIEAE
HIGH POINTS UNDER 50
ENTRIES TROPHY
SWEEPSTAKES TROPHY

Phillip Corliss Plaque
Ruby Falk Plaque
Reuben Vaughan Plaque
C.S.S.A. Award
Walter & Hazel Scott Plaque
Dudley B. Gold Trophy
Lydia Evans Cup
Bob & Suzanne Taylor Trophy
Barbara Jeppe Trophy
Oliver & Sophie Loyland
Trophy
William & Ruth Nelson
Trophy
Julianne Rice Trophy

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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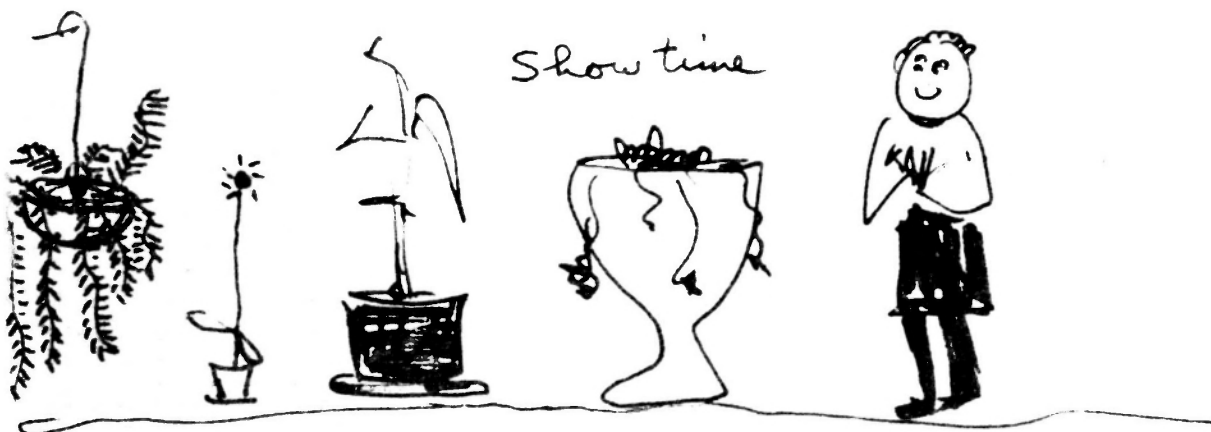
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S.D. Floral Association - Verna Pasek

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing cacti, other succulents and exotic plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 1:30 pm in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held after the general meetings. Annual dues are \$8.00 per single member per year, \$2.00 for each additional member of a household within a family. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are 60 cents.

Editor

Mary Aubuchon
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FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

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