

MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

Espinas y Flores

NEWSLETTER of the SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY, INC.

A Non-Profit Public Benefit California Corporation

VOLUME XXXII NUMBER TEN, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1997 @ 1:00PM



Fig. 1. *Borzicactus madisoniorum*. Composite plate by May Blos, 1958, from different plants under cultivation, all of the type collection. 1, 2. Apical views of spiny and spineless plants. 3. Lateral view of flower. 4. Apical view of flower. 5. Longitudinal section of flower. 6. Stigma. 7. Funicles. 8. Ripe fruit. 9. Dried fruit. 10. Lateral view of seed. 11. Bottom view of seed. 12. Lateral view of seed, the dotted lines showing the extent of invagination of the hilum. 1-5, 8, 9, natural size. 6, x 4.5. 10, 11, x 70. 7, greatly enlarged.



The September Picnic was a smashing success thanks to all the hard work put in by **Tom & Laura DeMerritt**. The new location is simply terrific and will be much easier to find next year - I'm sure!! May we suggest a carpool sign-up sheet at the August 1998 meeting. This would certainly make it easier for many of us to attend. And besides being a lot of fun, **Betty Athy** tells us that the rare plant auction was also a financial success.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO FOLLOWING MEMBERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS:

Beverly Kirkegaard - *Notocactus sucineus variegata*, *Leuchtenbergia principis*, *Echinocactus grusonii*, and *Ferocactus latispinus*; **Lee & Pamela Badger** - *Ceropegia cimiciodora*; **Betty Athy** - *Dinteranthus species*, *Frithia pulchra* and *Gonolobus cyclophyllus*; **Roger & Betty Montanus (CalCactus)** - *Euphorbia lactea* crest; **Michael & Joyce Buckner** - "TEX" ceramic bonsai pot; and **Jim Kempworth** - *Melocactus warasii*.

Laura DeMerritt tells us that nominations for the 1998-1999 SDC&SS BOARD OF DIRECTORS are: **Elizabeth Athy**, **Lee Badger**, **Tom Birt**, **Ed DeLollis**, **George Plaisted**, and **Stan Yalof**. All nominees need to be decided upon and should be announced at the October meeting in order for the election process to take place at the November meeting. All nominees need to be aware that by accepting this nomination, they are making a two-year commitment. Any SDC&SS member who is interested in making a very worthwhile contribution to this organization by becoming a SDC&SS Board Member 1998-1999 should please contact: **Laura DeMerritt @ (619) 270-5544**, nomination committee chairwoman, or SDC&SS Secretary, **Beverly Kirkegaard @ (619) 670-1035**.

We couldn't help but notice that this month's cover of **Epi News - San Diego Epiphyllum Society** newsletter features two color photographs of a magnificent bloom called "Three Oranges" hybridized by **Phyllis Flechsig**. The accompanying well-researched article "Exploring variegated epi mysteries" states "While we're not absolutely certain what causes the variegation, most accept the belief that variegated epis are infected with a virus." This variegated virus theory has often been a hot topic for debate among cactus growers, as well!

If you are not already a member of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc. (also a non-profit corporation) and have any interest whatsoever in these gangly hanging cacti with awesome colorful blooms, this is the society to join. General meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm in Room 101 (same as SDC&SS meetings) Casa del Prado, Balboa Park; prior to the meeting at 7:00pm a workshop demonstration on growing epis is held in Room 104 directly across from room 101. Membership is \$5.00 per person per year; contact Membership Secretary, **Pat Sage @ (619) 267-3264**, P.O.Box 126127, SD, CA 92112-6127.

Kudos to **Deni & Steve Plath** and the Cactus & Succulent Society of Southern Nevada! We admire your courage and support your position — looking forward to a terrific Las Vegas CSSA Convention in 1999!!

Free Euphorbias!! SDC&SS member **Carmen Hammond** of El Norte Parkway in Escondido has two euphorbias that have outgrown her patio. The *Euphorbia ingens* resides in a 14" pot and the "Pencil Cactus", *Euphorbia tirucalli* has an eleven inch pot; both plants are about 5'6" tall. If you have the room and would like to adopt either one or both of these guys, please give her a call @ (760) 781-3127.

Good News for our **Spanish Speaking** members! The Circulo de Coleccionistas de Cactus y Crasas de la Republica Argentina (*that's the Cactus & Succulent Society of Argentina*) has sent us copies of their *Boletin Informativo* - June through September 1997 with a request that we trade newsletters. We think that we should go for it!! The four issues that we have received so far will be given to our librarian, **Betty Athy** at the October meeting. I'm sure that you can make some arrangement with her to check them out Alex!!

October 13: John Bleck – Back to Yucatan – San Diego Horticultural Society meeting @ Del Mar Fairgrounds Satellite Wagering Facility, 6:30pm. For additional info: (760) 630-7307.

October 18: California Native Plant Society Sale, 10:00am - 2:00pm, Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park. Plants, seeds, and bulbs available, as well as information regarding native plants; (619) 685-7321.

October 18: Inter-City Post Show Meeting & Pot Luck - starts at noon. Everyone is welcome - this is where all those terrific ideas for next year's show get started!! Meeting will be held at the lovely home of Jim & Roberta Hanna in Long Beach. Please call (562) 920-3046 for further details.

October 18-19: Quail Botanical Gardens Annual Plant Festival 9:00am - 3:30pm, at 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. No Fee, uncommon plants, books, and gifts; information: (760) 436-3036.

October 22: San Diego Bromeliad Society Speaker - Paul Isley, author of the book, *Tillandsia*. Meeting begins at 7:30pm; Room 104, Casa del Prado - Balboa Park. Visitors Welcome. For more information about the San Diego Bromeliad Society please contact SDC&SS Member Camille Horack @ (619) 469-9629, she is also secretary for the SD Bromeliad Society.

October 25-26: UC Riverside Botanic Gardens Fall Plant Sale, UC Riverside Campus; (909) 787-4650.

November 1-2: San Gabriel Valley C&SS Winter Show & Sale @ L.A. Arboretum - 9am to 5pm. Time to show those wonderful winter growing specimens, like dudleyas and pelargoniums which always look either ratty or dead during our June show!! Contact Jim Hanna @ (310) 920-3046 for more information.

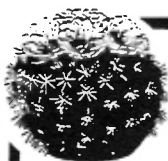
November 1-2: Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Annual Plant Sale, 1500 North College Avenue, Claremont. Featuring native herbs, perennials, shrubs, bulbs, and there's sure to be some very interest succulents since this is where our old friend Dylan Hannon works!! Info: (909) 625-8767.

November 6-9: Huntington Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Festival, 1:00pm - 4:30pm, at 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino; free talks at 2:30; garden entrance fee: \$8.50; info: (626) 405-2141.

November 10: Bill Baker – Lost Gardens of Xilitla - San Diego Horticultural Society meeting @ Del Mar Fairgrounds Satellite Wagering Facility, 6:30pm; info: (760) 630-7307.

November 19: San Diego Bromeliad Society Speaker - Lou Levinsohn, South African Naturalist - 7:30pm in Room 104, Casa del Prado - Balboa Park. Visitors Welcome!!

**Help Wanted: North County Coastal Nursery looking for Salesperson, Propagator, & Landscaper; experience with Cactus & Succulents a must. Please sent inquiries /work history to:
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OCTOBER PROGRAM: JON REBMAN, PH.D. RECENT BAJA EXPEDITIONS

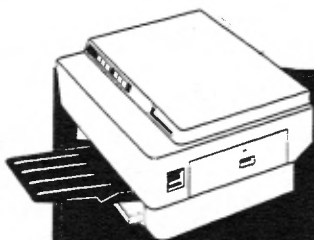
This month we are very proud to present Jon P. Rebman, Ph.D., Curator of the Botany Department for the San Diego Museum of Natural History. Dr. Rebman is a specialist in the systematics of the Cactaceae (particularly the genus *Opuntia*) and in the floristics of the peninsula of Baja California, Mexico.

In March of this year Dr. Rebman led an overnight expedition to study the Wildflowers of the San Felipe Desert. In May he led a four day expedition to the Catavina area of Baja in search of the nearly extinct *Echinocereus lindsayi*. Additionally Dr. Rebman was instrumental in the success of the Second Annual Baja California Botanical Symposium, a binational - bilingual symposium sponsored by the San Diego Natural History Museum and the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Herbario BCMEX.

Jon loves field work and we are told that he can identify plants from the road doing 60 mph! We are looking forward to his high speed presentation of recent travels and discoveries in Baja. Join us!

Our cover: *Matucana madisoniorum* (*Borzicactus madisoniorum*), discovered and described by Paul C. Hutchison when he was with the U.C. Berkeley Botanical Garden, is truly a remarkable plant. This composite plate drawn by May Blos, 1958 from different plants under cultivation, all of the type collection was published in the CSSA Journal, volume 35 #6, November - December 1963. (Continued Page 3 →)

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



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A Message from Our President

I was not given an opportunity to thank Attila Kapitany and Rudolph Schulz for their fantastic program in July. Their educational presentation and outstanding slides were inspirational and a refreshing approach to the study of cacti. Their wonderful book, *Copiapoa, in Their Environment*, served as a guide for some parts of my trip with Dylan Hannon to Chile in August. I thank them for their work and for making our club a part of their very busy schedule. I want to thank Ric Newcomer and Nibby Klinefelter as well for their plant of the month presentations, they both did a great job!

I appreciate Tom DeMerritt taking the reins in Aug. and I want to thank Virginia Innis and Ed DeLollis for their plant of the month presentations, and Dennis Sharmahd for his tasty program on edible landscapes and cacti. Dennis and I both have the same birthday, Aug 9, the day of the meeting, and I'm sorry we couldn't have celebrated it together with a cactus fruit shake. I heard they were excellent.

Those of you who attended the Sept. picnic know it was great. The location was perfect, food was filling, and the auction plants were the best I've ever seen. I thank the following people; Tom DeMerritt, Ed Nolan, Betty Athy, Beverly Kirkegaard, Herb Stern, Michael Buckner, and a special thanks to Woody Minnich for his educational auctioneering, humorous stories, and for consigning some fantastic plants. It was a lot fun and a big success so don't miss it next year.

In Oct. Jim Dice will be wrapping up the donations for the Anza-Borrego foundation. As an organization we support all of their efforts to secure more land for the park. We are matching all funds raised through the individual members so please, contribute what you can to this very worth while project. See you in Oct. Tom Knapik

OUR COVER CONTINUED: *Matucana madisoniorum* (P.C. Hutchison) is usually found in nature as a solitary plant with its stems globular to shortly columnar reaching 10 to 25cm in diameter. The epidermis is grey-green, dull, minutely mammillate (asperous) and surprisingly viscid on new growth.

Paul Hutchison in his description of the species nova wrote, "When spineless, which is the usual condition in the wild, the plant resembles *Lophophora williamsii* of Texas and adjacent Mexico, even to the epidermis coloring, and spined or spineless plants also resemble a number of species of *Gymnocalycium*, but this new species bears no relationship to these."

He goes on to say, "No other cactus that I know has spine-clusters which can be removed intact at the barest touch, as in mature plants of *M. madisoniorum*. No other species has been recorded as having a papillose epidermis that is viscid on new growth. The function of this sticky epidermis may be to catch dust and thus by adding an artificial coating, to reduce both intensity of insolation and water-loss through evaporation."

We feel this is an apt tribute to a remarkable man, **Paul Hutchison**, who past away in early August. Paul was a friend to the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society delivering many hours of educational slide programs and lectures. His last appearance was in August of 1991. Already in very poor health at that time, Paul still managed to present a warm, entertaining and highly informative presentation. Paul was always generous, too, whenever he attended a botanical meeting or made a presentation he always contributed some of his remarkable plant material to the society's raffle, auction, or collection.

Our friend, **Kevin Coniff** related to us that Paul, who was nearly blind due to kidney failure, spent his last few weeks in the hospital listening to classical music. We will remember him always for his incredible love for plants, and life, and his contributions of taxonomic "genius."

Michael Buckner

SUCCULENT-OF-THE-MONTH: *OROSTACHYS*

BY JOYCE BUCKNER

Orostachys is a Crassulacean genera obscure enough that they are rarely found in most succulent collections. Years ago I came across a flat of *Orostachys erubescens* growing at a North County nursery. Resembling a green sea urchin more than a plant, I found their appearance fascinating and set a couple aside to quiz Michael about. When he told me that *Orostachys* was one of the few genera of succulents endemic to China my interest increased. Actually their main habitat is eastern Asia (*China, Siberia, Korea, Japan, etc.*) with some species found through central Asia and extending north of the Himalayas.

The range of altitude in which *Orostachys* grow is truly remarkable. Species inhabit sites from sea level in Japan to 4,400 meters (14,400 feet) in Mongolia. In the May-June 1988 CSSA Journal there is an article about the Rock Alpine Garden of the Denver Botanic Gardens. This article states, "Thus far we are only growing a handful of *Orostachys*—the most striking of which is the hedgehog-like rosettes of *Orostachys spinosus* with a steely gray color. As is the case with other *Orostachys*, it produces showy candles of pyramidal bloom in late summer. *Orostachys furusei* was sold for many years as *Orostachys iwarenge*: this is the tiniest of these autumn succulents, with powdery blue-gray rosettes barely an inch across. It produces dozens of columnar stalks of chartreuse bloom in late summer." Just this description makes me want to hop on a flight to Denver. I get the feeling that the high-altitude brings out the best of this taxa.

The future status for the genus *Orostachys*, along with *Sinocrassula*

and *Rosularia* - two another Asian succulents, appears grim, as they have both been lumped into the genus *Sedum*. Fortunately for me, there is a great new book, **SEDUM cultivated stonecrops** by Ray Stephenson (1994), on sedums with a good deal of information given on the "*Orostachys* Group.

Upon acquiring an *Orostachys erubescens* the first thing I learned about this genus is that they are monocarpic which means they die after blooming. Not knowing enough about them to top them and propagate by cuttings, my *Orostachys* collection soon vanished. Presently, I have a couple of plants that should be in full bloom (almost dead) mid-October, just in time, I hope, for this presentation. I thought, "This time I'm going to try to propagate some cuttings," in hope of maintaining my collection. Now I read that the sedum book suggests that the best way to propagate these is to behead the mother plant before the longest day of the year; this induces offsetting. Perhaps I'll try that with next year's plants!!



Orostachys spinosus (L.) A. Berger
M. Sajeva & M. Costanzo, **SUCCULENTS -
THE ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY**, c. 1994, Timber
Press, Portland, OR. (*syn. Sedum spinosum*)

The *Orostachys*' flower spikes are quite spectacular forming dense pyramids or long cylindrical cones of flowers and foliage. Some *Orostachys* species send out stolons - a stem creeping along the ground which roots at the node starting a new plant. All the *Orostachys* group grow in a rosette form. Although relatively obscure, there are several popular hybrids. The most common appear to be *Sedum boehmeri* "Keiko" and *Orostachys iwarenge* "Fuji". The March-April 1991 issue of the CSSA Journal lists an ISI offering 91-54: *Orostachys iwarenge* "Natsu Fuji". This is a newly named, spontaneous mutation which occurs periodically on the better-known variegate "Fuji". It differs in having leaves with a lighter median stripe, as well as green margins, just the opposite of "Fuji". Rooted cuttings were being offered at \$7.50—the high price for obscurity.

Dazed and confused, I am bowing out of this article — I feel like I know less now, than when I started. If you have any *Orostachys* species in your collection please bring them in!!



Orostachys furusei (syn. *Sedum furusei*)

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Orostachys fimbriatus (syn. *Sedum limuloides*)




Orostachys erubescens (syn. *Sedum erubescens*)

Photographs on this page of the Alpine Rock Garden at the Denver Botanic Gardens. From the article "Succulents at Denver Botanic Gardens" by Panayoti Kelaidis, CSSA Journal, Vol. 60 #3, May-June 1988.



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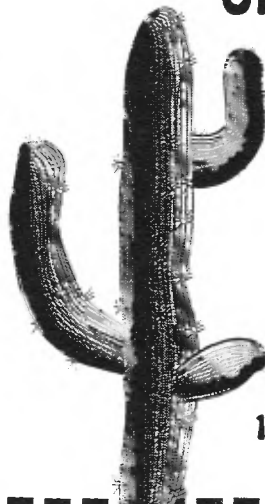
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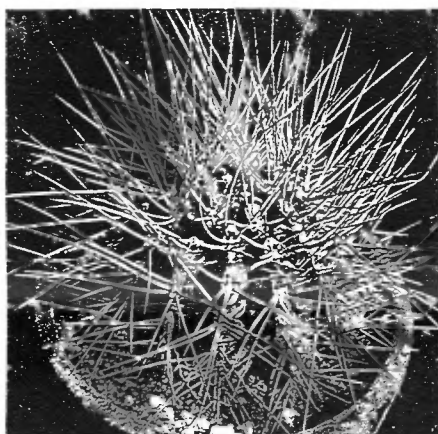
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THE LESS POPULAR "GEM" OF SOUTH AMERICA

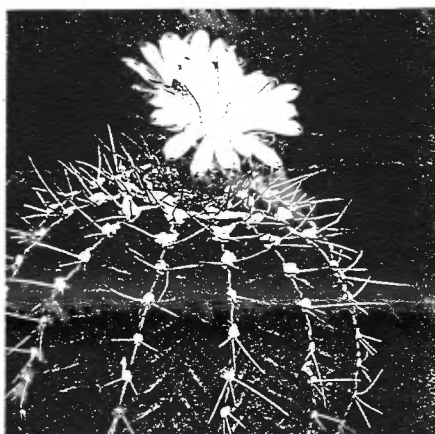
GYMNOCALYCIUM

CACTUS OF THE MONTH BY MARILYN NEWCOMER

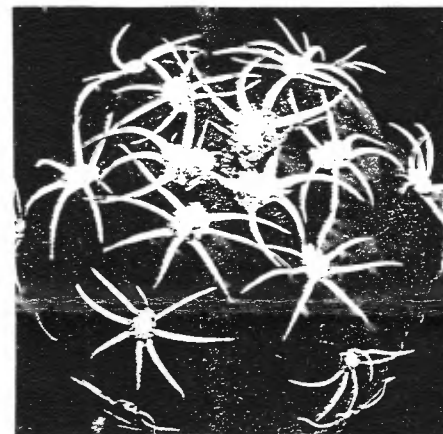
I realize most hard-core cactiphiles think of *Melocactus* and *Copiapoas* when we mention South American cacti, (and they are absolutely stunning!) ----- but the plants in each of those genus pretty much all look alike! Not so with the often over-looked *Gymnocalyciums*. There are really large-stemmed species, i.e. *G. buenekeri*, *G. horstii*, *G. saglionis*, *G. pflanzii*, *G. gibbosum* and *G. monvillei*; extremely heavily spined, i.e. *G. schickendantzii*, *G. pungens*, *G. horridispinum*, *G. cardenasianum*, and *G. eurypleurum*; small, mostly flat growing and solitary, i.e. *G. bodenbenderianum*, *G. occultum*, *G. ragonesei*, *G. vatteri*, and *G. hyptacanthum*; weak/flexible spines, i.e. *G. damsii*, *G. demudatum*, *G. andreae*, *G. mihanovichii*, and *G. friedrichii*; and plants with small heads offsetting early, i.e. *G. andreae* and *G. bruchii*.



Gymnocalycium pungens



Gymnocalycium mihanovichii v. *melocactiforme*



Gymnocalycium denudatum

This is a very unique group of cacti and their distinct appearance causes little confusion with other genera. The genus is named for the naked bud. They have more or less prominent "chins", as the humps on the ribs have come to be called from the resemblance to a human chin. Their distinct spination have few imitators. They are generally globular, or flat-globular ---- solitary or clustering ---- small, 4-5", rarely reaching a foot or more in the wild *or* cultivation. They are noted for their ease in cultivation, except for one or two species. Some have fierce spines and all are free-flowering.

The majority are found in northern Argentina, with others in Bolivia, Chile, Brazil, Paraguay, and some in Uruguay. They do not cover a continuous area, but rather there are gaps in their distribution. Because of the spotty areas and various ecological conditions occurring, species often exist in quite different conditions from each other. Some grow in dry forest areas and others in grass meadows and shrubs. The soil can be from sandy to stony ground. Species growing in the lower regions are almost always found in the shade of shrubs. During the dry period the plants are completely withdrawn into the soil and often covered with leaves or sand.

New species or variants of species have been discovered steadily since the recognition by Britton and Rose in 1922 of Karl Pheiffer's genus *Gymnocalycium* some 70 years before, and some of the earliest of cactus illustrations are of species of *Gymnocalycium*, then called under the umbrella names of ribbed, globular cacti *Echinocactus*. Since Britton and Rose's classic base, *The Cactaceae*, the genus has been generally acknowledged. The number of valid names in this genus is very debatable. Backeberg listed 65 species and

Gymnocalycium, cont'd.

included 27 recognized varieties. Bohumil Schütz of Czechoslovakia recently listed over 100 species. But the most recent pronouncement by David Hunt in the *Cites Cactaceae Checklist* was done in consultation with three other eminent students of the genus, and recognize as acceptable 37 species and as 'provisionally accepted' a further 42. Some species are very distinct and can be confused with no other, while others merge in appearance and are more or less closely related. Many names are poorly founded and completely unnecessary and have fallen by the wayside and can be largely ignored.

Size: Many stay solitary and small, only filling a 6" pot, even after 20 years. Others will make many-headed clusters.

Watering: Because they have drought resistant, chunky bodies and thick wax-like epidermis, they would almost last without water at all for a considerable time! Root loss is most often caused by over-watering. However, I find the *Gymnocalyciums* to be very forgiving in regard to watering. None of our plants are *extremely* hard-grown --- except maybe in the winter, but I have never lost a *Gymnocalycium* by either over or under watering. During their growing period in the summer months, we water our *Gymnocalyciums* every week, certainly all the ones in small pots. If you don't use a moisture meter as we do, you can check the top inch or so of soil with your finger or plant label to tell if moisture is present ---or--assess the weight of the pots. The compost should nearly dry out between waterings. However, after September 1, all of our plants are gauged every week and if I am in doubt at all about the dryness, it doesn't get watered. It is important to keep them fairly dry during the cold, dreary months. In the spring when the weather starts to warm up, we water cautiously, being careful to let them dry out each time. This encourages fine new roots to start the growing cycle. Fall watering should be gradually reduced in frequency to encourage plants to stop growing as our weather gets cooler. However, small pots may need to be watered a little longer.

G. borthii



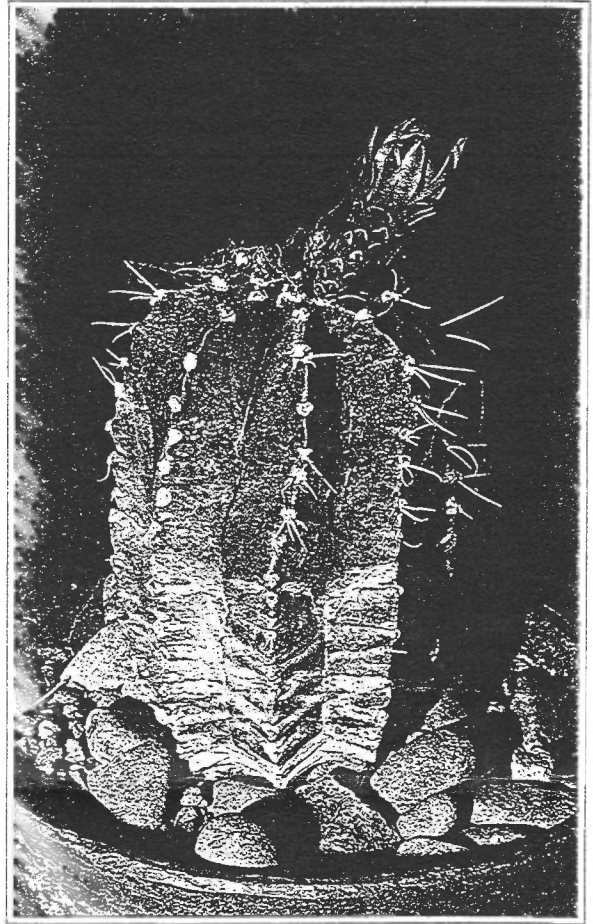
Gymnocalycium, cont'd.

Light: Some species are shade-seeking in the wild, growing among shrubs and grasses, while others grow completely exposed. Therefore a light shading in the hot summer months is beneficial, although too much shade will reduce flowering. Ours receive the morning and late afternoon sun and handle it well.

Temperatures: My *Gymnocalyciums* have been given no protection from the cold winter temperatures which have dropped into the 'teens' in our area and the results have been fine. They tolerate even frosty days, although there is a roof overhead. It is recommended to keep them above 50° F. to prevent any cold damage and this would be ideal. Perhaps seedlings would appreciate a little more protection.

Potting: The potting medium should allow good drainage. They seem to do best when repotted frequently. After a year or two in the same compost, growth slows down. A coarse grit is recommended in proportions of 1 to 3 parts potting medium. Mine are planted in our standard potting mix of 50% perlite and 50% super soil.

Spines: How the spines "lie" seem to aid in identification. Length, color, and the number of spines per areole can vary according to the age of the plant, or growing conditions such as particularly strong, sunny conditions vs low light. Plants in habitat often have more strong spine development. Spines can be curved close to the body, often interlacing, or projecting to form a dense cover. Some varieties have short and straight spines, while others have longer centrals, which are attractively colored in yellow, brown, and shades of red.



G. mihanovichii var. *friedrichii*

Flowers: Although these plant bodies are beautiful, the flowers are the crowning glory of *Gymnocalyciums*. Most flower freely from early to late summer, even at an early age. Flowers rise from the top of the tubercles, near the areole, and have scales on the flower tube and buds. The flowers vary from large to small --- they have slender tubes, are funnel form in shape, and occur in colors ranging from white and yellow to pink and red. Glabrous fruits are typical.

Propagation: Those species which provide offsets can be propagated by cuttings. Dusting with fungicide powder (both cutting and parent at the point of removal) will reduce the risk of rot. Let the cutting dry for a day or two before planting in a dry, sandy compost. Start watering after a week or two. Late spring and summer is the best time to take cuttings. Seeds germinate well when fresh and will keep several years if kept cold.

Pests and Diseases: As with any other cacti, *Gymnocalycium* suffer from the persistent pest, mealy-bug. But because of their less densely spined habit, as well as many being solitary, they can be physically removed with a Q-tip, paint brush, or tweezers. As a preventative measure, spray with an insecticide. Because of their thick

Gymnocalyciums, cont'd.

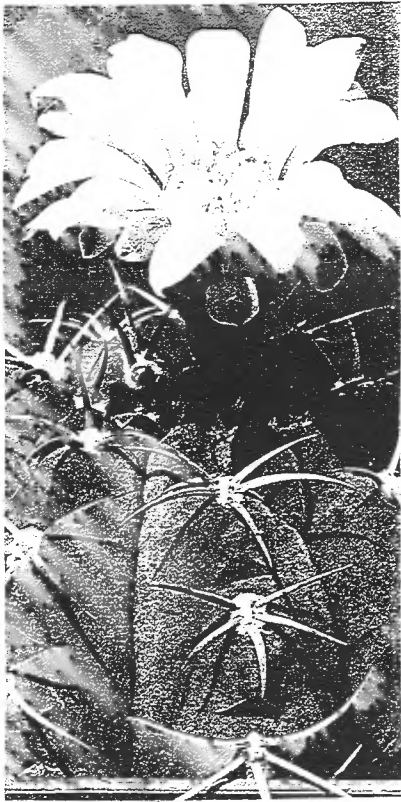
epidermis, *Gymnocalycium* are not apt to get red spider mite, however, seedlings may be attacked. An insecticide will clear them of this. *Gymnocalyciums*, like other cacti, can suffer from fungal disorders if over-watered, but usually only the root system will collapse. This can be cut away and the plant re-rooted.

Most students seem to favor the classification by Dr. Bohumil Schütz. He defines 6 subgenera which are broken down into 11 sections. These are based on seed characters and are as follows:

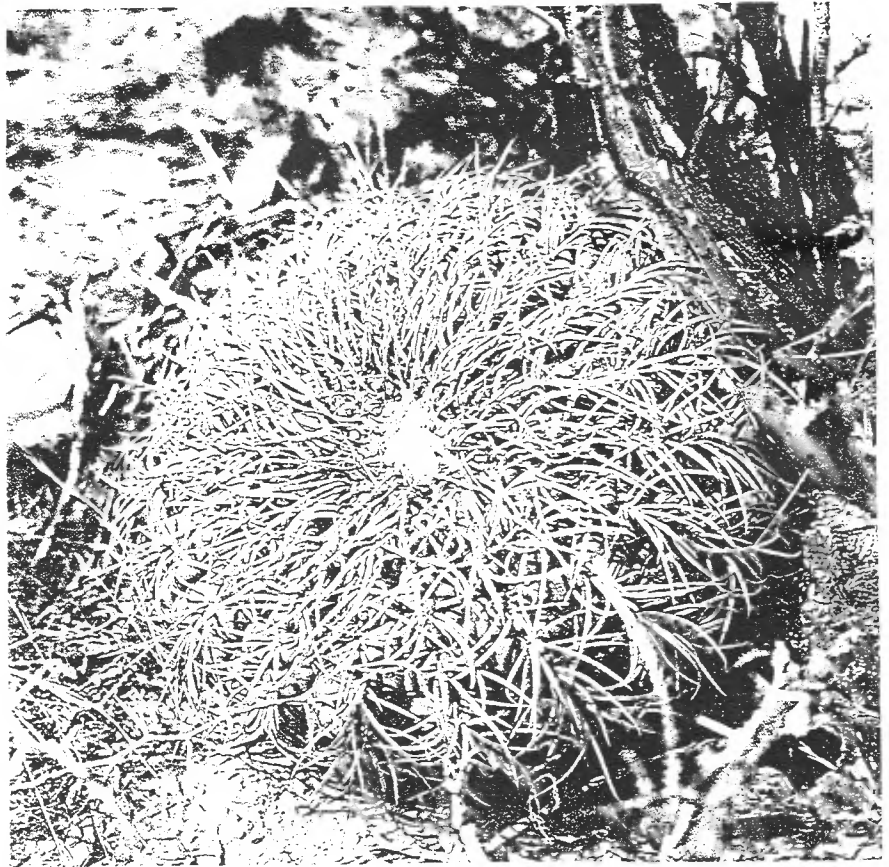
Subgenus *Macrosemineum*
Subgenus *Microsemineum*
Subgenus *Muscosemineum*

Subgenus *Gymnocalycium*
Subgenus *Trichomosemineum*
Subgenus *Pirisemineum*

Gymnocalycium are so robust looking and have such a variation of color in the plant body --- ranging from shiny dark green, grey-green, red and brown. Some of the most popular are those that have a dark complexion. If grown in stronger light they will retain their dark brown or brownish-green color. Spination is nearly nil on some plants, with long stiff, dense spination on others. Who can resist adding some of these beauties to your collections!!



G. bayrianum



GYMNOCALYCIUM SPEGAZZINII

References:

- Danny Schuster. 1990 **The World of Cacti**
John Pilbeam. 1987 **Cacti for the Connoisseur**
John Pilbeam. 1995 **Gymnocalycium, A Collectors Guide**

I'VE LEARNED THAT a call from my good friend Miles telling me that she read September's *Espinas y Flores* cover to cover and thoroughly enjoyed it does much to lift my spirits. So far we have only received "I've learned that . . ."s from one member - Please think about it and jot us down a couple. If you wish to send them unanimously then just include your age. We would really like to be able to publish a whole page of succulent grower's learned wisdom in our December issue!!

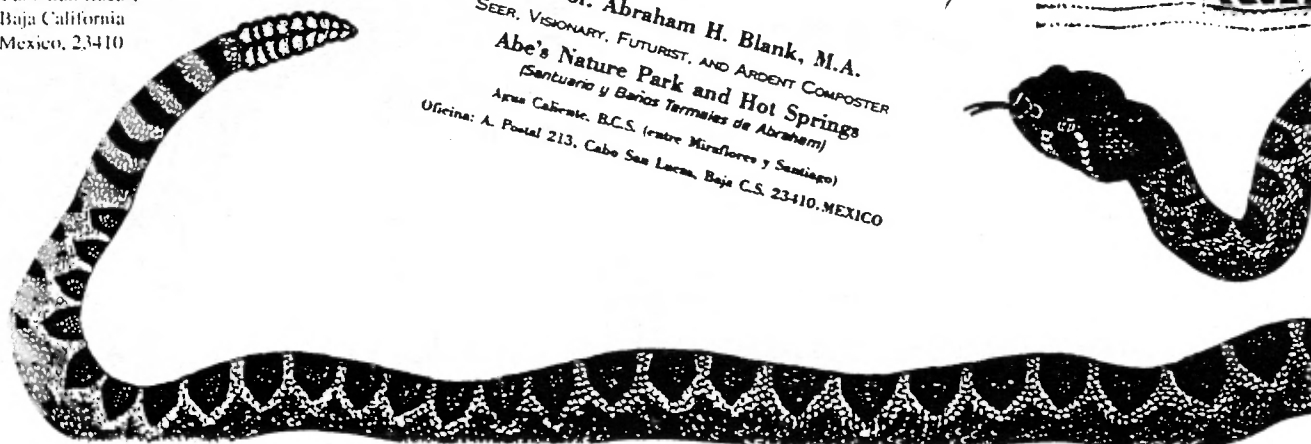
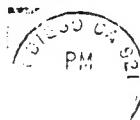
We received a wonderful letter along with a membership application and a separate donation check "to help secure the piece of land for the Anza-Borrego Desert" in the amount of \$100 from a Professor Abraham H. Blank, M.A.:

Amigos de La Naturaleza

A. Postal 213
Cabo San Lucas,
Baja California
Mexico, 23410



Prof. Abraham H. Blank, M.A.
SEER, VISIONARY, FUTURIST, AND ARDENT COMPOSTER
Abe's Nature Park and Hot Springs
(Santuario y Baños Termales de Abraham)
Agua Caliente, B.C.S. (entre Miraflores y Santiago)
Oficina: A. Postal 213, Cabo San Lucas, Baja C.S. 23410.MEXICO



Abe says, "SDC&SS Members are welcome too visit my orchard down at the tip of Baja at the Hot Springs located outside of Agua Caliente — between Mira Flores and Santiago." Abe also has a San Diego phone number and address: 9051-C Siempre Viva Road, St. 40 - Baja Box 351, S.D., CA 92173-3628; (619) 298-4841. Thanks, Abe! You're a gem! We're planning a trip in November, but don't know if we'll be able to get down that far!

(A full disclosure of the monies collected for the Anza-Borrego should be published next month.)

The SDC&SS Supports the Anza-Borrego Desert Foundation

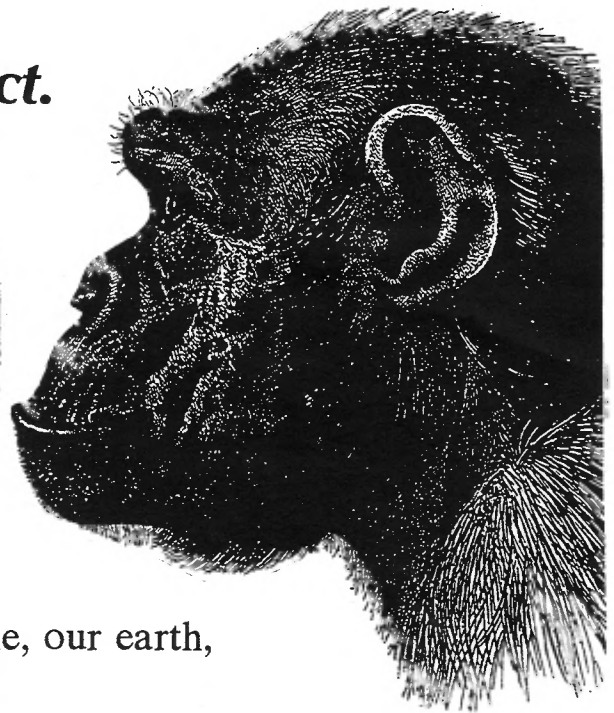
During the July meeting, the board of directors had the pleasure of receiving a visit from Jim Dice of the California State Fish and Game Department on behalf of the Anza Borrego Foundation, Jim, a well known member of our club, was invited to come and explain to us the details of a very unique opportunity relating to land acquisition for **Anza Borrego State Park**. Jim informed the board that a very special area of desert habitat has become available from a private holding for purchase by park interests. The area is an 884 acre parcel on the extreme western side of the park near scissors crossing known as Sentenec Canyon and Cienega. This area contains a year round natural stream and riparian habitat that is of outstanding character. Anyone familiar with Borrego knows the "canyon walls that drip of cactus;" echinocereus, barrel cactus, opuntias, and brittle bush as one drives into the park from Hwy. 78 outside of Banner. Sentenac canyon offers a dramatic entrance into Anza Borrego with its steep stone walls and outstanding desert flora. Unfortunately, most of the entrance into this canyon is outside of the park and is of critical concern for acquisition into the park holdings. Many different groups are involved in generating the funds needed to purchase this area for park expansion. My opinion and others hold that Sentenec Canyon is one of the top regions of cactus habitates in San Diego County: In order to help this cause the board has agreed to match private donations from the club membership up to a total of \$500.00. More details on this important issue will be available at the regular meeting. In addition, I would be glad to discuss this issue in person. See ya soon. *Edward M. Nolan.*

***We make life real
By the thoughts we project.***

DENG MING-DAO

**WISE AND
OTHERWISE**

by Michael Buckner



How strange and wonderful is our home, our earth,
With its swirling vaporous atmosphere,
Its flowing and frozen climbing creatures,
The croaking things with wings that hang on rocks
And soar through fog, the furry grass, the scaly seas . . .
How utterly rich and wild . . .
Yet some among us have the nerve,
The insolence, the brass, the gall to whine
About the limitations of our earthbound fate
And yearn for some more perfect world beyond the sky.
We are none of us good enough
For the world we have.

EDWARD ABBEY

How much farther along would we be if men showed some concern for other forms of life and renounced all the evils they inflict upon so many living creatures from sheer thoughtlessness. We must in our time make it our special task to struggle against the antihuman traditions and inhuman emotions that are still too much in our midst.

Albert Schweitzer, Address before the French Academy, 1952

Let us ask the hypothetical and simple question: 'What have Orang-utans done to us that we have driven them to near extinction?' The answer to this is easy (as indeed for most other species in this predicament) and there would be few who could quarrel with the answer: nothing, absolutely nothing.

Gisela Kaplan and Lesley Rogers; Orang-utans in Borneo, 1994. From Where Worlds Collide - The Wallace Line by Penny van Oosterzee, 1997, Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY.

Watching gardeners label their plants
*I vow with all beings
to practice the old horticulture
and let the plants identify me.*

ROBERT AITKEN

WISSE AND
OTHEERWISSE

You are the last whale,
washed up on a far beach.
The waves are pushing against you.
Your brothers and sisters are gone.
The light is too bright for your eyes.
You cannot breathe.
Small children are throwing rocks and laughing,
climbing onto your body.
You die alone, your ears full of wind.

You are the last buffalo.
The sun is setting over the plains.
You stand alone, enormous,
heavy with fur, lonely.
You are tired of running, tired of running.
All of your friends have gone.
It seems even the earth has turned against you.
There is no one to say goodbye.
You rest, listening to the wind.

When the time is right,
the spirit of the wolf returns.

GARY LAWLESS

***My back is stooped from scholarship,
My eyes are dimmed by history's words.
Surrounded though I may be by learning,
I still cannot compare with nature's perfection.***

DENG MING-DAO, 365 Tao Daily Meditations, 1992, Harper Press, SF.

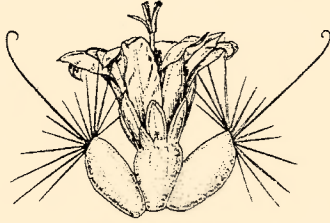
To all that is brief and fragile
superficial, unstable,
To all that lacks foundation
argument or principles;
To all that is light,
fleeting, changing, finite
To smoke spirals,
wand roses,
To sea foam
and mists of oblivion . . .

To all that is light in weight
for itinerants
on this transient earth
Somber, raving,
with transitory words
and vaporous bubbly wines
I toast
in breakable glasses . . .

MARIA EUGENIA BAZ FERREIRA

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, Inc.
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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 \$10.00 per single member per year, \$5.00 for each additional member within the same household. Single copies of *Espinas y Flores* are \$1.00 per copy sent within the USA; foreign subscriptions are \$25.00. Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc. Editors, (619) 222-3216 Fax or Phone.