

# Espinas y Flores

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

Volume XXII, Number 9

September 12, 1987

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

Saturday September 12, 1987

1:30 p.m.

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

Program: SUCCULENTS OF ETHIOPIA

By Michael G. Gilbert

Michael G. Gilbert is Herbalist with the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, England. He worked in Africa from 1968 with eight years in Ethiopia and five years in Ethiopia. He has writings on Crassulaceae, Euphorbiaceae and Stapelieae. This will be an illustrated program. Michael Gilbert is an active member of I.O.S.

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Deadline for the October Issue - September 25 - Thanks Mary



## CACTUS-OF-THE-MONTH

### THE GENUS ECHINOCEREUS

By Dorothy Dunn

Echinocerei are native to the southwestern United States and Mexico, including Baja California. They inhabit a wide belt of the North American continent, from Utah and Wyoming south throughout most of northern Mexico, and from central Oklahoma and Texas on the east to the Pacific Ocean on the west.

This is one of the largest genera in the Cactaceae; the number of actual species is somewhat in question at this point due to the confusing intergradation of species in the wild and the tremendous variation within single species, but well over 80 have been described at one time or another by various authorities. Backeberg lists 91, plus numerous varieties; Lyman Benson, in his monumental new work The Cacti of the United States and Canada (1982), has reduced this number to 41 and many varieties. The recent Kew Magazine Monograph The Genus Echinocereus (1985) by Nigel P. Taylor (billed - somewhat grandiosely - as "the definitive botanical and cultural guide") recognizes 44 species. Many so-called 'species' have varying characteristics depending upon locale and are really just geographical variants. E. engelmannii is an excellent example of this.

The name Echinocereus means, literally, "spiny cereus", and the common name "Hedgehog Cactus" is also derived from this. The spination is often spectacular, with a color range of reds, pinks, tan, brown, black, white, and gold. The spines of Echinocerei may be either straight or curved, but they are never hooked.

Buxbaum divided the Echinocerei into three groups depending upon habit of growth. These three series are: (1) Subinermis, referring to plants with weak or fewer spines (E. knippelianus is a very representative member of this group); (2) Prostrati, denoting prostrate or mat-forming plants (E. pentalophus); and (3) Erecti, which includes all the erect, basal-branching species. Probably the best-known of these are E. engelmannii, E. pectinatus, and E. reichenbachii.

Although technically classed as Cerei, which usually evokes mental images of tall, stately, columnar cacti, the stems of Echinocerei are always quite low-growing, most remaining well under 12 inches long when mature. A few of the southwestern species may occasionally reach a height of about 24 inches. Although the plant body of some species remains a single, unbranched stem throughout life, most form clusters of stems almost from the outset. A few others branch very sparingly, and only with great age.

The flowers of Echinocerei are very large and beautiful, and range from red through various shades of purple, lavender, and pink, to yellow, and even green, as in E. viridiflorus. A peculiarity of this genus is that the shoots and buds generally develop deep within the stem and literally burst out through the epi-

dermis. The fruits are fleshy, thin-skinned, and often edible, many being considered delicacies (giving rise to another popular common name, "Strawberry Cactus").

In recent years several choice species have become more available to collectors. These would certainly include E. pulchellus, with its almost silvery-green epidermis and semi-geophytic nature, E. delaetii, with long flexuous white spines, E. nivosus with shorter, stiff, glassy white spines, the dwarf, clustering E. lauii, and the stunning E. pectinatus var. rubrispinus, whose large beautiful flowers perfectly complement the deep rose-red coloration of the pectinate spines.

In nature Echinocerei usually grow in exposed places on dry slopes and hills in the full strength of the southwestern sun. They are intolerant of excess moisture and/or poor drainage; the slower-growing erect species in particular require a very open, porous soil and careful watering in winter. However, most species are very cold-hardy, some of them being native to fairly high altitudes. Only the Mexican species are somewhat susceptible to frost damage.

Few pests seem to bother Echinocerei; the familiar spine mealybug is probably the most prevalent, especially among the pectinate-spined species.

Propagation is easy from cuttings, offsets, or division of clumps. They also grow readily from seed, and are sometimes grafted to induce the reluctantly-offsetting species (such as E. knippelianus, and the extremely rare E. lindsayi) to become more prolific.

Whether you choose to grow them in pots or in the open ground, you will find Echinocerei very rewarding plants to cultivate, both for their fierce, colorful, or intricate spination and their magnificent flowers.

#### Literature consulted:

Backeberg, Curt:	<u>Cactus Lexicon</u>
Benson, Lyman:	<u>Cacti of the United States and Canada</u> (1982)
Borg, J.	<u>Cacti</u>
Martin, Chapman, and Auger:	<u>Cacti and their Cultivation</u>
Taylor, Nigel P.	<u>The Genus Echinocereus</u> (1985)
Weniger, Del:	<u>Cacti of the Southwest</u>

MONADENIUM - THE SUCCULENTS OF THE MONTH

Joey Betzler

Monadenium is a group of plants in the Euphorbiaceae. Though most of the species known to collectors are succulents, there are non-succulent members as well. In 1895 Pax separated this genus from Euphorbia based on M. coccineum. In 1898 there were 3 species recognized, in 1913 N. E. Brown brought the number to 24. Bally described and reorganized about 30 taxa bringing the total to about 50 species in 1961. As of this writing there are between 5 and 15 more species, some published and others are still unnamed.

This genus is striking in several respects: the structure of its flowers is bilaterally symmetric (zygomorphic) unlike Euphorbia; there are a high degree of different growth forms; and the center of distribution seems to be in tropical east Africa. Growth forms vary from inch high stemless plants, to sturdy tree like specimens demonstrating the plasticity of this genus. Not all of the genus is succulent, so only the serious collector would try to grow all the different species. All but one species extends beyond the tropics and very few are found outside east africa. Since the genus has no representatives in south africa an argument can be made that this taxon is a relatively recent evolutionary group.

The area of greatest diversity of plant forms occurs in central and southern Tanzania and the greatest number of species are here as well. From this area the non-succulent, herbaceous forms radiate towards the north-west to equatorial africa. Geophytes evolved mainly along the narrow band running east to west almost to the Atlantic seaboard. The fleshy leafed herbs and the extreme succulents range from Somalia to Natal in South Africa. Shrubby and arborescent species are only found around the core area in Tanzania. Most of the members of this genus are found in areas where the mean rain fall is from 20 - 40 inches a year.

Species list\* with author, year of publication and location of taxa:

<b><u>M. angolense</u></b> Bally, 1961.	central Angola
<b><u>M. arborescens</u></b> Bally, 1961.	eastern Tanzania
<b><u>M. cannelii</u></b> Leach,	Angola
<u>M. capitatum</u> Bally, 1959.	southern Tanzania
<b><u>M. chevalieri</u></b> N.E. Br., 1913.	Centrafrique, Zaire
<b><u>M. chevalieri v. filiforme</u></b> Bally, 1961.	northern Zambia
<b><u>M. chevalieri v. spathulatum</u></b> Bally, 1961.	Malawi
<b><u>M. coccineum</u></b> Pax, 1895.	northern Tanzania
<u>M. crenatum</u> N.E. Br., 1911.	Zimbabwe
<b><u>M. crispum</u></b> N.E. Br., 1913.	northern Tanzania
<b><u>M. descampsii</u></b> Pax, 1898.	southern Zaire
<u>M. discoideum</u> Bally, 1959.	northern Zambia

\* the species in **bold** type are succulent or semi-succulent, though most of the species have fleshy leaves, stems and underground tubers.

<b><u>M. echinulatum</u></b> Stapf, 1901.	northern Tanzania
<b><u>M. elegans</u></b> A.N.	
<b><u>M. ellenbeckii</u></b> N.E. Br., 1913.	northern Kenya, southeastern Ethiopia, northern Somalia
<b><u>M. erubescens</u></b> (Rendle) N.E. Br., 1912.	northern Somalia
<b><u>M. fanshawei</u></b> Bally, 1961.	northern Zambia
<b><u>M. friesii</u></b> N.E. Br., 1914.	southern Tanzania, central Zambia
<b><u>M. fwambense</u></b> N.E. Br., 1913.	northern Zambia
<b><u>M. goetzei</u></b> Pax, 1902.	western Tanzania
<b><u>M. gracile</u></b> Bally, 1959.	central Tanzania
<b><u>M. guentheri</u></b> Pax, 1909.	southern Kenya
<b><u>M. guentheri v. mammillare</u></b> Bally, 1959.	northeastern Tanzania
<b><u>M. herbaceum</u></b> Pax, 1911.	eastern Congo
<b><u>M. hetropodum</u></b> (Pax) N.E. Br., 1913.	northern Tanzania
<b><u>M. hirsutum</u></b> Bally, 1959.	Zambia
<b><u>M. intermedium</u></b> Bally, 1959.	eastern Tanzania
<b><u>M. invenustum</u></b> N.E. Br., 1909.	central Kenya
<b><u>M. invenustum v. angustum</u></b> Bally, 1959.	southern Kenya
<b><u>M. kaessneri</u></b> N.E. Br., 1911.	southern Zaire
<b><u>M. laeve</u></b> Stapf, 1900.	southwestern Tanzania, Malawi
<b><u>M. letestuanum</u></b> Denis, 1922.	Centrafrique
<b><u>M. letestuanum v. rotundifolium</u></b> Bally, 1961.	Centrafrique
<b><u>M. lugardae</u></b> N.E. Br., 1909.	southeastern Zimbabwe, western Botswana, northern South Africa
<b><u>M. Mafingensis</u></b> Hargreaves, 1981.	Malawi
<b><u>M. magnificum</u></b> E.A. Bruce, 1940.	central Tanzania
<b><u>M. Majus</u></b> (Pax) N.E. Br., 1911.	eastern Ethiopia
<b><u>M. montanum</u></b> Bally, 1959.	northern Tanzania, southern Kenya
<b><u>M. montanum v. rubellum</u></b> Bally, 1959.	southern Kenya
<b><u>M. nervosum</u></b> Bally, 1959.	southern Tanzania, northern Zambia
<b><u>M. nudicaule</u></b> Bally, 1959.	southern Tanzania
<b><u>M. orobanchoides</u></b> Bally, 1959.	southern Tanzania, Malawi
<b><u>M. orobanchoides v. calycinum</u></b> Bally, 1961.	Angola
<b><u>M. parviflorum</u></b> N.E. Br., 1911.	northern Malawi
<b><u>M. petiolatum</u></b> Bally, 1959.	central Tanzania
<b><u>M. pseudoracemosum</u></b> Bally, 1959.	southern Tanzania
<b><u>M. pseudoracemosum v. lorifolium</u></b> Bally, 1959.	northern Zambia
<b><u>M. reflexum</u></b> Chiov., 1951.	southern Ethiopia, northern Kenya
<b><u>M. rhizophorum</u></b> Bally, 1959.	southern Kenya
<b><u>M. rhizophorum v. stoloniferum</u></b> Bally, 1961.	southern Kenya
<b><u>M. ritchiei</u></b> Bally, 1959.	central Kenya
<b><u>M. schubei</u></b> (Pax) N.E. Br., 1913.	central Tanzania, Zambia
<b><u>M. schubei v. formosum</u></b> Bally, 1959.	central Tanzania
<b><u>M. simplex</u></b> Pax, 1912.	Angola



<u>M. simplex</u> v. <u>pudivundum</u> (Bally) Bally, 1961.	northern Zambia
<u>M. spinescens</u> (Pax) Bally, 1959.	central Tanzania
<u>M. stapelioides</u> Pax, 1911.	northern Tanzania, southern Kenya, eastern Uganda
<u>M. stellatum</u> Bally, 1959.	northern Somalia
<u>M. surpurbens</u> n.n.	
<u>M. torrei</u>	Mocambique
<u>M. trinerve</u> Bally, 1959.	central Kenya
<u>M. virgatum</u> Bally, 1961.	eastern Kenya
<u>M. yattanum</u> Bally, 1959.	southern Kenya
<u>M. yattanum</u> v. <u>gladiatum</u> Bally, 1959.	Tanzania-Kenya border

The above list is compiled from Bally (1961), the best work on this subject to date. Though there is a lack of current literature Hargreaves gives an interesting account, in The Cactus and Succulent Journal (U.S), of the discovery M. mafingensis (1981) in Malawi.

Growing Monadeniums is about the same as growing tropical Euphorbias. These plants grow mainly within the tropics, but most have a definite rest period. During these dormant times the plants do not normally grow. With M. spinescens and other species with leaves; plants that shed all of their leaves need a rest. Very little water is given during this time. When the plants start to put out new growth, watering is resumed. Geophytic (tuberous) plants that lose all above ground vegetation are treated in a similar manner.

There are a few pests: mealy bugs can be a problem, and a fungi known commonly as 'Noble Rot'. The mealy bugs can be taken care of with normal procedures for succulents, Cygon or Malathion are commonly used. Check with local growers for other suggestions on pest controls. The 'Noble Rot' may be good for wine, but it wrecks havoc on some of these plants. Once it is discovered it is too late. At Grigsby Cactus Gardens plants of the M. ritchiei group are overwintered out of their pots. If you have had a problem with rot in the winter try this technique.

Only about half of this group of plants is under cultivation, and not all of these are ready for distribution to collectors. There is not much written about Monadenium. As interest intensifies and new introductions are made this problem will be remedied.

#### References used:

- Bally, P.R.O. 1961. The Genus Monadenium. Benteli Publishers, Berne. 111 pgs
- Hargreaves, B. J. 1981. Monadenium Mafingensis Hargreaves, sp. nov. Cactus and Succulent Journal (U.S.) 47:292-293.

# 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. Bozicactus, Matucana, Oroya, Denmoza
6. Neoporteria, Neochilenia, Islaya, Pyrrhocactus, Horridocactus, Eriocyce, etc.
7. Copiapoa
8. Melocactus, Buiningia
9. Discocactus, Uebelmannia, Frailea, Blossfeldia
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 Mesembs
28. Anacampseros, Portulaca, Talinum, Portulacaria, Ceraria
29. Kalanchoe
30. Cotyledon, Tylecodon, Adromischus
31. Crassula
32. Aeonium, Aichryson, Greenovia, Monanthes, Sempervivum, 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, Kedrostris, 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, Dasylyrion, etc.
53. Hechtia, Tillandsia, Puya, Dyckia, Abromeitiella, etc.
54. Any other genus
55. Crests, Monstrose, Variegates

## DIVISION V: Displays

60. Displays





"Rhoda the Roadrunner", Mascot of the Visitors Roster, typifies the delightful traveler who will take off at a moment's notice for virtually any commercial or privately owned garden or greenhouse where she can see her favorite plants. She readily dusts off her agaves, and puts new top dressing on her plants when she is expecting visitors. Several of us have helped to develop Rhoda's character and personality; Frank Bowman supplied the original and the artist's touch. We hope you enjoy getting to know Rhoda. She is a bit unpredictable, she is outspoken at times, she is intensely competitive and she regularly over-extends her budget at her favorite succulent plant shops, but her plants are well-grown and she will take on all comers at any cactus show that she visits.

Rhoda recommends the Roster to everyone interested in sharing their enthusiasm for succulent plants:

"The new Visitors Roster is one of my very favorite books. It lists more than a hundred growers from all over the United States and even some from Canada. Not only are personal collections described, but you can easily identify the types of plants on which each grower concentrates or specializes, the various activities related to plants that they pursue, and other gardening activities. There are dozens of growers listed who specialize in Euphorbias and in Caudiciforms, a list of serious Lithoparians, and a few categories such as Talinum or Neochileneas which have only one or two growers. Surprisingly, one of the most popular activities is making succulent plants thrive and flower in cold and wet climates, where no self-respecting Roadrunner would ever be found.

"There are sections listing all the CSSA affiliated clubs, and another section listing more than one hundred forty Parks, Greenhouses and Conservatories where you can see collections of Cactus and Succulents."

Remember, there is no charge to have your name, address, and interests, etc., listed in the Roster, but there is a charge of four dollars to purchase the book, and there is a charge of ten dollars for listing the business cards of commercial growers. (The four dollar charge for the Roster covers only the cost of reproduction and mailing. The Cactus and Succulent Society of Maryland and a few individuals have contributed all the costs for production and photographs, while income from business cards will be used for additional photographs.)



Come up and see me sometime!

- - INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION - VISITORS ROSTER - -

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_, STATE \_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE AREA CODE (\_\_\_\_) NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 TIME ZONE \_\_\_\_\_ CONVENIENT TIME FOR CALLS \_\_\_\_\_  
 FACILITIES Greenhouse \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft. Artificial Lights \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.  
 Year-round outdoor succulent plant garden \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_ Hardiness Zone \_\_\_\_\_  
 NUMBER OF PLANTS (approximation okay) \_\_\_\_\_  
 CLUBS (plants related) \_\_\_\_\_

ACTIVITIES (plant related) \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIALTIES\* \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTS\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

PERSONAL DATA \_\_\_\_ (occupation, length of time interested in succulents, other related hobbies or plant activities, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECTIONS\*\*\* (State directions from nearest major freeway or Highway intersection. State compass direction, [north, south] in addition to turn right, turn left, referring to landmarks if possible. State approximate distances between various changes of roads.) \_\_\_\_\_

- - STATISTICAL DATA SECTION (Just for fun) - - - -

YEAR IN WHICH YOU FIRST BECAME INTERESTED IN SUCCULENTS? \_\_\_\_\_

FAVORITE BOOK ABOUT SUCCULENTS? \_\_\_\_\_

FAVORITE COMMERCIAL SOURCE OF PLANTS \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU ATTEND CSSA OR EASTERN CONFERENCES? \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR ONE VERY FAVORITE PLANT? \_\_\_\_\_

\* Aloes, Anacampseros, Hairy Cactus, Orchid Cactus, Caudiciforms, Bonsai, etc.

\*\* Photography, Travel, Shows, Lecturing, Writing, Judging, etc.

\*\*\* Commercial Growers or Retail Sales only.

Please return completed form to:

Fred W. von Behren % CSSM, P.O. Box 134 Perry Hall MD 21128

There is no charge to be listed in the Visitors Roster, however if you wish to have a your own copy, please enclose \$4.00 and we will mail your Roster to you when it is published in November.

DEADLINE 30 SEPTEMBER 1987

## Killing Cactus and Other Succulents

### The Questions:

1. I have an 8 inch *Mammillaria geminispina* that I purchased two years ago. It has continued to grow very nicely except for its long spines. The spines on the old growth are 1 and 1/2 inches long, while the spines on the growth that has taken place within the last two years is only 1/4 inches long. What am I doing wrong?
2. I have read that many of my cactii appreciate acid soil conditions. My plants are potted in Grigsby's "dirty pumice" and watered with San Diego tap water and 1/5 strength 0-10-10. Although I haven't tested, I would think that the soil would be quite alkaline. What can I do to create acid soil conditions? Should I worry about it if my plants seem healthy? I have used aluminum sulfate to acidify the soil around plants in my yard. Would this work for cactii, or would it result in increased salt accumulation?

### An Answer:

It sounds as if your plant is not getting enough light. If the areoles on the new growth are a bit further apart than on the old, or if the shape of the individual heads is becoming less round and more like dunce caps with the top rounded, insufficient light is almost certainly the answer. Like most if not all of the white-spined mamms, *geminispina* likes a lot of light. In the ground it will be happy with full sun throughout most or all of the day.

If the answer is not in the light, maybe your fertilizer has something to do with the spine growth. It is a canard that cactus do not like or do not need nitrogen. As one successful local grower/wholesaler said to me, cacti are plants too. And they need the same nutrients that other plants do, even if not always in the same volume.

Several years ago, I began using 10-10-5 Liquinox when I learned that it was the preference of many commercial growers (not all stores have it but Grigsby's was carrying it the last time I asked). Liquinox has the advantage of solving your second problem, that of soil alkalinity. It is acidic and designed to help cope with the salts in our water and soils. My plants were reasonably healthy when I began using it, but even so there was an improvement after several months. Interestingly, even if not pertinent to your immediate problem, the genus that benefitted most appeared to be *sulcorebutia*.

I also occasionally use B-1 concentrate for the minerals that it contains. I am not prepared to argue just how valuable it is, but I feel, for example, that it has something to do with my reasonably good success in obtaining and maintaining good

root systems in haworthias, an objective not always easily achieved.

An additional step you might take to assure that you at least begin with an acidic mix is to be sure that the humus component of your mix is acidic. An article in the San Diego Union several months ago suggested that a number of commercial mixes or composts that we might expect to be acidic are not. Supersoil is one that tested acidic, and I noticed that the label of a recent bag that I purchased specified that it is acidic.

- Robert Kent

#### FROM THE BOARD.....



It was determined that our October meeting at the Wild Animal Park will be directed toward Baja Hill and the various plant displays that will be on exhibit that weekend, and that a speaker will not be scheduled.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Kent". The signature is fluid and cursive.

As noted above, the October Meeting will be held at the Wild Animal Park. We will be allowed to park in the employee parking lot in the back. I will put in a map for next month. The park will also furnish Cake-Punch-Coffee. If you wish more than that either bring it or can buy at the Park. More next month.

#### SHOW SCHEDULE FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR

Sept. 19 & 20	San Diego Bromeliad Society 13th Show	Sat: 1pm-4:30pm	Sun: 11am-4:30pm
Sept. 26 & 27	San Diego Bonsai Club Fall Show	Sat: 10am-5:00pm	Sun: 10am-5:00pm
Oct. 3 & 4	Balboa Park African Violet Soc. Fall Show	Sat: 10am-4:00pm	Sun: 10am-4:00pm
Oct. 17 & 18	San Diego Co. Orchid Soc. Fall "Mini" Show	Sat: Noon-5:00pm	Sun: 10am-4:30pm
Oct. 24 & 25	Sogetsu School of Ikebana Show	Sat: 11am-4:30pm	Sun: 11am-4:30pm
Oct. 31-Nov. 1	San Diego Tropical Fish Soc. 17th Show	Sat: Noon-6:00pm	Sun: 9am-4:30pm
Nov. 22	Sumi-e Painting & Ikebana 12th An. Show		Sun: 11am-4:00pm
Dec. 4-5-6	San Diego Floral Assoc. Christmas Show (Christmas on the Prado)	Fri: 5pm-9:00pm Sat: 11am-9:00pm	Sun: 11am-4:00pm

Of Shows - and Plaques - and Schedules -  
Of Categories - and Things -

by Rick Latimer

It is not too early to start thinking about our next Plant Show & Sale! The Show is "of the members, by the members, for the members". If any members have any suggestions about any aspect of the Show, I would appreciate hearing from them. I am asking now because we have time to think about it, time to let me know, and time to act upon it. As the time for the Show comes near there will be little time to make changes. Those who have already sent me suggestions are: Shirley Berry, Mike Buckner, Dorothy Dunn, and Fred Hutflesz. I appreciate their comments, but ask for more either from others or additional ones from them. Also I want to point out some of the areas that do need special attention.

The Show Schedule itself is the best example of why we need to start now. First I would like a new drawing for the cover. In the past we have had an Platyopuntia, a leafy Euphorbia, and a Rhipsalidopsis (Easter Cactus). I would prefer something completely different, but any artistically drawn succulent will do. This will take some time to think about, design, and draw. Also, one of Mike Buckner's suggestions is to have the Judges' picture and biography included in the schedule - rather like some CSSA Convention Programs. (Yes/No)?

One thing we always like is more trophies and plaques. So far two new ones are promised. One is for "Best Pachycaul or Caudiciform" and the other is for the current Classes 13 and/or 14 (to be decided upon soon). So these two have "dibs" on them, however there are many other things that could use a trophy or plaque (such as "Best Mesemb" or "Best Stapeliad" or "Best Cereoid" or "Best Crest" or even the so far mythical "Huernia" trophy for the largest or heaviest specimen). And of course, we would like to have the trophy before the schedule is printed. Related to this, Mike Buckner has also suggested that the Exhibits/Displays get larger ribbons (like the ones at the S.D. County Fair).

The Categories are probably the most controversial thing to be considered. The two most glaring problems have concerned Class 21 (Mammillaria) and Class 43 (Euphorbia). It just so happens that with the first one we have gotten some larger specimens. Therefore, it would seem logical to create a larger Class "C" to cover this (Say 10" pots and larger and why not for other Classes as well depending upon need?). However, in the case of the second genus we do not have an overabundance of larger specimens. We need to consider other alternatives. Dorothy Dunn writes: "Split up the Mammillaria Class!!! -(Other Shows have as many as 6-9 Mam. Classes!)" I ask everyone: "How many Classes do we want and how do we divide them -spine colors - white, yellow, red, black, and other? On the Euphorbias Mike Buckner writes: "Euphorbia should be divided up into 'caudiciform, medusae-form, crown-of-thorns, etc...'" Suggestions Please!

The other categories have sparked some controversy as well. It has been suggested that we have a category for bulbous succulents (such as

Boophane, Bowiea, Oxalis, Ornithagalum, Reichsteineria, Scilla, etc.) It has been suggested that we divide the caudiciforms and pachycauls into "Africana" and "Americana" Classes. One person suggested that the Bonsai trophy have its own class, while another suggested that we create categories for both the Mexican and San Diego Succulent Trophies. I do not favor this since these categories include both cacti and the other succulents and it is fun to see the Judges run back and forth re-reviewing all the plants.\* And of course, there have been other comments, including some from the Judges. Obviously we can't act upon them all, but it is more fun choosing between a larger group than a smaller group of alternatives.

One suggestion that I think we should act upon is to divide the "crests and monstrose" plants from the "variegates". They are really two different things, we get plenty of each and the variegates tend to suffer in favor of the crests. One Judge commented that we should not have these mixed in with the other plants. (For example, there was a variegated Portulacaria in Class 28 and a crested Stapeliad in Class 40. As it happens there were plenty of plants in Class 55 and too few in the other two Classes.) However since many of the other Classes actually overlap as well and since it is to the exhibitors' and to the public's benefit to be flexible, I feel we should remain so. (The exhibitors benefitted because their plants have a better chance in categories that are wanting [although early exhibitors can not always tell for sure - and if the plant was not meritorious it would not win in either category anyway] and the public benefits educationally, because if that Portulacaria was not there, they would not <sup>feel</sup> that it is closer in relation to Anacampseros by far than to Crassula portulaca say.)

One thing to keep in mind is that we could easily have 300 categories! So we should keep in mind that we are limited by the Judges have to take to judge, by the limits of the size of our Show room, and by how much we can fit onto one piece of paper (unless we want to turn our Show Schedule into a book!). One disappointment for me has been that there has never been any entries in Class 58 so far (perhaps Virginia Innis can help us here). Fred Hutflesz asks if: "There are 24 classes for the cacti and presently 33 for the other succulents, does this difference ... lead to any feeling that members who only enter cacti are disadvantaged (by the more well rounded growers) when it comes time to award the overall high point trophies?". Something to ponder, but remember the succulent family that has the most number of classes after the cacti (which is the Crassulaceae) has less than 1/3 as many (so the cacti need not lose any sleep!). And yes Dorothy, there really isn't going to be any Cumarina or Acharagmas at our next Show or in our next Show Schedule!

\*This would also apply to the Best Graft Trophy as well..



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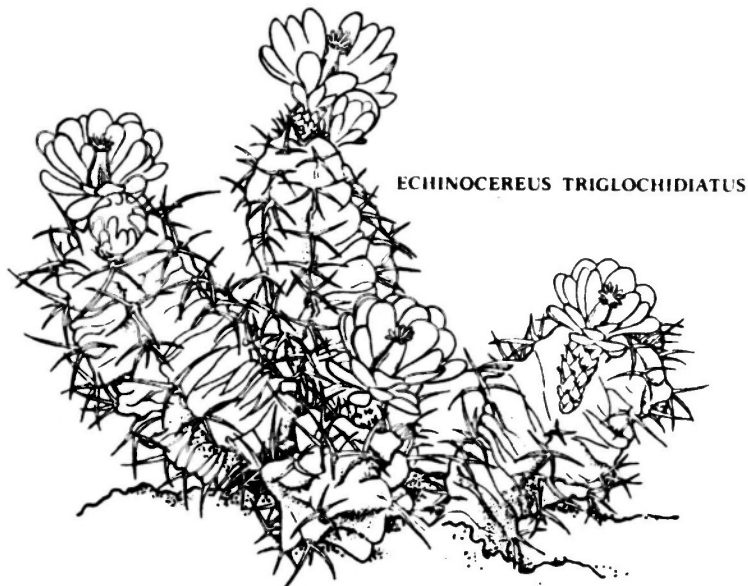
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The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing cacti, other succulents and exotic plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in Room 101, Casa del Prado Balboa Park. Board of Directors 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¢.

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FIRST CLASS

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