



Espinas y Flores

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

Volume XX, Number 11

November 16, 1985

NOVEMBER MEETING

Saturday November 16, 1985 Note Date

Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

1:30 P.M.

PROGRAM

PLANT COLLECTING AMONG THE CORA AND HUIDHOL INDIANS OF WESTERN MEXICO

By Gilbert Voss

Gilbert Voss, Curator of Quail Botanical Garden in Encinitas, will share with us slides of plant collecting trips he has made during the past three years to the mountainous regions of the states of Nayarit and Jalisco in western Mexico. In addition to having a diverse and interesting flora, these areas are the home of the Cora and Huichol people and Gil will also share information on their cultures with us. Voss is a most knowledgeable student of Mexican cacti (opuntias and mammillarias in particular) and has traveled widely throughout Mexico.

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DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER MEETING - CHRISTMAS PARTY - November 30, 1985 Thanks

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Martin Mooney has agreed to fill the term for the Treasurer. Frank Thrombley will be taking the money for the Christmas Party. More about that later.

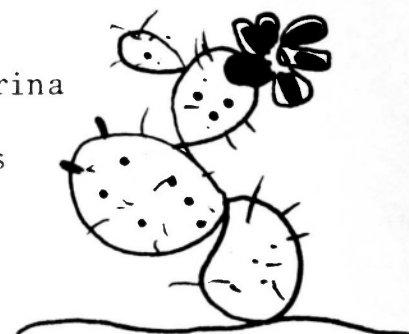
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At the December meeting there will be the election for Board Members. If you would like to be nominated or you have someone to nominate please make it known at the November meeting. Be sure that any name that you suggest, that person is agreeable to accept the post.

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Bragging plant winner for October were:

- 1st Place Jerry Brattmiller for his Brighamia Citrina
- 2nd Place Joe Clements for his Cap Saint Mariensis
- 3rd Place Joe Clements for his Huernia Hystrix
tied Dorothy Dunn for her Euphorbia Susannae



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Those who have volunteered to bring refreshments for the November meeting are:

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Eileen Smith | Elibet Marshall | Marie Pearce |
| Ernest Angus | Brunhilda Scheffler | Joan Fleer |

This is a rather short list, so if you could bring something it would be appreciated.

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DUES ARE DUE - Please pay your dues to Martin Mooney by personalized check by the February meeting. The dues are \$8.00 to the first member of a family, \$2.00 for each family member of the same household. All privileges of membership will be withheld after the meeting in February.

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SHOW SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

| | | |
|--------------|--|---|
| Nov. 23 & 24 | Sumi-e Painting & IKEBANA Show | Sat & Sun: 11:am - 4:30 pm |
| Dec. 6,7,& 8 | San Diego Floral Christmas Show and Boutique | Fri:Sat: 11am - 9:00pm Sun: 11:00am - 4:00pm |

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Thanks to Elibet Marshall for letting me use her drawing in the paper.

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Wally & Rebecca Hawtree - San Diego | Mark & Karel Detterman - San Diego |
| Rena & Earl Conway - Solana Beach | Robt. & Rowena Thompson - Wilmington, CA |

Cactus-of-the-Month

THE GENUS PARODIA

Dorothy Dunn

Parodia is a genus of small, globular, very attractive South American cacti, belonging to the very large Echinocactinae family, which until 1923 was classified under the name Hickenia by Britton and Rose. However, it was subsequently discovered that Hickenia had previously been used as a name for a genus in the Asclepiadaceae family, which pre-empts the name from further generic usage in any family. The name Parodia was proposed by the eminent Argentinean botanist Spegazzini and honors another botanist, Dr. Domingo Parodi, one of the foremost students of the flora of Paraguay.

Parodias are native to northern Argentina, central Bolivia, and extend across Paraguay into southern Brazil. The earliest-known species was discovered in northern Argentina in 1895, and prior to World War I only about three species had been described. They are closely related to Notocacti (Alfred Buining believed that Parodia, Notocactus, Frailea, and Uebelmannia are all closely related genera, differing mainly in their seed structure), and some of the southern Brazilian species are often referred to Notocactus by various authorities (P. brevihamata, P. alacriportana, P. buenekeri, for example). The number of described species and varieties varies from about 28 (Borg) to 130 - !! - (Backeberg). In the past several years, increased exploration of South American cactus habitats has brought to light a great number of additional "new" species which will undoubtedly eventually prove to be only local variants of already described species since this is quite a variable genus.

In habitat Parodias grow mainly in open plains or high, dry hillsides with scattered shrubs and long grasses providing protection from the sun. The rainfall in these areas may vary from 30 inches annually in Argentina and Bolivia up to 80 inches in Paraguay and southern Brazil. The soils in these regions are rich in leaf-mold, with weathered rock and debris comprising the underlying drainage. Some of the stouter-spined species, such as P. maassii, are found at elevations of about 13,000 feet. These heavily-spined species are reportedly more difficult to flower in cultivation.

The plants are generally small to moderate in size and, while usually solitary, sometimes offset from the base, as in P. mairanana and P. microsperma. They are ribbed, but usually have tubercles on the ribs. They possess varying characteristics: in some species the fruits remain in the copious wool in the tops of the plants like some Malacocarpus species (P. maassii, P. aureicentra, P. schwebsiana, etc.); in others the fruits retain the floral remains and are visible, as in Notocactus; some have hooked central spines, while in others the spines are straight (P. nivosa, P. penicillata, P. faustiana). The flower tubes are hairy and bristly

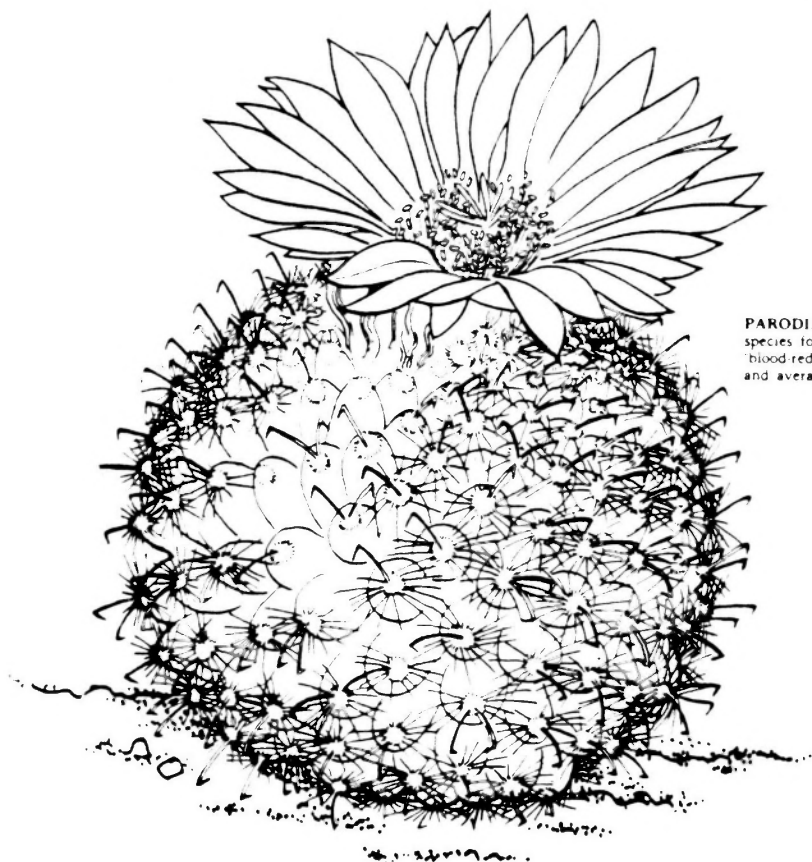
and the fruits are rather small. The flowers appear at the top of the plant and are usually yellow or red (or orange, as in P. mairana). They generally occur several at a time and last for three to five days.

One reason for the relative rarity of some species of Parodia is that they do not lend themselves easily to mass production. The seed of many species is minute and dust-like, and young seedlings are often tiny and very slow-growing. The species with small seeds occur mostly in northern Argentina and southern Bolivia, and include such beautiful and popular ones as P. mutabilis, P. sanguiniflora, P. microsperma, P. chrysacanthion, P. penicillata and P. nivosa, which has brilliant red flowers and straight, snow-white spines. The species with larger seeds come mostly from Bolivia, some occurring at very high elevations.

The culture of Parodias is similar to that of Notocacti, only perhaps not quite so easy. They need a fairly rich, very well-drained soil and can take moderate to generous watering during the growing season. Most species are fairly frost-resistant but should be kept rather dry in the coldest weather. They seem to appreciate some shade, and are more suited to pot culture than to being grown in open ground. Principal pests are the spine mealy-bug and occasionally red spider-mite. They are delightful free-flowering plants, and if you like Notocacti you will surely like Parodias.

Literature consulted:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Backeberg, Curt: | Cactus Lexicon |
| Barthlott, Wilhelm: | Cacti |
| Bleck, Mary: | <u>Parodia spegazzini</u> (<u>Cactus and Succulent Journal of America</u> , May-June, 1972) |
| Borg, J. | Cacti |
| Martin, Auger, Chapman: | Cacti and their Cultivation |



PARODIA SANGUINIFLORA. Argentina. Another good species for a partly sunny indoor location, bearing large blood-red flowers in summer. Provide a rich, porous soil and average watering. In winter, keep above 50° F. and

water monthly. All Parodias are attractive house plants with their yellow, orange or red flowers and interesting spine patterns.

Succulent-of-the-Month

CRASSULAS

Dorothy Dunn

Crassulas belong to the huge and diversified family of Crassulaceae, which includes many of our familiar and favorite succulent genera such as Cotyledons, Adromischus, Dudleyas, Echeverias, Graptopetalums, Pachyphytums, Sedums, Kalanchoes, Sempervivums, and Aeoniums. They are native almost entirely to South Africa. There are well over 200 species of Crassula, plus numerous varieties, hybrids and cultivars. They probably offer more in diversified plant forms than any other genus of succulents, ranging in size from the shrubby C. argentea ("Jade Plant"), which can eventually grow into a sizable tree, down to such minuscule species as C. cooperi, C. reversisetosa, C. comptonii, and C. socialis. In addition, some Crassulas are small herbaceous annuals, of little interest to the collector of succulent plants. In habitat they may be found growing in conditions varying from full shade to full sun, and from moist to the most arid locations. A few species will tolerate some frost.

One distinguishing characteristic of the genus is that the leaves are always arranged in pairs alternating up the stems. Another rather unusual feature is the presence in some species of what are called Hydathodes. These are water-secreting elements on the leaves, usually visible as small dots or "pock-marks", and are not found in any other genus of Crassulaceae in Southern Africa. Good examples of hydathodes are evident in some very common Crassulas such as C. lactea, where they occur along the leaf margins, and C. multicava, where they are scattered over the entire leaf.

The flowers of Crassulas are similar to those of Sedums, except that in some cases they are congested into more compact, stemless clusters. These "shaving-brush" type flowers usually occur in the highly-adapted, "mimicry"-type species such as C. teres, C. pyramidalis, and C. mesembryanthemopsis. The predominant color range is from white through pinks to bright red, although a few have a dull "mustardy" yellowish hue. In a few species the flowers are very fragrant (C. falcata, C. teres, C. lactea), but many of them rival the Stapeliads in being odoriferously offensive, particularly C. 'Jade Necklace' and the various forms of C. corymbulosa, and attract swarms of flies when in bloom. Although the flowers of many species are fairly insignificant, they are still a welcome addition to the colorful plants since so many of them bloom during our winter months. It would be hard to find a prettier, more heart-warming sight than a specimen of C. argentea in full bloom in January. Other species bloom during our late summer and fall; it's possible, with a fairly representative collection, to have Crassulas in bloom almost the year around. C. falcata probably has the most conspicuous and attractive inflorescence in the genus, and has often been used by hybridizers as one parent for some of our finest recent cultivars.

Some of the smaller species of Crassula are sometimes classified as "mimicry" plants because of their ability to conceal themselves in their natural habitat, or because of their resemblance to other things in their environment. Among these are C. alstonii, C. cor-

nuta, C. deceptor, C. columnaris, C. hemisphaerica, C. pyramidalis, and C. mesembryanthemopsis. These species also seem to be more difficult in cultivation. There are also a few species which form underground tubers and are deciduous in summer, such as C. nemerosa, C. capensis, and C. saxifraga. These are seldom encountered in collections, being difficult, temperamental, and generally short-lived in cultivation.

Some Crassulas possess remarkable powers of absorbing water through capillary attraction - that is, by means of the hairs on their leaves. Included in this group are C. barbata, C. columnaris, and C. pyramidalis. A leaf of C. barbata can absorb more moisture in one dewy night than it can lose through evaporation in a week.

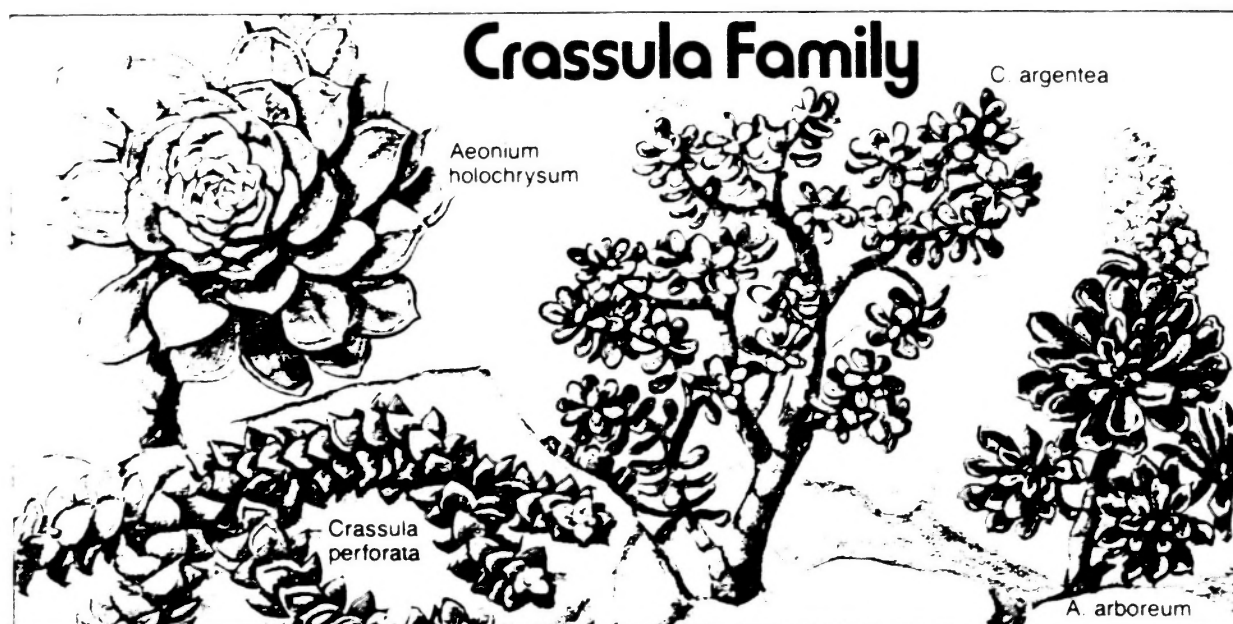
Most of these plants are easily grown and are usually propagated from stem or leaf cuttings. Except for some of the previously-mentioned mimicry-type species they are generally quite tolerant of average watering, and thrive in your usual succulent soil mix. Most of them can be grown in full sun, and all of them need very strong light to maintain their best colorations and characteristic forms of growth. Exceptions to this would be the greener-leaved species such as C. barbata, C. marchandii, C. pyramidalis, C. susannae, and C. socialis.

They seem to be relatively free from pests or disease, although some of the flowers are susceptible to aphids.

Crassulas can be used in many ways in your gardens - the larger varieties are useful planted right in the ground as an integral part of your landscaping, and the smaller species make charming pot plants, hanging baskets, ground cover around larger plants, or subjects for dish gardens.

References used:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Court, Doreen: | Succulent Flora of Southern Africa |
| Haselton, Scott: | Succulents for the Amateur |
| Higgins, Vera: | Crassulas in Cultivation |
| Tolken, H.R. | A Revision of the Genus Crassula in Southern Africa |
| van Laren, A.J. | Succulents (pp. 62 - 69) |



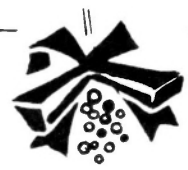
Another strong supporter of the SDC & S Society has died. Oliver Loyland launched innovations to our young club. The job as the first 2nd Vice President was made for Oliver as he and his loyal wife Sophie started the first plant table for the club, a very successful venture.

He was a director.

He built our library bookmobile. He and Sophie were very energetic workers at our yearly shows and the Del Mar Fair.

Oliver and Sophie had a Life Membership, but of recent years, was happy to see younger members take over to expand our club.

A memorial service will be held November 9, Saturday at the Unitarian Church, 4190 Front St. San Diego 92103. Time 3:30 Pm. Any donations to the Church Organ Fund in his name would be appreciated. Lunch will be served after the service.



DECEMBER PLANT EXCHANGE

For the past six years our December plant exchange has proved to be a popular event at our Christmas meeting. For those of you who are new, or those who have forgotten here is how it works.

Each member who wishes to participate will bring in a good looking plant of some maturity in an attractive (or at least, clean) pot with the name of the plant on one side of the tag and the owner's name on the other. Please bring only one succulent plant for this event. Your plant will be put on the Christmas Plant Exchange Table. The person who starts it off (usually me) selects a plant he thinks is the best plant on the table, and the donor of that plant will be called up to select a plant for himself and call out the name of the donor found on the reverse of the tag. This continues until all plants are gone. You can see that the earlier the plant you brought is selected, the greater the chance you will have of picking a quality plant.

The plants brought in for this event should be cleanly potted and have some desirability. Good size specimens would be appropriate, and even a small plant of some maturity is welcome.

Even if you don't want to be involved in this exchange, come to our December meeting anyway, because there is a plant waiting for you (free) which is your annual gift for membership in our Club. These plants will be given only to members who have handed in their registration form for the Christmas party.



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Don't Forget!



Only registered members of our club are invited to the Christmas Party. NO GUESTS

This year for the first time each member must pay \$3.00 toward the cost of the dinner.

Registration for the Christmas Party December 14, 1985

Name of Member _____

Immediate Family Member(s) _____ Amt. _____

NOTE: Registration MUST be in by the 1st of December. Those members registered will receive a gift plant. All others will not receive a gift plant this year. There will only enough gift plants for registered members. Please send your registration to:

Frank Thrombly - 16333 Roca Drive, San Diego 92128 - or bring to Nov. meeting. 7

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

OFFICERS

| | |
|--|----------|
| President - Dr. Leroy Phelps 4094 - 36th Street, San Diego 92104 | 280-9690 |
| Vice President - James Dice 6066 Portobelo Court, San Diego 92124 | 278-0326 |
| Secretary - Susan Clements 42251 Sixth Street, Temecula 92390 | 676-6126 |
| Treasurer - Warren Buckner 1744 Englewood Drive, Lemon Grove 92045 | 469-1391 |
| Immediate Past President - F.C. Thrombley 16333 Roca Drive, San Diego 92128 | 487-5544 |

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Dorothy Dunn, Phyllis Flechsig, Madelyn Lee
Joe Clements, Bud Aubuchon, Verna Pasek

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Succulents - Rick Latimer
Historian: Rick Latimer
Library: Rick Latimer
Membership: Warren Buckner
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Plant Exchange Table: Bill Miller
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Reception: Perlso Lewis and Ethel Standish
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S.D. Floral Association - Verna Pasek

Liaison & Publicity: Kathy & Sandy Frost

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
1058 5th Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 92011

