



MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

Espinas y Flores

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

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PROGRAM: Balboa Park - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.
A film depicting the growth and development of
Balboa Park with emphasis on Florida Canyon.

Jan. 11, 1975, at 1:30 p.m., Casa del Prado, Room 101,
Balboa Park.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH : Neoporteria and Its Allies.

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH : Agaves and Aloes.

Note: There will no longer be any competition among the plants of the month. Please, do let us enjoy yours and bring as many as you can. However, there will be competition on the bragging table. Nevertheless, winner or not, to most members someone else's bragging plant is always of particular interest. Hopefully, many choice plants will make judging a difficult chore.

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MEMBERSHIP: The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing cacti, other succulents and exotic plants. Dues: \$ 5 annually, due in Dec. of each year.

Deadline for February issue publications is Jan. 15, 1975.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let me take this opportunity to say, I hope you have all had a very Merry Christmas and wish you a prosperous New Year. I'd also like to extend a cordial welcome to all the newly elected officers and express my appreciation as well as that of the members to them for their willingness to accept these positions. It goes without saying that I am honored by the confidence you have expressed in electing me President. It affords a rare opportunity to become more involved in a rewarding hobby.

With new officers and this issue of Espinas y Flores, our society embarks on a new road. The most obvious change is that of the editorship. For the past three years, the editor, Walter Scott, has served admirably. No other person has served so long in this position. On behalf of the members, I would like to say to Walter, "Thank you for a job well done. Your hard work and dedication are truly appreciated by one and all." One of our past presidents, Augie Pfeiffer, has agreed to take over our publication until more definite plans can be made. I ask all of you to please contribute articles so the bulletin can become more of a joint effort and to give our new editor ample material to work with.

In the forthcoming year, our society has many activities planned. Our being the host society for the 18th convention of CSSA in May is, without a doubt, one of the largest endeavors our society has ever undertaken. There will be much work and assistance required by a large number of our members in making this convention the success we'd all like it to be. The CSSA has appointed Warren Buckner convention chairman. Walter Scott and Dr. Philip Corliss are our coordinators with CSSA. Much planning has already been accomplished and I am delighted with the progress at this point. The excitement and anxiety is building day by day. We hope to have more detailed information in the next issue of Espinas y Flores. As always, we have the Del Mar fair exhibit in July. As you well know, this is of vital financial assistance to our club.

Some of the many committee positions have been filled, others are yet to be appointed. I'm asking for volunteers to step forward to fill these positions. Not only does that make my job easier, but the more people that become involved in the "happenings", the better our society will be and the more fun you, as an individual, will have. If there is any activity or venture you would like to see us undertake, please call it to my attention or that of one of the officers. We do not run the society for ourselves but for all the members.

I ask you again, to please become involved in the operation of our club. The statement of our late president, John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country", applies to our society in every sense of the word. For, the more you do for your society, the more you obtain from it.

George E. Radwin

Britton and Rose erected the genus Neoporteria in 1922, with Echinocactus subgibbosus as the type species. The genus has been characterized by subsequent authors as comprising a group of slow-growing species with globose to cylindrical growth form, a generally bare apex, and multiple, more or less tuberculate ribs. In the cooler months of the year pink or red funnel-shaped flowers appear apically, two or more from a single areole; the ovary and flower-tube bear scales, bristly wool, and small fruits that split via a basal pore.

Considerable controversy has been occasioned by the erection of several other at least superficially similar genera, including Horridocactus, Pyrrhocactus, Neochilenia (Nichelia), Islaya, Copiapoa, Chileorebutia (Thelocephala), and Reicheocactus. All these genera are globular, have dark-colored epidermis, more or less stout spine armature, and are distributed in the western half of southern South America.

In the 1940's William T. Marshall disputed the way in which the redoubtable Curt Backeberg divided this complex of forms. Taylor accepted Neoporteria and Pyrrhocactus and treated the others as synonyms of one or the other genus. Backeberg answered with a published combination of fact and invective. As is often the case in such situations, the truth (at least as we presently understand it) lies somewhere between the positions of these two authorities.

In recent years the description of numerous species assignable to one or another of these genera has helped to crystallize the limits of several of them. Most authorities accept Copiapoa and Islaya as distinct. Nevertheless, confusion still exists, confusion that this article will not succeed in dispelling, concerning the division and affinities of the remaining cluster of genera.

Backeberg has noted that the flowers of Neoporteria are virtually closed in the middle (essentially tubular), whereas those of the often submerged genus Neochilenia are fully open, rotate, and funnellform. Again, according to Backeberg, Pyrrhocactus and Horridocactus have been derived as a result of mutual isolation occasioned by the uplift of the Andes Mountain chain, and he separates these two genera on the basis of the presence of substantial scales and many stiff bristles on the flower tube of Pyrrhocactus species; the bristles are all but absent and the scales are minute in Horridocactus species.

In an effort to determine affinities (on the basis of anatomical similarity) rather than validity, Rawley and Donald (1966) have published two articles distilled for an American audience by Rowley (1967). Using a statistical approach they have compared seven of the above genera (Neoporteria, Neochilenia, Chileorebutia, Islaya, Reicheocactus, Pyrrhocactus, and Horridocactus) with regard to twelve taxonomically important characteristics. Their results indicate that a) Neoporteria is most distant from the remainder of the group, b) within the other group (it is suggested that it is only subgenerically separate from Neoporteria) that would call Neoporteria (Pyrrhocactus), there are two sub-groups - one including Horridocactus, Neochilenia and Chileorebutia, and one including Islaya, Reicheocactus, and Pyrrhocactus.

Species in all these groups, regardless of their taxonomic boundaries, seem to thrive in a loose, open, well-drained soil and a good number of them flower in our cooler months. Each group has its own peculiarities, ranging from the thick, tuberous roots seen in other groups but so uniform in Neochilenia, to the incredible spinous armature of Horridocactus species, and the brilliant, tubular

flowers and copious soft bristles of Neoporteria species. In the final accounting, as the authorities have not been able to agree on which species to assign to which genera, call them what you wish but bring them to the meeting. Remember, no competition for the cactus of the month- competition will be limited to the bragging table.

References :

- Backeberg, C., 1949, New Ways in Cactology. - II. Cactus and Succulent Journal (U.S.) 21 (2): 35-37
_____, 1949, New Ways in Cactology. - IV. Cactus and Succulent Journal (U.S.) 21 (4): 123-126
Marshall, W.T. and T.M. Bock, 1941, Cactaceae. ix-xiv + 220 pp.
Rowley, G., 1967, The Cactus and the Computer. Cactus and Succulent Journal (U.S.) 39 (2): 49-51.

CACTUS - OF - THE - MONTH - 1975

- Jan. - Neoporteria and its allies (Neochilenia, Chileorebutia, Pyrrhocactus, Horridocactus)
Feb. - Lobivia and related genera (Mediolobivia, Pseudolobivia, Soehrensia)
March - Copiapoa
April - Notocactus
May - CSSA convention- no cactus of the month.
June - Matucana
July - none - (Annual Picnic)
Aug. - Melocactus
Sept. - Rebutia
Oct. - Ariocarpus and its allies (Turbinicarpus, Strombocactus, Obregonia, Neogomezia)
Nov. - Mammillaria
Dec. - Christmas colors

REGALEMENT:

Thank you, Regalement Committee; the Hapeman girls, Jean and Leta, did it again - our Christmas tables were filled with goodies. And if the editor had not misplaced his list, he could have let you know the names of all the hardworking helpers who made the party a great success. My apologies, girls - and again, thank you very much.

The Editor.

Succulent Of The Month For January
Agaves And Aloes

Agave: family - Amaryllidaceae

The agave family ranges from Southern North America through Northern South America and the West Indies.

The rosette shaped plant consists of hard, fleshy, lanceolate leaves with a heavy spine at the tip. The leaves often have margins of small nubs or large vicious teeth. They vary in size from the nine foot A. americana to the tiny four inch A. pumila. The handsome A. ferdinandi-regis and A. victoriae-reginae have heavy white markings on the leaves. A. filifera and A. parviflora have both the white markings and fine white thread along the edge of the leaves.

A fairly easy species to grow, agaves like full sun, rich soil, good drainage and plenty of room for their large root system.

Many agaves die after flowering, but usually produce offsets or buds on the flower stalk. The small Agaves make good pot plants, but the larger species are best kept outside in the ground.

Aloe: family - Liliaceae

This "Old World" succulent ranges from the Mediterranean through Africa and Arabia to Madagascar.

The rosettes are also of fleshy leaves often edged with teeth. They do not die after flowering and produce red, orange, or yellow flowers on tall racemes. Aloes vary in size even more than agaves do. There are the huge "tree aloes", (A. dichotoma, A. bainesii) and tiny two inch ones (A. descoingsii). There are many medium sizes and a whole group of small four to six inch plants (A. jucunda - A. Rauhi - A. Parvula - A. humilis).

Some aloes need protection in winter but many can be grown in the ground here in Southern California. They prefer rich, sandy soil and good drainage. Some species offset heavily so plant them and jump back! You will soon have a yard full of aloes.

Succulent Of The Month

Jan. - Agave and Aloe	July - none - (Annual Picnic)
Feb. - Pelargonium	Aug. - Pachypodium
March - Mesembryanthema	Sept. - Euphorbia
Apr. - Haworthia and Gasteria	Oct. - Stapelieae
May - Sedum	Nov. - Cotyledon
June - Echeveria	Dec. - Your favorite succulent

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

by Augie Pfeiffer, Editor pro tem.

"Another year coming, another Editor and another way of putting out our paper--- a better way --- photo offset copy". This was the beginning of outgoing Editor Nibby Klinefelter's swan song in her last issue of E.y.F. (Dec.71). Not until now, 3 years later, have we launched into the venture of commercial printing, thus lifting a considerable burden from the shoulders of future editors.

Just like any other publication, ours has to cope with rising inflationary costs of printed material and mailing. To help solve these problems, future editions will be limited to articles pertaining to our hobby only: cacti, other succulents and related plants as they pertain to our club's interest. However, space, time and material permitting, there will be a social section.

We appreciate your literary contributions to E.y.F. - keep them coming! And a happy growing 1975.

CSSA CONVENTION SUGGESTIONS by Doc Corliss.

What are you going to do for the coming convention to be held in San Diego in May of this year? I have had much experience over the years in plant society conventions and it had been my hope to get the cactus convention to San Diego and to make it the most rewarding of any horticultural convention ever held. My failing health has limited my activity but there are two things I would like to urge all of you to consider as part of your contribution to making this a memorable occasion for those who attend:

1. I would like every one of you to contact not less than five organizations (preferably those with whom you do business) for gift prizes to be put in "loot bags" given to each registrant. This is a usual form of advertising for many companies, banks, savings and loans associations, department stores, nurseries, seedmen, etc. You should inquire for their "public relations director" and ask that they supply registration gifts for 300 persons. These could include pens, pencils, wallets, sewing kits, maps, match books, memo pads, etc. If 300 is too many, get as many as you can and they will be divided. If they do not have gifts for the "Loot bags", many will donate prizes to be used for drawings, such as silver or leather gifts. The gifts should be sent to: Mrs. Pat Mooney, 97 K St., Chula Vista, Ca., 92011.

2. Those of you whose gardens will not be on the list of those to be seen on the convention tours should volunteer to serve as hosts and hostesses at the gardens to be visited. Drinks and refreshments should be provided and served at every garden and you may help to show the gardens, show locations of rest rooms etc.

OFFICERS

President - Martin L. Mooney, 97 K St., Chula Vista, Ca. 92011, 427-6796
1st V.P. - Nibby Klinefelter, 2201 Fairfield St., S.D., Ca. 92110, 276-6517
2nd V.P. - Reed Pierce, 3525 Wilschire Terr., S.D, Ca., 92104, 291-1994
Secretary - Doris F. Rake, 4410 38th St., S.D., Ca. 92116, 282-1722
Treasurer - Madelyn Lee, 2310 Bella Vista, Vista, Ca. 92083, 1-727-1364
Corr-Sec. - Jeanie Merrill, 9306 Mesa Vista, La Mesa, Ca. 92041, 469-6014
Past Pres - Loyal Bibbey, 490 Citrus Ave, Imperial Beach, Ca. 92032, 423-5133

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1-year term: Oliver K. Loyland and Ione Hubner
2-year term: H. Warren Buckner and Augie Pfeiffer
3-year term: Mary H. Birchell and Perlso Lewis

1975 CSSA CONVENTION COORDINATORS

H. Warren Buckner, Dr. Philip Corliss and Walter R. Scott

COMMITTEES FOR 1975

Activities	-
Education	- Madelyn Lee(Succulents), Dr. George E. Radwin(Cacti)
Exhibits	-
Library	- Edith Werner, Pat Mooney, Helen Hegey, Mike Johnson
Membership	- Madelyn Lee
Plants and Supplies	-
Programs	- Nibby Klinefelter
Publication	- Augie Pfeiffer, Editor pro tem
Reception	-
Regalement	- Jean and Leta Hapeman

CEREUS-LY SPEAKING

Has it really been 5 years during which Sophie and Oliver Loyland so faithfully scouted the county in the quest of plants for the plant table with the entire sales proceeds filling the coffers of the club? Few members realize the amount of time and labor involved in this project. The Loyland's say they enjoyed their task very much but would like to retire. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincerest thanks to you, Sophie and Oliver, for many hours of hard work during the past 5 years. Your plant table and your expertise in managing matters will be missed by all. Any volunteers?

Was it really Santa who delivered all those outstanding plants to our Christmas meeting for the third consecutive year? Perhaps so, but he was certainly supported by a crew of industrious helpers with very familiar names: The Taylor's, Bob and Suzanne, who lovingly raised and tended the plants and from whom the Club purchased the magnificent specimens for an unbelievably low cost; Floyd Gable and Bob labeled all plants which were then bagged by The Taylor's and the Pfeiffer's who also took care of the delivery; and further along the production line we had Geoff and Mike Johnson on the microphone and the outstanding performance as auctioneer by Lee Phelps. Repeat performance next year?

Augie Pfeiffer
5163 E. Bedford Dr.
San Diego, CA 92116

Return Requested