

# Espinas y Flores

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

XVII, Number 11

November 13, 1982



### NOVEMBER MEETING

Saturday November 13, 1982

1:30 pm

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

### PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER

Lila Lilly, of Lila's Succulent Nursery, will present a slide program entitled "Echeveria Species". The Echeverioidieae are exclusively American, centered in Mexico, and are especially attractive to collectors. Do not miss this program.

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Please look for article on plant exchange

Those who are to bring refreshments to the November meeting are:

Eileen Smith, Cathy and Sandy Frost, Anna Cornett, Mojiko Rillo, L.E. Hopper and family, Evelyn Chatham, Nellie Kennett, Virginia Buckner, Alberta Widen, Marcelle Parfield, Bob Taylor - Thank you

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UPDATE CSSA 1983 ST. LOUIS CONVENTION

Of the more than twenty programs scheduled for the St. Louis Convention some of our speakers will be; The long time, Honorary Botanist, National Herbarium, Salisbury, Zimbabwe, Larry C. Leach. For the Past 25 years Mr. Leach has been carrying out field research on the Stapelieae and Euphorbieae. His work has received international recognition. Gordon D. Rowley of England who has innumerable taxonomic papers and publications to his credit. The ones of you who do not know Gordon are in for quite an unexpected source of joy. Dr. Irwin P. Ting of the Department of Biology U.C. Riverside. Dr. Ting will be a new and enlightening boice to most of us. Dr. Ronald E. Monroe (Yes, our very own Ron Monroe) of the Department of Zoology San Diego State University. Dr. Monroe is the current CSSA President.

CSSA Convention Chairman  
Martin L. Mooney

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HELP! HELP!

Enough is enough, something must go!!! Out of desperation the Mooneys will have a plant sales, and open garden from 10 AM to 3 PM on the 14 of Nov. '82 - At 97 K St. Chula Vista. Everything from Ariocarpus to Welwitschia, and maybe a pot or two.

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The Club has been offered a limited number of Dr. Lyman Benson's Monumental Cactii of the United States and Canada . Pre-Order price is \$70 for the first 10 who call Check with Warren Buckner--- 469-1391

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Travel News of Interest

- \* Joan and Paul Johnson attended the IOS (International Organization of Succulents) convention, Held in the Vienna, Austria.
- \* Rick Latimer attended the third eastern Cactus & Succulent Conference, Held in Somerset, New Jersey.
- \* Shirley and Jim Berry recently returned from their trip to Switzerland where among other things, they visited two Botanical Gardens.

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The Saturday morning Garden Class sponsored by Botanical has been discontinued for the rest of the year. It should start again after the first of the year.

- Nov. 20 & 21 San Diego Orchid Fall "mini" Show Sat:12pm - 4:30pm Sun: 10Am-4:30pm
- Nov. 28 Sumi-e Painting & Ikebana Arrangement Sun: 11am - 9:00pm
- Dec. 3,4 & 5 San Diego Floral Christmas Show Fri.Sat: 11am - 9:00pm  
and Boutique Sun: 11am - 4:00pm

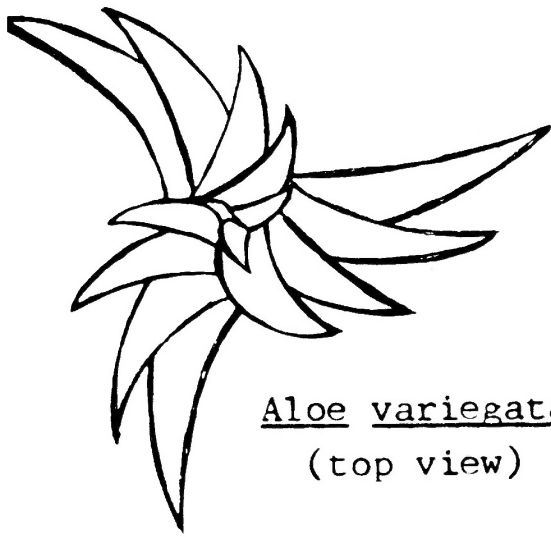
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Succulent of the Month: Minature Aloes- Write-up not received at press time Hopefully received before mailing- Will bring to meeting

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DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE - NOVEMBER 29

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Aloe variegata  
(top view)

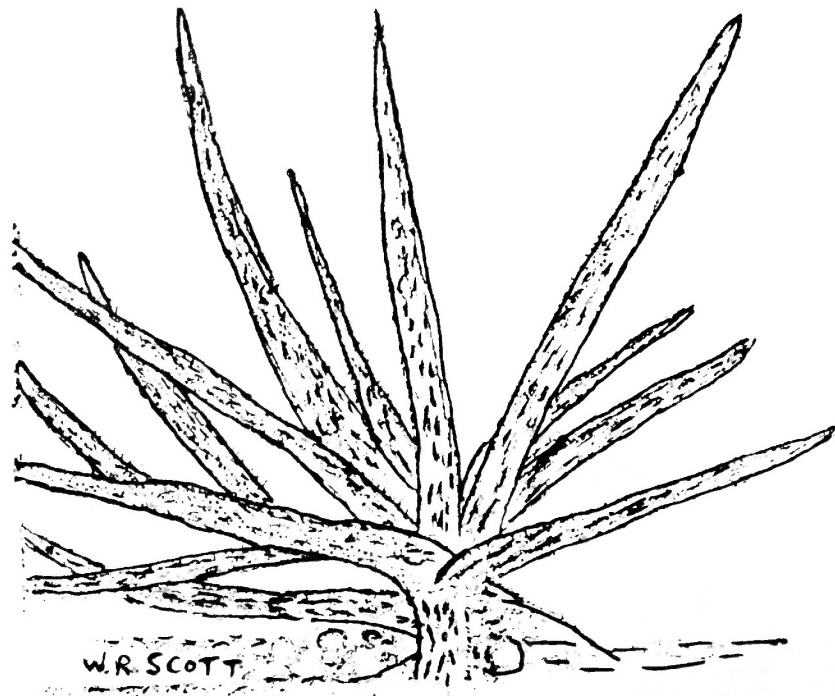
## SUCCULENT-OF-THE-MONTH

"Miniature Aloes"

by Rick Latimer

Of some 350 or more known species of the genus Aloe, more than half are native to southern Africa or the neighboring island of Madagascar. The remainder are from tropical Africa, east Africa, Socotra, and Arabia. Nearly all the species have leaves that are succulent. Also, nearly all species' leaves form rosettes. There are a few exceptions such as A. suprafoliata, which starts out with two opposite sets of leaves, but later forms a rosette; or A. plicatilis, which retains its pairs. The flowers are typically tubular and are mostly reddish orange in color, but there are species with yellow, white, green, or even brown colored flowers. Like the New World Echeverias, the Old World Aloes do not bloom from the center of the plant and then die; as do the New World Agaves or some of the Old World Crassulaceae. The Aloes bloom from the side of the year after year, and in some cases may bloom twice a year. The genus Aloe has species that range in size from trees, such as A. bainesii, to the miniature A. descoingsii, of which type we will confine ourselves this month.

Home growers of succulents may not have room for the large or even average sized Aloes. However there are plenty of miniature species and these are also among some of the choicest ones. A. descoingsii is the smallest and takes up the area of a half dollar. It is a native of Madagascar and was discovered in 1956. The leaves are about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide at the base, making a short, broad triangle. They are dark gray with whitish spots. The flowers are small, urn-shaped, and are a light reddish color with a yellowish tip. A. bellatula is another native of Madagascar. It well deserves its specific epithet "bellatula" which means 'little beauty'. The leaves are about 6 inches long, tending to lay out horizontally, only  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch at the widest, and are a brownish cast with whitish spots. This aloe probably has the prettiest flower scape of all of the miniature aloes. The flowers are small, bell shaped, and are bright red-orange with alternate petal tips white. Because of the suckering habit of this species, one may have a plant cluster bearing a number of inflor-



ALOE BELLATULA

escences making a beautiful display. I once ordered a plant through the mail. Although it arrived with a half dried up inflorescence, this flower stalk regenerated and soon bloomed! Another species that looks similar, as far as the foliage goes, is A. albiflora. However, it has white flowers with green stripes. A. haworthioides forms a many leafed rosette that could pass for a Haworthia. The triangular leaves are of the richest dark green and are edged with tiny contrasting white bristle-teeth. The flowers are densely packed and small and do not have an attractive shape. However the flowers range from white to pink to light, bright orange (A. h. var. aurantiaca). Two other appealing species from Madagascar are A. rauhii (grayish foliage) and A. parvula (with textured lavender foliage). These species are sensitive to frost.

There are also some miniature species from the continent. From Somalia comes A. jucunda with pinkish flowers and brown foliage in the sun or green in the shade. From Ethiopia comes A. jacksonii. The leaves are few, but pleasing to the eye, being a subdued gray ornamented with elongated white spots. The leaves are fleshy, flat on top, and rounded below. The individual flowers are 1 inch long, tomato red with a yellow ring at the apex and green tips. The overall color effect is not one of bright, clear colors; but surprisingly of a striking and attractive nature. From Cape Province come two outstanding small aloes: A. aristata and the old favorite "Partridge Breast" A. variegata. The first is a mass of soft, incurved dark green leaves, frosted with white dots and fringed with soft white spines. The second is easily overwatered - once every two weeks is usually often enough. Chamaealoe africana is now called A. bowiea.

#### REFERENCES:

- Floyd Gable, "Aloe bellatula", Espinas y Flores (6:10).  
Ed & Betty Gay, "Africa in California Gardens", California Gardens (66:3), p. 74-77.  
Barbara Jeppe, South African Aloes.  
George Kalmbacher, "Miniature Aloes", Cactus Comments (NY C & S), 11/70.  
G. W. Reynolds, Aloes of South Africa.  
G. W. Reynolds, Aloes of Tropical Africa and Madagascar.

#### OBITUARY

The founder and first President of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Cleoves Hardin, died at a Chula Vista hospital on July 29, 1982, after a long illness of several months. He had lived in the county 37 years at the time of his death at the age of 76. He was a native of Kentucky, retired as supervisor of Kinghan and Co. after 24 years with the packing house, and is survived by his wife Jackie, and 1500 exotic birds. **His ashes were scattered at sea.**

---Nellie Kennett

## CACTUS-OF-THE-MONTH

### Discocactus

Dr. Ronald E. Monroe

The genus Discocactus (disk cactus) was erected by Pfeiffer (1837) for three species of cactus found growing in a rather far-ranging distribution: the northern part of the highland of Brazil (states of Bahia, Gojas, Minas Gerais and Mato Grosso), eastern Paraguay and Bolivia (Brown, 1978). The elevation of the various habitats ranges from 200-2000 m and most of the plants are found growing in humid, warm locations (average temperature of about 26°C), usually scaled rocks of granite outcrops interspersed with humus.

Although Britton and Rose (1937) recognized six species, Borg (1959) eleven species and Backeberg (1977) twelve species, few of the plants became popular until about 1970 when Horst and Buining began importing field-collected specimens into Holland and Germany. Even so, few could be established on their own roots; thus, most were grafted and seed from these plants slowly became available for distribution around the world. The genus has been recently reviewed by Braun (1978a,b,c,d; 1979a,b,c) and the latest species described was by Pereira (1979). A recently published book, Discocactus, by A.F.H. Buining is now available in an English edition.

The plants are somewhat small, globular and more or less flattened with ribs containing low podaria. The spines are short or long and more or less curved. The apex of mature plants contains a flower-bearing cephalium (or crest) which is made up of wool and bristles. The flowers are nocturnal and large, usually white or pale pink in color and have a long tube and spreading limb. Some species have scented flowers.

Most species in cultivation are D. placentiformis (with nice spidery, long spines), D. tricornis (with three main twisted spines), D. boomianus (with long, numerous spines) and D. boliviensis (with a deep green epidermis and one of the few caespitose plants). There is no doubt, however, that the most prized is the tiny D. horstii which seldom exceeds 4.5 cm diameter and has rather deep cut ribs with extremely small appressed spines.

Because Discocactus are difficult to establish on their own roots, many collectors have given up trying to grow them. However, they can be quite easy should one follow a few simple rules: soil mix should contain about two parts of gritty sand to one part of potting soil, the plants prefer an acid pH, they like hot, humid conditions (a greenhouse is a must), a winter minimum temperature of not less than 8°C and frequent watering in the summer. Winter watering should be eliminated, but frequent misting is desirable. Bottom heat of 34-40°C is essential for rooting imported specimens.

Propagation of these mainly solitary plants is difficult except by seed. Only D. boliviensis is "readily" caespitose and fortunately the offsets do root rather easily which makes it a very desirable plant in collections (this latter plant is also hardier than the others and will take outside San Diego conditions as long as it is protected from direct frost).

The usual common pests found on cacti in general are easily controlled with Cygon-2E or Safer Soap.

References Cited

Backeberg, Curt. 1977. Cactus Lexicon. Blanford Press, England.  
 Borg, J. 1959. Cacti. Blanford Press, England.  
 Braun, P. 1978a. A review of the genus Discocactus Pfeiffer. Cactus and Succ. J. 50:115-117.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. 1978b. A review of the genus Discocactus Pfeiffer. Part II. Cactus and Succ. J. 50:190-192.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. 1978c. A review of the genus Discocactus Pfeiffer. Part III. Cactus and Succ. J. 50:239-241.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. 1978d. A review of the genus Discocactus Pfeiffer. Part IV. Cactus and Succ. J. 50:271-273.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. 1979a. A review of the genus Discocactus Pfeiffer. Part V. Cactus and Succ. J. 51:16-17.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. 1979b. A review of the genus Discocactus Pfeiffer. Part VI. Cactus and Succ. J. 51:64-65.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. 1979c. A review of the genus Discocactus Pfeiffer. Part VII. Cactus and Succ. J. 51:138-139.  
 Britton, N. L. and J. N. Rose. 1937. The Cactaceae. Dover Publ., Inc., N.Y.  
 Pereira, Eddie Esteves. 1979. Discocactus diersianus Esteves, sp. Nov. Cactus and Succ. J. 51:179-183.  
 Pfeiffer. 1837. Alig. Gartenz 5:241.

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You must be present to receive plants at the December meeting. That includes any winners. Explanation of how the exchange works follows.

DECEMBER PLANT EXCHANGE

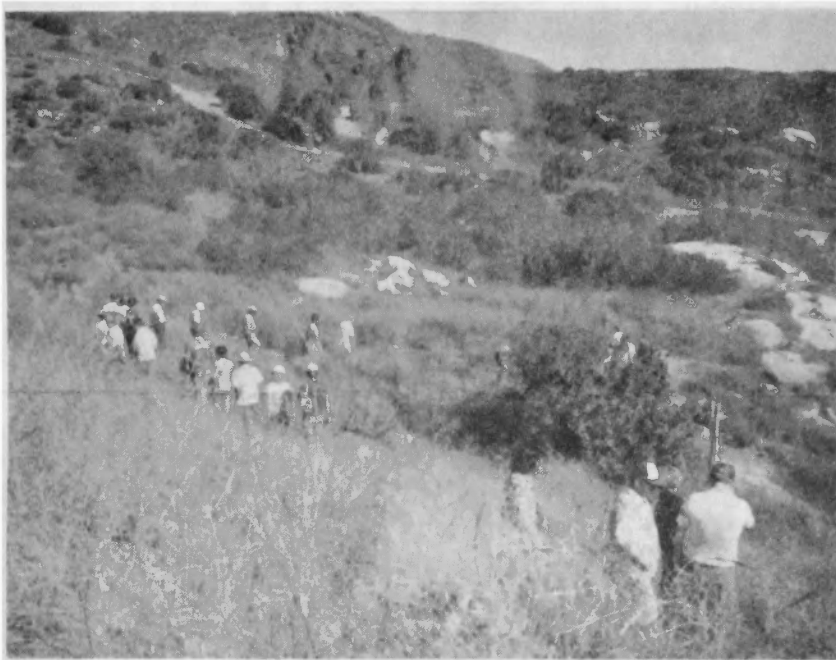
For the past three years our December plant exchange has proved to be a popular event at our Christmas meeting. For those of you who are new and those who have forgotten, here is how it works.

Each member who wishes to participate will bring in a good looking plant of some maturity in an attractive (or at least, clean) container with the name of the plant on one side of the tag and owner's name on the other. Please bring only one plant for this event. This plant will be put on the Christmas Plant Exchange Table. If I am the one to start it off, I shall choose a plant I'd like for myself and call out the name of the donor. That donor will next select a plant he wishes to own and call out the name of that donor. You can see that the earlier the lovely plant you brought for the table is selected, the better the chance you will have for choosing a plant earlier in the game.

The plants brought in for this should be cleanly potted and of attractive quality. Good size specimens would be appropriate, unless of course the plant is miniature in nature, then the small size would be fine.

Even if you don't want to be involved in this, come to our December meeting anyway and receive a free plant which is your annual gift for membership in our Club.

Shirley Berry



Your Editor's report on the October meeting at the Wild Animal Park.

We arrived at the park early so that we would be able to shop around and perhaps find some real "buys". Several of the members had beat us there and did find some "one of a kinds". There was a fine selection of all kinds of plants and many found something that they wanted.

We then went on to the plant competition and found that the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society had won "Best in Show". Marianne and Frank Thrombley and Verna and John Pasek had brought plants from their collections and they were the best.

At 1:30 the meeting started, cake and drinks were furnished by the club. Rick was out of town, so Frank conducted the meeting. He introduced John Hatch, an assistant Horticulturist at the park, who talked to us about their program and what has to be done to maintain the grounds. Then he took us on a hike into the Baja section of the grounds, which is not open to the public. John Pasek and Dorothy Dunn, who were on the collecting expedition, did the describing of the plants and where they were found.

After the walk, we were on our own and could stay as long as we liked at the park. The weather was beautiful for our meeting. Frank asked if we would be interested in having more meetings at the Wild Animal Park. Are we?

# SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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Immediate Past pres. - Tom Hamecher 996 Terrace Crest, El Cajon, CA 92020	440-6245

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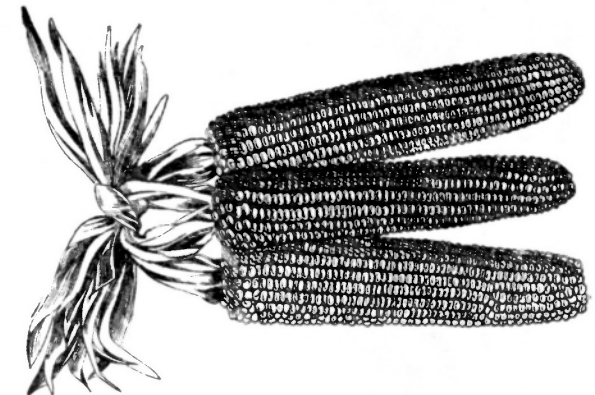
Warren Buckner, Dorothy Dunn, Phyllis Flechsig  
Madelyn Lee, Dr. Ronald Monroe, Dr. Leroy Phelps

## COMMITTEES

- Activities: Warren Buckner  
Audit: James Berry  
Conservation: Dr. Ronald Monroe  
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    Cacti - Frank Thrombly, Dr. Ronald Monroe and Mark Donnell  
    Succulents - Madelyn Lee, Dr. Leroy Phelps and Dorothy Dunn  
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Liaison & Publicity - Amna Cornett  
Orientation - Nellie Kennet

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing cacti, other succulents and exotic plants. Meeting 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 \$7.00 per family. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are 60 Cents.

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