

Espinas y Flores

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

Volume XXV, Number 4

April 7, 1990

APRIL MEETING

Saturday April 7, 1990

1:30 P.M.

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

PROGRAM

Echinopsis/Trichocereus
by Eckhard Meier

The program will be on Echinopsis/Trichocereus species and hybrids (with an emphasis on the latter). The speaker is from Simmern in Western Germany. He teaches English and Geography in what is roughly equivalent to High School in this country. He has been a member of the German Cactus Society since 1970. He has been a member of the British and American Societies since 1975. Other memberships include the Epiphyllum Society of America, San Diego Epiphyllum Society (honorary Life), and the IOS. He has written many articles over the years, most of which were published in German Cactus Journals.

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Deadline for the May issue E y F -- April 28, 1990

Thanks Mary

* Be sure and note the earlier date for the April Meeting.

NEWS NEWS NEWS -----



MARCH BRAGGING TABLE WINNERS:

First place.....Dorothy Dunn for her
Mammillaria sp. crest
Second place.....Diane Crowley for her
Mammillaria carmenae
Third place.....Phyllis Flechsig for her
Echeveria colorado v. colorado

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS -----

Erik & Irina Gronborg - Solana Beach	Susan Hampton & Joe Morales - San Diego
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Palandri - San Diego	Laurie Van Tassel - San Diego
Thu Tran - San Diego	Chuck Dreasher - San Diego
Kent & Gladys Harper - San Diego	Joan Sieber & Jim Price - San Diego
Ted & Charlotte Liepman - San Diego	

Those who have volunteered to bring refreshments to the April Meeting.

Cathy & Sandy Frost	Olga Holtzer	Anita & Joseph DiPietro
Barbara Hamm	Bob & Sue Marder	Ted Nelson
Robyn Natwick	Curt Hammell	Laura DeMerritt
Amna Cornett	Ethel Standish	

Thanks -----

* A REMINDER

MEMBERS - Start collecting good sturdy boxes for the Cactus Show and Sale now. June is sooner than you think!! Remember - give a customer a box and they'll buy more plants!

Warren C. Alexanderson

* LAKE PLEASANT IN ARIZONA Northwest of Phoenix
Information to get permits to collect cactii in the area ----

Call: Bureau of Reclamation - (602) 870-6718
You will be put on a list for mailing to get the permit for the next collecting period.
You will receive this mailing about August-September.

750 people will be allowed to collect at the same time - will be monitored.

Cost: \$3.00 for Saguaro - 2 per family - 10' no arms.

2.00 prickley pear - 1
barrel - 4
hedgehogs - 2
unlimited chollas

750 acres will be
open next year

1992 will be the final collecting year.



CACTUS OF THE MONTH

SULCOREBUTIA

by Phyllis Flechsig

Sulcorebutias, known as "Sulcos" by enthusiasts who grow them, are among the most attractive of cacti; they never grow large, so are suitable for growers with limited space; they have very pretty spines and beautiful flowers. That's the good news. The bad news is that they are beloved by red spider mites and mealybugs, and they are somewhat temperamental as to growing conditions.

Although they superficially resemble Rebutias, the two genera have been thought not to be closely related. Both have bright colored funnel-shaped flowers that appear in a ring low down on the plant, but Sulcos have elongated areoles that wrap around the tip of each tubercle (neither genus has real ribs). These areoles are groovelike: "sulco" means groove. Spines are usually short, sometimes bristle-like, sometimes minute. Flowers are of various colors, such as purple, yellow, orange, or two-tone red and yellow. A few species have nearly spineless heads that are colors other than green, such as tan (S. arenacea) or purplish (S. rauschii).

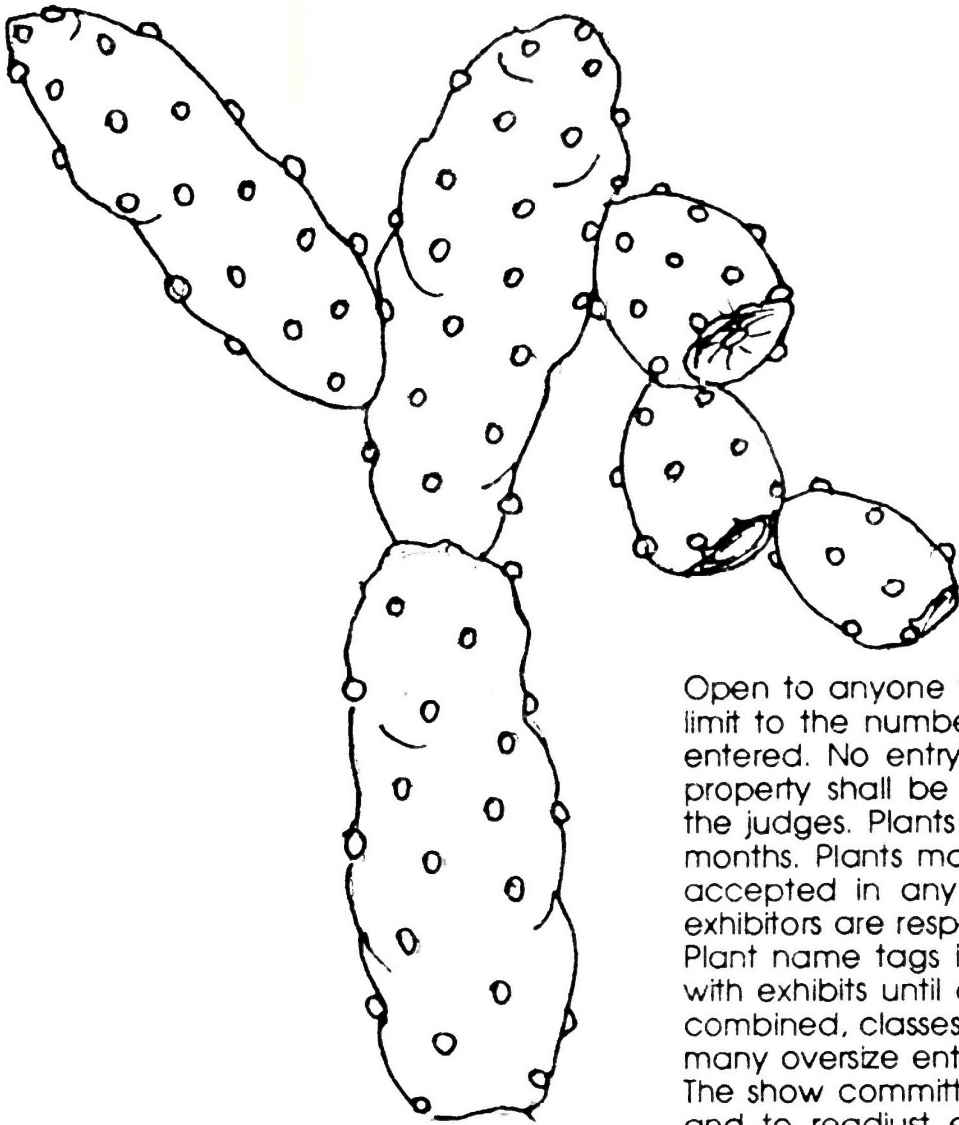
The first named Sulcorebutia was thought to be a Rebutia, R. steinbachii, described by Werdermann in 1931. Later, Backeberg set up the genus Sulcorebutia for this and other, later discoveries, and debate has raged from that time to this over the true relationships of the two genera. All Sulcos are native to Bolivia, and the Bolivian authority on cacti, the late Martin Cardenas, refused to his dying day to accept the existence of Sulcorebutia as a separate genus. The British botanist John Donald did much to bring about the acceptance of Sulcorebutia as a true genus in a series of papers on its relationship with other cactus genera, such as Weingartia and Lobivia, and produced much detailed, logical argument on the issue; now, however, twenty years later, he seems to be saying, "Well, maybe sulcos should be a subgroup under Rebutia after all." Confused? Welcome to the world of cactus taxonomy. John Pilbeam put it far better than I can when he said, "Here we [sulcos] sat for thousands of years in the mountains of Bolivia, with no interference and no one caring about our taxonomy or even our very existence, and suddenly we are swooped upon by these damned palefaces, dug up, chopped up and distributed all over the place, and argued about extensively. Never in the fields of cactus conflict has so much been said by so many about so few." (Pilbeam, 1988.)

Sulcos are native to fairly high altitudes, from 6600 to 12,800 feet (2000-3900 meters), on dry slopes of the east side of the Andes, in eastern Bolivia. They will stand freezing winter temperatures if dry. Judicious selection can give the grower a nice variety of flower color and spination: yellow flowers on S.

arenacea and S. krugeri, red and yellow on S. verticillacantha var. aurea and S. canigueralii; magenta to purple on S. oenantha, S. mentosa, and S. flavissima. The spines vary from minute to curly to long golden hairs. The plants need good light, perfect drainage, and attention to pest control--but then, most of our plants need those things. Propagation is easiest from cuttings (most species cluster readily), but solitary types must be grown from seed, which must be very fresh.

LITERATURE CONSULTED

- Backeberg, C. 1976. Cactus Lexicon. Blandford: London.
Donald, J.D. 1971. "In defense of Sulcorebutia Backeberg." Cactus & Succulent Journal, vol. 43, 36-40.
Donald, J.D. 1989. "Some thoughts on the specific populations of Sulcorebutia." CSJ, vol. 61, 5-9, 75-80, 128-132.
Pilbeam, J. 1985. Sulcorebutia and Weingartia: A Collector's Guide. Batsford, London.
Pilbeam, J. 1988. "If it's flowers you want....try Sulcorebutias." British Cactus & Succulent Journal, vol. 6, 34-37.



SHOW RULES

Open to anyone with an interest in succulent plants. There is no limit to the number of entries per class or the number of classes entered. No entry shall be entered in more than one class. All property shall be marked with the owner's name, not visible to the judges. Plants must be grown by the exhibitor for at least six months. Plants may be species or hybrids. Grafted plants will be accepted in any class. All entries must have entry cards and exhibitors are responsible for placing entry cards with their entries. Plant name tags in pots must be removed. Awards must remain with exhibits until close of show. Classes with few entries may be combined, classes with too many entries may be split, classes with many oversize entries may be split into "B" & "C" ("C" for oversize). The show committee reserves the right to reject plants or exhibits and to readjust entries for the good of the show. Show hours must be followed. The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society will exercise due caution in safeguarding exhibits, however, it cannot assume responsibility for loss of property. Entries are judged against perfection. The judges' decisions are final. The Show Chairman shall make all final decisions, except in matters of judging.

Succulent-of-the-Month

THE MINIATURE AND MIMICRY CRASSULAS

By Dorothy Dunn

Crassulas come in all shapes and sizes. Probably one of the most familiar of all is the shrubby 'Jade Plant' (C. ovata) which adds so much winter color to our gardens. However, the real gems of the genus are the miniature and so-called mimicry Crassulas. While these are usually not as easy to grow as the larger species, their intriguing - and often whimsical - shapes make them well worth the effort.

Crassulas are native almost entirely to South Africa and, in habitat, occur in conditions varying from full shade to full sun, and from moist to the most arid locations. There are well over 200 species, plus numerous varieties, hybrids, and cultivars. One distinguishing feature of the genus is that the leaves are always arranged in pairs alternating up the stems. Another rather unusual characteristic 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 "pockmarks", 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. multica, where they are scattered over the entire leaf. In the miniature species this phenomenon is not always so easy to detect but is particularly evident in C. deceptor. Also, 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.

These 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. cornuta, C. deceptor, C. plegmatoides (C. arta), C. tecta, C. teres, C. susannae, C. mesembryanthemopsis, C. pyramidalis, and C. comptonii. These species also seem to be more difficult in cultivation, requiring somewhat more care (and restraint) in watering, a very porous and fast-draining soil mix, and careful attention to their dormant periods, which usually occur in our summer. Most of them also need very strong light to maintain their best colorations and characteristic forms of growth.

Crassulas seem to be relatively free from pests or disease, with the exception of the common aphids and mealy bugs. One of

the most damaging pests to come along in recent years is a tiny, very fast-moving worm which attacks the meristematic tissue of the plants.

Propagation is generally done from stem or leaf cuttings. Crassulas are not usually grown from seed, as the vegetative methods are very easy and quite fast.

These smaller species make charming pot plants, and are ideal for anyone with limited space. Some of them are even suitable as ground cover around larger plants.

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)

Note: Since I do not own many of these plants, it would really be appreciated if any members could bring in some specimens for the display. Thank you. (D.D.)

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

The SDC&SS is open to all persons interested in studying, collecting or growing cacti or other succulent plants. Annual dues are \$8.00 per single member per calendar year, and \$2.00 for each additional member of a household within the family.

We meet the second Saturday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. At our regular meetings we discuss a cactus of the month and a succulent of the month. We also have a Bragging Table, which is a chance for members to show off plants that look especially good that day, and a program, usually consisting of a guest speaker. Our library is open before each meeting, and we sell plants and supplies before the meeting and during intermission. Light refreshments are served during the intermission, and we have a plant exchange table after the meeting. Meetings are usually attended by approximately 100 members and guests.

During the first weekend in June we have our annual show and sale. The following weekend we celebrate by holding our annual picnic, usually at Felicita Park.

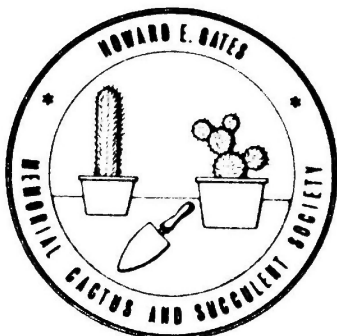
At our December meeting we serve a Christmas dinner. Members must pay to attend this meeting. In past years the cost has been about \$5.00; less than the cost of the meal. Each member receives a gift plant, which you select from an assortment of magnificent specimen plants.



MORE NEWS -----

THE MARCH MEETING PROGRAM -----

"Winter Color at the Huntington - Joe Clements



Gates cactus 7 succulent society show and plant sale

Date: May 26-27, 1990

Location: San Bernardino County Museum
2024 Orange Tree Lane

Redlands, CA - (Take CA. St. Off-ramp from I-10)

Hours: 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. both days

Admission: Free

BOOK SALE: There will be a book sale at the next meeting -
Thanks to Rudy and Teresita Lime for the book donation.

SHOW SCHEDULE FOR APRIL AND MAY

April 8	Convair Garden Club 40th Annual Rose Show	Sun: 1pm-4:30pm
April 14 & 15	Exotic Plant Society 12th Annual Show	Sat:11am-4:30pm Sun:11am-4:30pm
April 14 & 15	San Diego Rose Society 63rd Annual Show (Balboa Park Club - Balboa Park)	Sat: 1pm-6:00pm Sun:10am-5:30pm Admission: \$1.50
April 21 & 22	San Diego Bonsai Club 25th Annual Show	Sat:11am-5:00pm Sun:11am- 5pm
April 28 & 29	San Diego Imperial Co. Iris Soc. 25th Show	Sat:12pm-5:00pm Sun:11am-4:30pm
May 5 & 6	Heartland African Violet Society 9th Show	Sat: 1pm-5:00pm Sun:11am-4:30pm

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Richard M. Smith, Wild Plants of America

donated by Joan Fleer:

Sunset's Bonsai

from the estate of Sylvia Kramer:

(donated by Leo Kramer and brought to us by Phyllis Flechsig)

Bruce J. Hargreaves, "Succulents of Chitipa - The Muddy Place", CSSA Journal (Supplemental Volume, 1975) signed article

various CSSA Journals 1973-1981

various Espinas y Flores 1977-1989

various Bulletins of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society 1977-1983

Excellent

sp
9

Water shortage in Southern California and ways to avoid a catastrophe.

In the 1950^s citizens of Southern California were allowed only specific days of the week to water their yard and do their laundry. Excessive car washing was prohibited and one could expect to pay a penalty when caught using the hose and letting the water run while soaping the car. Why? Due to a long period of draught the reservoirs were extremely low on water. If there ~~would have~~ ^{had} been a major disaster, an earthquake or fire, the situation would have grown out of proportion not only by being unable to fight the fire but also to take care of the need of the population. We have a similar situation right now though we are not yet restricted in our daily routine to use water freely. If and when those restrictions come it might be a bit too late. Why not think of it now, considering that our water supplies are limited already and that we would need a very substantial amount of rain to fill the reservoirs to be able to take care of the hundreds of thousands of new California residents who have joined the population since 1950?

What can we, the ordinary citizens, do to help avoiding a catastrophe? By being aware of what could happen and don't waste the precious little water California is able to provide! How?

- a) by turning off the water while soaping the car,
- b) the same while soaping yourself in the shower,
- c) by not washing dishes under running water, (use bowls instead)
- d) by waiting until you have a "load" of laundry instead of washing a few pieces at a time (even if you don't have to pay for water and electricity),
- e) the same goes for the use of a dishwasher,
- f) by brooming off your driveway (and deposit the dirt in a trash can) instead of hosing the dust and debris down the street, wasting water and leaving the dirt in front of somebody else's place,
- g) by replacing a "green" lawn with a draughtresistant groundcover. They are much more appropriate in California and look spectacular when in bloom.
- h) Roses, petunias, snapdragons, delphiniums, pansies? They are lovely but belong in a cooler climate with a natural watering system: "Rain"! Not only do they look out of place here but they use up entirely too much water.

Peep construction paralleled i.e., begin each statement with same by washing; brooming; etc.

There are so many attractive plants besides the native ones which grow well in Southern California. Take Succulents and Cacti. Not only

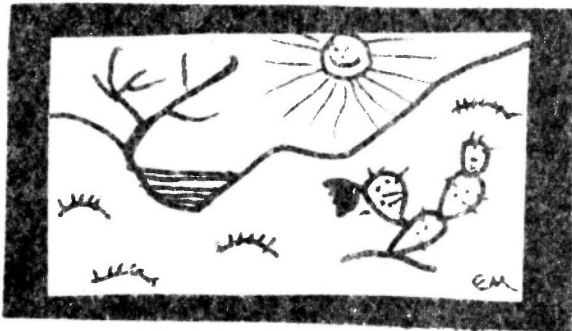
Conner

are they interesting in design, they bring forth without much care -especially water- the most beautiful flowers in colors and shape. One keeps wondering how this is possible under the circumstances. Have you ever looked at a cactus flower or the flower of an ice plant with a magnifying glass? Do it! You might forget about all of the aforementioned and will be hooked on these.

Not all desert plants will grow in our soil and climate but there are many drought^{resistant} ones plus shrubs and trees from other countries which have adopted well here. Go to a nursery or join a respective garden club to learn about those and their care. You will enjoy it if you like to grow things and you will be a treasure as a considered citizen! It should make you feel good.

For a long time this writer collected the run-off rainwater by putting 30 ga. cans under the downspouts of her house not only for watering her plants but also for handwashing clothes which one does not put into a machine. Have you ever experienced the softness of rainwater? And how proud I was when I was able to collect perhaps 150-200 ga. of it during one good downpour. What a saving of water by only one household. Not much was saved on the water bill though. It is amazing how little this precious item "water" is valued moneywise. But as a necessity? Just wait and find out when it's gone!

Joan Fleer



SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President - Chuck Adams
7305 Rock Canyon Drive, San Diego 92126 530-2551
Vice President - Mitch Bahr
4945 Diane Court, San Diego 92117 571-0912
Secretary - Jeanette Dutton
1330 31st Street, San Diego 92102 239-8476
Treasurer - Dana Adams
7305 Rock Canyon Drive, San Diego 92126 530-2551
Immediate Past President - Dr. Leroy Phelps
4094 36th Street, San Diego 92104 280-9690

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joey Betzler, Dorothy Dunn, Beverly Kirkegaard
Madelyn Lee, Rudy Lime, Mark St. Clair

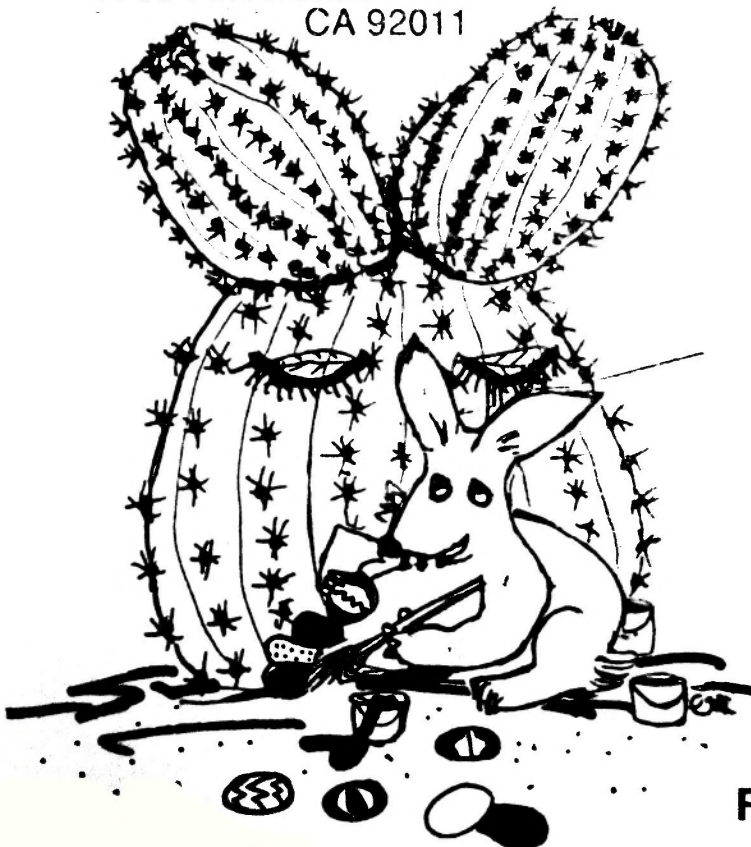
COMMITTEES

Auditor - James Berry
Bragging Table - Madelyn Lee
CSSA Affiliate Rep - Cathy & Sandy Frost
Education: Cacti - Phyllis Flechsig
Succulents - Dorothy Dunn
Historian - Rick Latimer
Membership - Dana Adams
Picnic - Vacant
Plant Exchange Table - Mmes. Lernrow & Larburg
Plants & Supplies Table - John Pasek
Show - Rick Latimer

Publications - Mary Aubuchon 427-3388
Reception - Perlo Lewis & Ethel Standish
Regalement - Diane & Bill Crowley
Representatives:
Balboa Park Desert Garden - John Pasek
Mail Botanical Garden - Phyllis Flechsig
S.D. Botanical Garden Foundation - Kathy Van Arum
S.D. Floral Association - Elizabeth Glover
Program - Joe Clements
Bill Low

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing cacti or other succulent 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, and \$2.00 for each additional member of a household within the family. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are 60c.

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FIRST CLASS

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