



MAMILLARIA THORNDORFI

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Espinas y Flores

BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

July 12, 1986

1986 SHOW



CACTUS OF THE MONTH

ASTROPHYTUM

by Phyllis Flechsig

Astrophytum is a well-known, popular genus in the large subtribe Echinocactanae. It is closely related to the genus Echinocactus--in fact, Lyman Benson has placed Astrophytum asterias, and by implication, all other astrophytums, into Echinocactus. Taken in the strict sense, Astrophytum is a small, distinctive group, easily identified. In fact, there are only four generally recognized species--six, according to some authors--so it is easy to own a plant of every species of Astrophytum. However, there are many varieties of most species, though their proliferation of names is probably more a convenience to growers than an indicator of real differences.

As a group, astrophytums are small to medium-sized barrels with either no spines at all or few spines, only a few ribs (but these are often very prominent), large yellow flowers at the top center, a dry, woolly seed pod, and large brown seeds. Most astrophytums have little woolly flecks on them. The name is from the Greek, and means "star-plant." All are native to northeast or central Mexico, with one (A. asterias) also growing in southern Texas.

The choicest, and hardest to grow, of the astrophytums is A. asterias, the "Sea Urchin" cactus, whose form is indeed very much like a sea urchin test without the spines. In fact, this plant never has spines at any time in its growth. It is always a very low, flattened plant, with about eight flat ribs and conspicuous woolly areoles. The flowers are light yellow, and the pattern of flecks is quite variable.

Another very attractive, quite variable species is A. capricorne. It has about nine acute ribs and flattened, flexible spines that may be grey, brown, or yellow; they often curl over the plant very attractively. The flecks may cover the plant or be sparse. The various combinations of size of plant, color and size of spines, and patterns of flecks have given rise to such varietal names as aureum, niveum, crassispinum, and minor. Flowers are usually large, yellow with a red center.

A popular "beginner's plant" is A. myriostigma, the "Bishop's Cap," a pretty, grey, five-ribbed cactus shaped like a bishop's miter; it is always spineless. In old age, it may grow to be several feet high (and rather ugly, too, at that point). The specific name refers to the numerous tiny woolly spots all over it; but there is a form, var. nudum, that is solid green with no spots. Among the various other forms of this plant is var. quadriconatum, with only four ribs, but this plant cannot be trusted to stay four-sided; all too often a fifth rib suddenly pops out! Flowers are large and yellow.

Less often seen than the others in cultivation is A. ornatum. It is the only species that must be large to bloom; plants have eight ribs and yellow flowers; the little woolly flecks form a decorative pattern over the plant. Very old specimens are said to reach three meters (nearly ten feet) in height.

Culture of astrophytums is the usual one for desert cacti--very good drainage, average watering in warm weather, and a relatively dry rest in winter. The chief pest to watch out for is the all-too-common mealybug. Also, if you plan to show your Astrophytum at any time in the future, it is important to give it plenty of room, as being rubbed by other plants (or by fingers) can spoil the appearance of a plant. The brown marks near the base are normal and can be covered up by judicious use of top-dressing in the plant's pot.

LITERATURE CONSULTED

- Backeberg, C. 1976. Cactus lexicon. Blandford: England.
 Britton, N.L., and J.N. Rose. 1937 (reprinted 1963). The Cactaceae. Vol. III & IV. Dover: New York.
 Pilbeam, J. 1984. The instant guide to healthy cacti. Times Books: New York.
 Riha, J., and R. Subik. 1981. The illustrated encyclopedia of cacti and other succulents. Octopus Books: London.

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SHOW SCHEDULE FOR JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER

July 26 & 27	San Diego Orchid Summer Show	Sat: 12am-4.30 Sun: 10am-4.30pm
Aug. 2 & 3	San Diego Co. Dahlia Show	Sat: 2: -5:00pm Sun: 10am-4:30p.m.
Aug. 16 & 17	San Diego Fern Show	Sat: 1pm-5:00pm Sun: 10am-5:00pm
Aug. 23 & 24	San Diego Gesneriad Show	Sat: 12pm-5.00pm Sun. 10am-5:00pm
Aug. 30 & 31	San Diego Turtle & Tortoise Show	Sat & Sun: 10:00am - 5:00pm
Sept 6 & 7	San Diego Professional Horticulturists	Sat: 10am-5pm Sun: 10am-4:30 pm

THE FAIR

Rudy Lime again has an exhibit at the Del Mar Fair. The title "Succulent Collection with a feature Introducing a New Bonsai Concept." The judges according to Andy Mauro (Flower and Garden Show Superintendent) gave Rudy's exhibit 100% and a Blue Ribbon. He has 80 plants in the exhibit and it is well worth the effort to go there and see.

Joseph Wood is looking for a building to rent to set up his woodworking business. He needs a minimum of 700 sq. feet (would like more). He would like living space at the same site. If you think you might be able to help. Please call:

Joseph Wood 435-4634

JUNE MEETING

Saturday, July 12, 1986, 1:30 PM, Casa del Prado
Room 101, Balboa Park

PROGRAM

The program for the July Meeting will be given by Phyllis Flechsig, who will show slides of Baja California, with emphasis on the the interesting plants that grow there. The slides are a composite of those taken on many trips, covering much of the peninsula from the north end to the cape region.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Thomas & Virginia Green--San Diego
Alberto L. Gherlan --Poway
Bonifacio & Avenlina Gaerlan -- Poway
Gene & Ruth Olson -- Bonita

As of June 1986 we have 246 members.

Those who have volunteered to bring refreshments are:

Joan Zanot Susan Clements
Diane Crowley Wayne Zaranka
Beverly Kirkegaard Cathy & Sandy Frost
Susan Barker Sarah Jervey
Anne Lindemuth Sallie Tenuolde
Ethel Standish

The Club wish to thank the following for contributing plants to the very successful auction at the picnic.

Walter Anderson Madeline Lee
Dave Grigsby Joe Clements

DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE -- July 26, 1986

THE 1986 SDCSS SHOW

TROPHY WINNERS

Best Cactus (Phillip Corliss)[Donated by SDCSS](K)-----Robert Kent
Best Succulent (Ruby Falk)[SDCSS](A)-----Bill Crowley
Best Exhibit (Reuben Vaughan)[SDCSS](E)-----Lit Phan
Best Educational Display(CSSA)[CSSA](A)-----Joey Betzler
Most Artistic Display (Walter & Hazel Scott)[SDCSS](P)-----Lit Phan
Best Mexican Plant (Dudley B. Gold)[Paul & Joan Johnson](E)--Robert Kent
Best Euphorbia (Lydia Evans)[Russel Evans](Y)-----Dave Grigsby
Best Graft (Bob & Suzanne Taylor)[Lee Phelps](F)-----Dorothy Dunn
Best Aloe (Barbara Jeppe)[Martin & Pat Mooney](A)-----Bud Aubuchon
Best Echeveria (Oliver & Sophie Loyland)[Rick Latimer](X)--Shirley Berry
Best Epicactus (Bill & Ruth Nelson)[Rick Latimer](P)-----Rick Latimer
Best San Diego Native (Julianne Rice)[Rick Latimer](I)-----Bud Aubuchon
Best Pelargonium/Sarcocaulon [Wilna Johnson](W)-----Joe Clements
Best Opuntieae [Jim & Shirley Berry](O)-----Dorothy Dunn
High Points 50 Entries or Under [Jim & Shirley Berry](H)--J. Brattmiller
Sweepstakes [Martin & Pat Mooney](E)-----Dorothy Dunn
Special Merit [Dave Grigsby](*)-----Elibet Marshall

FRONT PAGE KEY

Top Left - Central portion of Lit Phan's Exhibit.(Class 60).
Top Right - Some of the entries in Class 49.
Middle Right - Most of the entries in Class 10 plus some crests in the background from Class 23.
Bottom Right - Some of the entries in Class 34.
Bottom Left - The individual plant trophy winners.
(Left to Right:Y,P,K,X,F,A,W,E, A,I, & O).

RIBBON WINNER KEY

(CA) = Chuck Adams (MWH) = Marylyn & Walter Harms
(DA) = Dana Adams (CH) = Charles Hansen
(MA) = Mary Ann Alexanderson (JJ) = Joan Johnson (MT) = Mari-
(BA) = Bud Aubuchon (BK) = Beverly Kent anne Thrombley
(SB) = Shirley Berry (RK) = Robert Kent (JW) = John
(JBZ) = Joey Betzler (BKD) = Beverly Kirkegaard
(JB) = Jerry Brattmiller (RGL) = Rick Latimer Williams
(LB) = Lois Burks (ML) = Madelyn Lee (RW) = Ruby
(CC) = Chris Clements (MLS) = the Lemrows Winters
(JC) = Joe Clements (RL) = Rudy Lime (JWB) = Jo-
(SC) = Susan Clements (MM) = Martin Mooney seph Wood
(AC) = Anna Cornett (JPK) = John Pasek (WZ) = Wayne
(BC) = Bill Crowley (JP) = Judy Pitre Zaranka
(DC) = Diane Crowley (LP) = Lit Phan
(DD) = Dorothy Dunn (LNP) = Lee Phelps
(PF) = Phyllis Flechsig (MP) = Marie Pierce
(SF) = Sandy Frost (BS) = Brunhilde Scheffler
(DG) = Dave Grigsby (SS) = Susan Shepherd
(VG) = Virginia Green (FT) = Frank Thrombley

- 1A: ---, *Opuntia ramosissima* (VG), *O. pachypus* (JPK).
 1B: *O. clavarioides* (DD)[O], *Tephrocactus subterranea* (BK), *T. strobiliformis* (SB).
- 2A: ---, ---, *Rhipsalidopsis 'China Pink'* (JW).
 2B: ---, x *Heliphyllyum 'Elinor Victoria Latimer'* (RGL)[T], *Rhipsalis crispata* (RGL).
- 3A: *Wilcoxia schmollii* (RW), *Machaerocereus eruca* (JB), ---.
 3B: ---, *Cephalocereus senilis* (JB), *M. eruca* (JW).
- 4A: ---, *Austrocephalocereus estevesii* (WZ), ---.
 4B: *A. estevesii* (DD), *Pygmaecereus bylensianus* (BK), *Pseudopilocereus magnificus* (JC).
- 5A: ---, *Matucana weberbaueri* (JB), ---.
 5B: *Submatucana aureiflora* (FT), *Denmoza erithrocephala* (JJ), *D. rhodantha* (BA).
- 6A: *Neochilenia aerocarpa v. fulva* (SB), *Nc. occulta* (LNP), *Nc. nuda* (PF) and *Neoporteria nidus-senilis* (JB).
 6B: *Nc. nigripina* (JC), *Islaya copiapoidea* (JJ), *Pyrrhocactus bulbocalyx* (JC).
- 7A: ---, *Copiapoa laui* (MM), ---.
 7B: *C. haseltoniana* (MM), *C. humilis* (BK), *C. krainziana* (MM).
- 8A: ---, *Melocactus azureus* (JB), ---.
 8B: *M. ruessii* (MM), *M. disciformis* (JB), *M. disciformis* (MM).
- 9A: *Uebelmannia pectinifera* (JB), *Discocactus araneispinus* (SB), *Ü. pectinifera* (JC).
 9B: ---, *D. boomianus* (SB), *D. boomianus* (JB).
- 10A: *Notocactus scopa v. muriellii* (SB), *N. warasii* (SF), *N. neobueneckeri* (CA).
 10B: *N. neobueneckeri* (BK), *N. leninghausii* (DD) and *N. neobueneckerii* (DD), *N. graessneri v. flaviflorus* (DD).
- 11A: ---, *Parodia miguelensis* (SB), *P. bueneckeri* (SB).
 11B: *P. amblayensis* (DD), *P. hausteiniana* (SB), *P. penicillata* (DD).
- 12A: *Gymnocalycium pungens* (JB), *G. ragonessii* (SB), *G. tillianum* (JB).
 12B: *G. eurypleurum* (JC), *G. dealeatii* (JC), *G. denudatum* (RW) and *G. monvillei* (JB).
- 13A: *Sulcorebutia verticillacantha v. minima* (RK), *Lobivia aurea* (SB), *Weingartia (neocumingii)* (WZ).
 13B: *L. versicolor* (JC), *W. pulquinensis* (WZ), *St. flavissima* (DD).
- 14A: *Rebutia heliosa* (SB) and *R. heliosa v. condorensis* (JB), ---, *R. fiebigiana v. densiceta* (JB).
 14B: ---, *R. heliosa v. cajensis* (JB), *R. wessneriana* (RK).
- 15A: *Echinocereus viridiflorus v. davisii* (JJ), *E. pectinatus v. rubripinus* (BKD), *E. baileyi* (FT).
 15B: *E. laui* (DD), *E. baileyi* (SB), *E. stramineus* (SB).
- 16A: *Ferocactus chrysacanthus* (RL), *Echinofossulocactus sp.* (zimapan) (JJ), *Efc. albatrus* (JJ).
 16B: *F. chrysacanthus* (DD), *F. latispinus* (SB) and *F. acanthoides v. tortulospina* (SC), *F. rectispinus* (DD) and *F. diguetii* (DD). *F. acanthoides* (BA)[I].
- 17A: ---, *Asrtophytum asterias* (PF), ---.
 17B: *A. capricornae* (BKD), *A. ornatum v. mirabellii* (DD), *A. ornatum* (RW).
- 18A: *Turbincarpus krainzianus* (JC), *T. polaskii* (MM), *T. pseudomacrolele* (MM).
 18B: *Ariocarpus retusus* (BKD), *Leuchtenbergia principis* (MM), *A. lloydii* (BKD).
- 19A: *Epithelantha micromeris v. unguispina* (MM), *Pediocactus knowltonii* (JJ), ---.
 19B: *E. micromeris* (MM), *Gymnocactus viereckii* (FT), ---.
- 20A: *Coryphantha sneedii v. leei* (JB), *Escobaria leei* (JB), *E. zilziana* (JB).
 20B: ---, *Ortegocactus macdougallii* (JPK), ---.
- 21A: *Mammillaria klissingiana* (RL), ---, ---.
 21B: *M. bombycina* (RK) [K] and *M. plumosa* (RK) [Z], *M. schwarzii* (DD) and *M. bocasana v. roseiflora* (DD), *M. canelensis* (DD) and *M. rekoii v. leptacantha* (FT).
- 22A: ---, *Cochemia setispina* (DD), ---.
 22B: *Cochemia setispina* (DD), x *Ferobergia 'Gil Tegelberg'* (DD), ---.
- 23A: *Mam. bocasana cristata* (DD), *Rooksbya euphorbioides cristata* (DD), *Wein. hajegana variegata* (JC).
 23B: *Mam. geminispina cristata* (RL), *Espostoa nana cristata* (DD) [F], *Mam. wildii cristata* (DD) and unknown crest (CH).
- 24A: ---, *Alluaudia ascendens* (JPK), *A. comosa* (JB).
 24B: *Decaryia madagascarensis* (PF), *A. ascendens* (JB), ---.
- 25A: *Conophytum uvaeformae* (JJ), *Lithops villettii v. deboerii* (DA), *C. sp.* (DA).
 25B: ---, ---, ---.
- 26A: ---, *Trichodiadema bulbosum* (DC), *Mestoklema tuberosum* (BC).
 26B: *M. tuberosum* (JB), ---, ---.
- 27A: ---, *Herreroa nelii* (RGL), *Mitrophyllum compactum* (SF).
 27B: ---, ---, ---.
- 28A: *Anacampseros alstonii* (LNP), ---, ---.
 28B: ---, ---, *Portulacaria afra variegata* (LP).
- 29A: ---, *Kalanchoe tomentosa* (JB), ---.
 29B: ---, *K. beharensis v. minima* (JW), *K. thrysiflora* (MP).
- 30A: *Tylecodon buchholzianus* (JPK), *T. schaeferianus* (LNP), *T. luteosquamata* (SB).

- 30B: *T. buchholziana* (MM), - -, *T. waiiicnii* (ML) and *T. reticulatus* (SB).
- 31A: *Crassula* 'Buddha's Temple' (DD), *C. columela* (DD), *C. ausiensis* v. *giessii* (SF) and *C. deceptor x susanne* (DD).
 31B: *C. ausiensis* v. *giessii* (MAA), ---, *C. sp.* (MP).
- 32A: *Monanthes subcrissicaulis* (PF), ---, *Sempervivum magnificum* (SB).
 32B: ---, *Aeonium hybrid?* (MWH), *A. lindleyi* (MWH).
- 33A: ---, *Tacitus bellus* (PF), ---.
 33B: *Sedum frutescens* (MM), *T. bellus* (BKD), ---.
- 34A: ---, *Echeveria corderoyi* (CA), *E. purpusorum* (SB).
 34B: *E. chihuahuaensis* (SB) [X], *E. runyonii* (PF), *E. 'Black Prince'* (SB).
- 35A: ---, ---, *Dudleya edulis* (SS).
 35B: ---, *D. greenei 'White Sprite'* (DD), *D. traskiae* (SS).
- 36A: ---, *Bursera sp.* (JB), *Pachycormus discolor* (BC).
 36B: *E. microphylla* (RL), *Opercularia decaryi* (DG), *Bombax ellipticum* (LNP).
- 37A: *Dorstenia "taba'a gorge"* (RW), *D. foetida* v. *crispa* (SB), *Cissus tuberosa* (BC).
 37B: *Cyphostemma cirrhosa* v. *glabrum* (ML), *Ficus palmeri* (JB), *Cy. juttae* (JP) and (FT).
- 38A: *Sarcocaulon crassicaule* (JC) [V], *Pelargonium sp.* (SB), *P. longifolium* (ML).
 38B: ---, *P. mirabile* (ML), ---.
- 39A: *Pachypodium horombense* (JB), ---, ---.
 39B: *P. lealii* v. *saundersii* (BC) [L], *P. densiflorum* (ML), *Adenium obesum* (MM).
- 40A: ---, ---, *Huernia hystrix* (VG) and *Caralluma rogersii* (DC).
 40B: *Hoodia gordonii* (DD), ---, ---.
- 41A: *Ceropegia conrathii* (ML), ---, *C. rendallii* (JW).
 41B: "*Fockea tugalensis*" (LNP), *F. edulis* (DG), ---.
- 42A: ---, *Senecio scaposus* (PF), *Senecio fulgens* (JB).
 42B: *Senecio deflersii* (DD), ---, ---.
- 43A: *Euphorbia obesa* (CC), *E. bupleurifolia* (RW) and *E. milii roseana* (RL), *E. immersa* (ML) and *E. duranii* v. *duranii* (ML).
 43B: *E. guillemetii* (DG) [T] and *E. misera* (MM), *E. flaniganii* (CH) and *E. capsaintmariensis* (JC), *E. bupleurifolia* (AC) and *E. susanne* (DD).
- 44A: ---, *Monadenium ritchiei* (SB), *Jatropha macrantha* (JB).
 44B: *M. reflexum* (MM), *M. arborescens* (DD), *J. podagrica* (DD).
- 45A: *Fouquieria fasciculata* (RL), ---, ---.
 45B: *Idria columaris* (JB), *F. fasciculata* (JJ), *F. fasciculata* (JC).
- 46A: ---, *Adenia spinosa* (BC), *A. spinosa* (SB).
 46B: *Ibervillea tenuisecta* (JC), *Dioscorea sylvatica* (PF), *Seyrigia humbertii* (ML).
- 47A: *Aloe erinacea* (SB), *A. parvula* (AC), ---.
 47B: *A. ramosissima* (BA) [A], *A. haworthioides* (DD), *A. somaliensis* (JW).
- 48A: *Gasteria armstrongii* (PF), *G. liliputana* (DD), ---.
 48B: *G. armstrongii* (ML), *G. batesiana* (DD), *G. nigricans* v. *marmorata* (MT).
- 49A: *Haworthia lockwoodii* (LB), *H. comptoniana* (LB), *H. maughanii* (JC).
 49B: ---, *H. emelyae* (ML), *H. limifolia* v. *gigantea* (LB) and *H. comptoniana* (DD).
- 50A: ---, ---, *Sansevieria FKH 432* (JB).
 50B: ---, *S. phillippsae* (SB), *S. sp.* (MLS).
- 51A: *Agave macroacantha* (SB), *A. arizonica* (JB), ---.
 51B: *A. huahuacensis* (BA), *A. polyanthiflora* (DD), *A. striata nana* (DD).
- 52A: ---, ---, *Yucca whipplei* (JW).
 52B: *Beaucarnea recurvata* (JB), *Dracaena ombet* (AC), *Calibanus hookeri* (BA).
- 53A: *Tillandsia karwinskana* (MM), ---, *Dyckia fosteriana* (JB).
 53B: ---, *T. ionantha* (PF), *D. brevifolia* (BS).
- 54A: ---, *Begonia richardsiana* (SF), ---.
 54B: *Welwitschia mirabilis* (MM), *Sinningia canescens* (LNP), *Pyrenacantha malviflora* (DG).
- 55A: *Sedum praealtum cristata* (BA), *Huernia schneideriana cristata* (DD), ---.
 55B: *Euphorbia mamillaris variegata* (BS), ---, ---.
- 56: ---, *Gymnocalycium* (JB), *Mammillarias* (JB).
- 57: ---, *Euphorbias* (JB), ---.
- 58: no entries
- 59: *Lithops* (MM), white *Dudleyas* and *Echeverias* (JWD), "*Medusa's Garden*" (JWD).
- 60: *Bonsais* (LF) [E], [P], *Stapeliads* (JBZ) [Δ], *Succulent Habits* (RL).

I wish to thank all those who participated in our 1986 SDCSS Show! We had 939 plants (dish gardens were counted as one plant), 56 exhibitors (some couples are counted as one exhibitor, while others are counted as two depending upon how the plants were entered), and thousands of visitors. The plant sales was another success as was our pot-luck dinner on Saturday. From set up all the way through to clean up there were always enough members giving a hand. We depend upon the love and labor of such dedicated members. I also thank our three judges, who also did their part to make this show another jewel in the SDCSS's crown!

---Rick Latimer, Show Chairman

Succulent-of-the-Month

THE SUCCULENT JATROPHAS

By Dorothy Dunn

The genus Jatropha is a branch of the Euphorbiaceae whose 165 - 175 recognized species are not nearly as advanced as the Euphorbias themselves. It is a very wide-spread genus, with species occurring in both the New and Old Worlds, including southern North America, Mexico, Baja California, Central and South America, tropical Africa, Madagascar, and the West Indies. In addition, many species have become naturalized in other parts of the world. The majority of Jatropha species could not be regarded as truly succulent, but several of them do produce caudices, which makes them desirable and intriguing subjects to the collectors of succulent plants. According to Gordon Rowley, distinguishing features of the plants include "the alternate, petiolate, often large and thin leaves, the usually conspicuous and branched stipules, and the separate, unisexual flowers - one apetalous female surrounded by several males". The flowers are often very showy, and, like Euphorbias, the fruit is a three-lobed capsule, although the seeds are generally larger and bean-like. The seeds of many species contain an oil which is purgative.

Jatropha plants come in a variety of shapes and sizes, including trees, shrubs, and perennial herbs. Two of the most familiar species, J. podagrica and J. cathartica (formerly J. berlandieri), are very characteristic examples. J. cathartica, from southern Texas and northern Mexico, forms a large spherical underground caudex and J. podagrica, a very tropical species from Central America, has a swollen, bottle-shaped trunk with peeling, grayish-tan bark. The specific name 'podagrica' refers to the "gouty" appearance of the stem. The type species of the genus, J. urens, is armed with stinging hairs and typifies the notorious, much-maligned subgroup referred to as "mala mujer". To quote George Radwin (in the Cactus and Succulent Journal of America, Nov. - Dec. 1976), "a subgroup, Cnidoscolus, contains species whose leaves have stinging hairs. When contact breaks the cap off a hair, the needle-like tip injects formic acid into the wound thus formed. The skin irritation that is caused has given this group the "generic" name "mala mujer"."

The name of the genus is derived from the Greek: iatros, meaning "physician", and trophe, meaning "food" - the obvious reference being that medicinal properties were attributed to several species. Included in these are cures for leprosy and venereal diseases, antidotes for snake-bite, emetics for stomach pains, and concoctions for tooth-ache relief, gum problems, skin eruptions, dysentery, hemorrhoids, warts, and sore throat. In addition, the bark of some species was used in tanning and dyeing, and the tough flexible stems were used in the making of baskets and whips. Apparently, all parts of the plants - leaves, stems, flowers, seeds, and roots - served some useful purpose, and it would seem that Jatrophas rivalled the Euphorbias in the multitude and variety of native usages.

Several species of Jatropha occur in Baja California. One of the most commonly encountered is probably J. cinerea (called 'Lom-boy' by the natives), which occurs from about mid-peninsula southward. It is a large shrub with smooth grayish to brownish bark and small pink tubular flowers. The astringent red sap stains one's clothing permanently, and is used to prevent chapped lips and to stop bleeding. Another wide-spread species is J. cuneata ('Matacora') which is smaller in every way than J. cinerea. The specific name cuneata refers to the wedge-shaped leaves. The whitish flowers are microscopic. Probably the best show of fall color in southern Baja California is provided by J. vernicosa, whose leaves turn a deep, brilliant red before falling. It occurs in the Sierra de la Giganta, above 2,000 feet.

On the whole, Jatrophas are quite easy to cultivate. Being for the most part tropical in origin, they do require some winter warmth and a richer than average soil mix which is still coarse and fast-draining. When they are growing and flowering they can take very generous watering but, when dormant, watering, if done at all, should be done with extreme caution. This is particularly important in the case of J. cathartica. Due to the toxic nature of the sap, few pests attack Jatrophas; however, they are not immune to fungal and bacteria-related problems, and these seem to be the most common causes of loss of plants in cultivation. Pollination is apparently accomplished with a variety of insects, including moths, butterflies, bees and possibly ants. Jatrophas do not seem to be self-fertile. Propagation is usually from seed - although cuttings of a few species have reportedly been rooted, but with great difficulty, due to the woody nature of the stems.

Literature consulted:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Coyle, Jeanette, and
Roberts, Norman C. | <u>A Field Guide to the Common and Interesting
Plants of Baja California</u> |
| Dehgan, B. and
Webster, G.L. | <u>Morphology and Infrageneric Relationships of
the Genus <u>Jatropha</u> (Euphorbiaceae).</u>
(University of California Press: Botany, vol. 74) |
| Radwin, George E. | <u>Jatropha L. (Cactus and Succulent Journal of
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