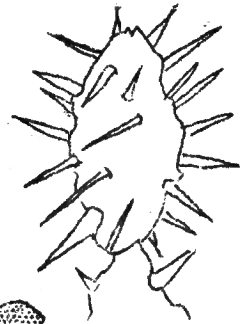


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Publication of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

PARADISE LOST ?

Your garden may be just a minute speck on the earth's surface; but it is possible, that at this very moment, it is the boundless domain of one or a number of varieties of insects that will live out their life spans in one small portion of your "delight". In one season many generations of these dissident factions may rise up and contest the ultimate authority of your garden. "Peace with Honor" in this king of the hill battle is really a Mexican standoff. Cunning, craftiness, and wily ways will not offset a pure and simple regular dogmatic spraying routine and cleanliness in gardening habits.

Knowing the materials and techniques of using them aids in the more efficient control of garden pests; thereby leaving a greater amount of time to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

The history of pesticides dates back to before the time of Christ. In those early days many ingenious methods and devices were used to ward off attacks from insects and plant diseases. The people, being highly superstitious, carried out most of their cultural practices according to the moon. Such practices, as touching the top of the tree with the gall of a green lizard protecting fruit trees against attack by caterpillars, were among many collected and edited by an early Roman philosopher, Pliny the Elder. Most of the materials used were offensive to

smell or caustic, rather than poisonous; the more offensive the better. Things like fish oil, fetid resins of various plants, pepper, sulfur, lye, brine, and other like substances were used.

With the advent of DDT, during World War II, a whole new field of pest control was opened. Mankind has indeed benefited from the development of these new materials; crops are produced in greater quantity and better quality at less cost than ever before, many insect borne diseases, such as malaria, have been greatly reduced, and in Ornamental Horticulture we are able to grow plants of greater aesthetic value.

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OCTOBER MEETING

Saturday Oct. 7th. 2pm
 Floral Assoc. Building
 Balboa Park

"SOILS-CALIF. STYLE"

A Talk by
 Jim Stalsonburg

Plant Exchange

&

Hospitality Table

BRING PLANTS FOR

"BRAGGING TABLE"

PARADISE LOST ? (con't)

Space does not permit us to deal with each problem and its remedy, but a little common sense approach to the overall picture will measurably ease the frustration which comes with watching the deterioration of one of your prize specimens. One thing that we have learned from our ancient brothers in their practice with the lizard gall, and it is as true today as it was then, is that prevention is of at least equal importance as trying to cure or salvage, and far more rewarding. Cleanliness is the rule for all garden activities. Choose a spray or other material with the broadest control scope; this will eliminate additional spraying operations, and possibly knock down some pest you might not otherwise notice. READ THE DIRECTIONS carefully; each spray is somewhat different and most have different recommendations for dissimilar pests. Spray or apply the control material thoroughly, getting all those little hideaways covered. Finally, whenever possible cultivate natural enemies to common pests, like the friendly Ladybug.

FACTS FROM HEGY'S ALMANAC

It is most enjoyable and informative to observe professional people using "tools of their trade" in pursuit of a hobby. For instance, I was so interested to see Dr. Elmer Peterson (a former member) making a large, very intricate model of a ship under full sail. He had cut the balsa wood so skillfully with a scalpel and the rigging was held in place by a whole series of haemostats (blood vessel clamps)! He uses applicator sticks, when passing through his his cactus collection to mark which plant requires repotting or other kind of attention.

Then, while visiting the extensive, beautiful cactus and other plant collection of Dr. Corliss, I saw a very fine graft. A stone on top of the scion held that in place and four tongue depressors on the sides of the stock held it all steady. Then, for the precise watering of his multitude of small potted specimens, he used a little bulb syringe (enema syringe for infants). There were two mammillarias in bloom, and with deft touch, using an artist's fine camel-hair brush, he quickly dabbed pollen from one onto the other. That's how puppies are born.

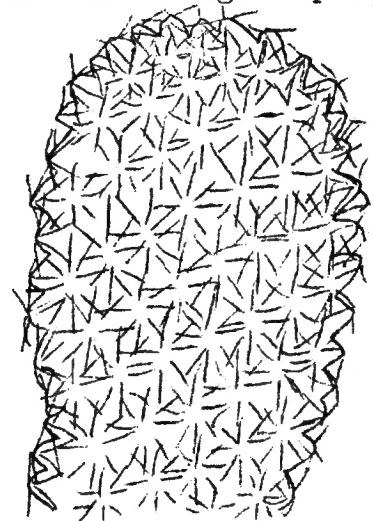
Dr. Corliss has since been kind enough to give me the following items... along this same line... of things we lay folks would never think of using: 1. Swabs, either the plain sticks or cotton-tipped (Q-tips to the layman) dipped in rubbing alcohol, are used to combat scale and mealy bug. 2. Tongue depressors (throat sticks to the patient) are used to protect new grafts and also to support slender plants when first repotted. They are also used freely for temporary labels. 3. Bulb syringes are used for watering small and inaccessible to watering can plants; also for washing plants for one reason or another. 4. An atomizer (bulb type) is used to spray seedlings and certain cactus and stapeliad cuttings, etc. 5. Surgeon's scalpel, with detachable blades, is used for making cuts for grafting, etc. 6. Thumb forceps (tweezers to the layman) are used for planting seeds and pricking out and repotting seedlings. 7. Haemostats (forceps) of various sizes are used in handling cactus, but especially for weeding around spiny cactus. 8. Disposable rubber gloves are used with leaky equipment; etc. 9. Pill boxes with sliding covers are used for storing pollen used in breeding, also for storing seed until planting, as they can be left slightly open to prevent mold. 10. Cylindrical plastic pill containers are used as receptacles for rubbing alcohol when treating plants for scale, etc. 11. Elastic adhesive tape used for holding grafts. How many more things can you add to this list?

Helen Hegyi

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Paraphrasing a slogan from "Madison Avenue" advertizing parlance; if you like Cactus, you'll love Coryphantha. As a genus, Coryphantha (ko-ri-fan-tha) has puzzled students of Cacti for years. Individual species in the main resemble the Mammillaria clan. The bodies are both globular and cylindrical, sometimes solitary, but often sprouting pups at the base or on the sides of the stems to form large random clumps. The surface of the plant is made up of large tubercles, similar to the "Mams", rather than ribs. The spines are extremely facinating and varied; ranging in spectrum of color with silvers, ambers, pinks, and umbers; the arrangements have comb-like and sunburst patterns, some with soft bristles others with ridgid spines. The flowers, because of their location near the top of the plant and the size up to 3 inches across, are reminiscent of Echinocactus, and some species have been listed with this group in the past.

Coryphantha has been a genus for almost a 100 years, established by Lemaire in 1868. It has a range from southern Mexico to Canada, however, they are mostly found in central Mexico. It is easy to see, that with all the variation and the vast area of residency, why much confusion has prevailed in the past. As destiny would have it, the respected Britton and Rose put a little order to things with their epic work.



One of the chief characteristics of this genus is a small groove on the upper side of the tubercle from which the flowers are borne. Another is the large green olive-like fruit that forms at the top of the plant. There are now over fifty species listed for Coryphantha, and each and every one aesthetically worthy of collection. The name is derived from the Greek word Koryphe meaning summit or top and Anthos meaning flower, which refers to the location where the flower is produced. Erecta the species name for our plant of note this month means upright or erect.



In the northeastern corner of the state of Guanajuato, Mexico, the rugged mountains rise to elevations of 8500 feet with deep interior canyons that abruptly drop to depths below 3000 ft. Only recently roads began to be built into this area, opening up many interesting locations for Cactus collecting. About half way on the highway between Queretaro and San Luis Potosi near the little town of San Luis de la Paz, a good surface road heads East up into the mountains to the village of Xichu. About 15 miles out of San Luis de la Paz on the flat topped rolling foothills Coryphantha erecta can be found in abundance. Smiling like the morning sun in its golden glory from among the rocks and grassy clumps, erect is a picturesque sight, the equal of any of Hollywood's Technique Color - Vista Vision endeavors.

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PLANT OF THE MONTH (con't)

Erecta stands 10 to 15 inches high, cylindrical and slightly club shaped. The pale green stem is about 3 inches thick at maturity covered with amber spines radiating in a sunburst pattern. The areoles at the tips of the large tubercles are very wooly, especially on the new growth. There are 8 to 14 radial spines and generally from 2 to 4 central spines about 3/4 of an inch long. The lower central spine is curved backwards. With age the spines around the middle will turn ash white looking very much like a large cummerbund.

The flowers, which bloom from midsummer to early fall, are an ostentatious vision from their salmon red bud to their canary yellow full blossom. Long narrow lanceolate petals that are reddish at the base and a pale yellow stamens in the center complete a most complimentary embellishment for this outstanding plant.

It is easy to cultivate in any open moderately rich soil. Use a mixture of 2 parts sand to one part steer or other organic matter with a generous portion of lime for good measure in pot culturing. Place in a sunny location and water well during the Summer growing period.

In the vast Daisy family there are a few plants that are of interest to the succulent fancier. These plants fall into three principle genera - Senecio (se-ne-shi-o), Othonna (o-thon-na), and Kleinia (kli-ni-a). The Senecios and Othonnas are generally recognized by their daisy type flowers, while Kleinias are distinguished by a thistle-like bloom. By many experts the genus Kleinia is no longer accepted and plants known by that name are often listed with with Senecio, but the name Kleinia is too well known and the characteristics for the most part too pronounced for this writer to ignore. The name was given in honor of a German botanist named Klein; most of the species occur in South Africa.

With the exception of *KLEINIA TOMENTOSA*, all the members of this group are easily grown. *Tomentosa* is touchy to cold weather, and when the temperature drops below 45 degrees, lock out; also it seems to be extremely sensitive to drainage. This plant forms a multi branch tree-like shrub to 1½ feet in height. The branches become somewhat woody with age. It is often called "Lady Fingers" because of the danty pure white felt-coated leaves, hence the specific name of *tomentosa* was given. The leaves are fleshy in nature, oblong in shape from 1½ to 2 inches long, and point towards the growing tip.



The flower which blooms in late summer is a little rust colored button, about 1 inch in diameter. It is projected from the tips of the plant and is very persistent. The white tufts of the dead flowers linger on for many weeks afterwards and give the plant an additional attraction. This plant is cultured best in pots in a soil mixture of 75% sand to organic matter; it will show considerable growth in the Summer when well watered and in a sunny location. It is propagated fairly easily from stem cuttings. "Lady Fingers" is a definite must to add color and interest to your collection.