

MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

# サボテン 多肉植物

NEWSLETTER of the SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY, INC.

A Non-Profit Public Benefit California Corporation

VOLUME XXXIII NUMBER FOUR, SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1998 @ 1:00PM

## サボテン・多肉植物とは

ふつう「サボテン」というと、肉厚のウチワのような形やボールのような球形で、鋭いトゲをもつ植物をイメージします。ところが、おなじみのアロエや金のなる木も、サボテンと呼ばれることがあります。「多肉植物」という名前が、まだまだ一般に流通していないためと思われる。

では、サボテンと多肉植物はどう違うのでしょうか。

実は、サボテンは多肉植物の一種なのです。正しくは「多肉植物サボテン科」に分類されます。多肉植物の中には、緑の鈴のようなキク科のものや、金のなる木のようにベンケイソウ科のものなど、いろいろな種類があり、全部で50余科にわたります。サボテンはそのうちのひとつなのです。

ただ、サボテン科は多肉植物の中でもとりわけ種類が多い科で、花も形態も興味のあるものが多く、それだけに愛好家もたくさんいます。そのためサボテンだけを独立させて、しかも前に置いて、「サ

ボテン・多肉植物」と呼ぶようになったのだろうといわれています。この呼び方は日本だけでなく、世界各国でもこのように呼ばれています。

それでは、多肉植物とはどういう植物なのでしょうか。多肉植物とは、ひと言でいえば、葉や茎、根などに水分をため

ておくことのできる構造をもった植物のことです。

となると、ダイコンやニンジン、チューリップも多肉植物ではないか、と反論が返ってくるかもしれませんが、それぞれ野菜、球根植物と呼ばれて区別されているように、もちろん多肉植物ではありません。これから、その構造や性質について詳述しますが、サボテンも多肉植物も、広い意味での観葉植物と見ることができるでしょう。

## サボテン・多肉植物の性質と構造

サボテンをタテ割りにしてみると、図①のように生長点から根に向かって、タテに2本の維管束が通っているのがわかります。維管束は、炭酸同化作用によってつくられた養分や水分を体内に行きわたらせる管です。これは図②のように、輪切りにされた断面を見ても、中央の維管束は、放射状にトゲのある稜に向かって伸びていることがわかります。

サボテンは十分に吸水した場合、90%以上が水分です。それを支えているのがこの維管束です。

### トゲ

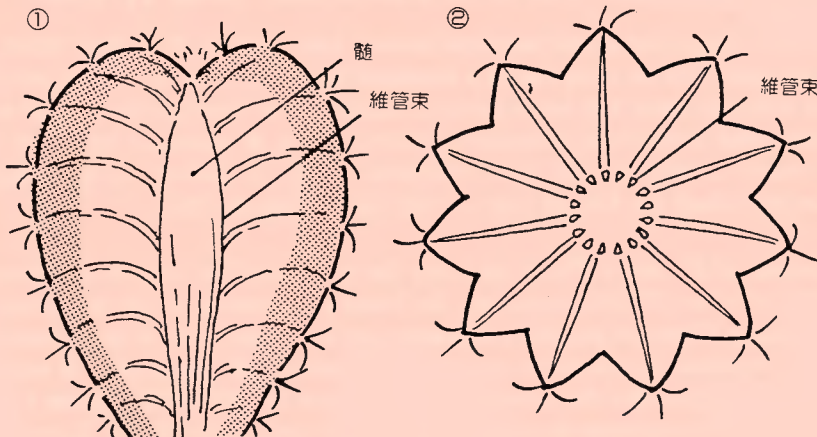
サボテンはなぜトゲを出しているのでしょうか。それには次のような①～④の理由が挙げられています。

- ①トゲは外敵から、つまり、動物が餌として食べたりすることから身を守る自衛手段です。トゲのないものは、岩の割れ目やブッシュの中に身をひそめて生活しています。
- ②トゲは木陰をつくり、高温や水分の蒸発から身を守っています。
- ③トゲは、霧などわずかな水分を集めて根ぎわに落とし、水分の補給をします。また反対に毛柱類などは、余分な水分を排除する役目をしています。
- ④トゲに代わる白毛や綿毛は、太陽の光線を反射して、球体の温度調節をするなどの働きをしています。

### 稜とイボ

原始的サボテンには稜はありません。柱サボテンや球型サボテンには、その進化の過程にしたがって、稜とイボが出てきます。

稜やイボは、水分の調節をする働きが



サボテンのタテ割り

サボテンの輪切り

# April Program: Brian Kemble Agaves - The New World Aloe

Brian Kemble, plantsman extraordinaire, will present a slide show featuring agaves and their relatives. Something different — since many of us are aware of Brian's attenuated passion for aloes. Agaves are really the New World equivalent of the Old World aloes, and deliver the same bold statement and effect in a landscape. It seems quite natural for Brian to embrace them along with his true love, *Aloe*.

Presently Brian resides in the San Francisco Bay area where he works as an independent landscaper and horticultural consultant. Additionally, he oversees the care of the *Aloe* collection at Bancroft Gardens, as well as taking care of his own sizable personal collection. Brian has given many excellent slide shows throughout the United States featuring aloes, agaves, and his travels through Madagascar, South Africa and Mexico, including Baja. Be sure not to miss this one!

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Our cover: **APRIL FOOLS!!**

料や石灰を塗る方法で遮光をします。中のサボテンが外から見えるかどうか程度

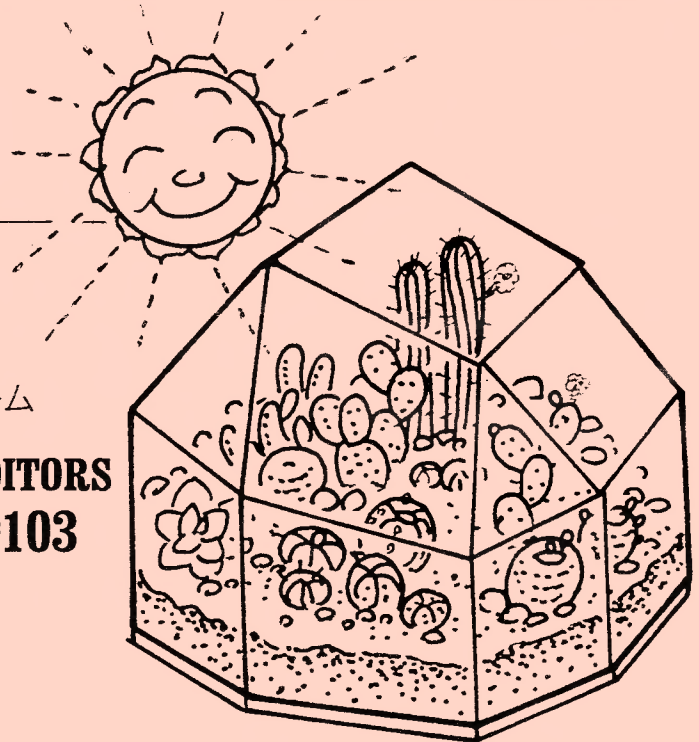
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Please send your letters, artwork, poetry, Cactus or Succulent-of-the-Month articles, puzzles, comments, or criticisms, etc. to:

サボテンのテラリウム

**MICHAEL & JOYCE BUCKNER, EDITORS**  
**4822 SANTA MONICA AVENUE, #103**  
**SAN DIEGO, CA 92107**

**(619) 222-3216**



PUBLICATION DEADLINE FOR OUR MAY-JUNE ISSUE IS SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1998

*Espinas y Flores*, the newsletter of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Incorporated, P. O. Box 33181, San Diego, CA 92163-3181, is published monthly with the exception of a combined May-June issue (*11 issues per year*). Newsletter circulation is approximately 400 with about 350 issues going to members (*one issue per household*) and an additional 40-50 issues going to educational institutions, botanical societies, cactus & succulent nurseries, local publications, related natural history events & exhibits, and other interested groups or individuals upon request. Subscriptions (*membership dues for an individual*) are \$10 per year for bulk mail within the USA.

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## SUNDAY APRIL 5th - ANZA-BORREGO DESERT WILDFLOWERS BUS TRIP We're On — RAIN OR SHINE !!

Bus will leave from the Parking Lot behind the Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park @ 8:00am sharp.  
THAT'S 8:00AM DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME OR 7:00AM PACIFIC STANDARD TIME!!

Second pick-up at approximately 8:30am will be at the Cal-Trans Park & Ride lot at the northwest corner of Interstate-15 and Mira Mesa Blvd (*near Poway*). Third, and final pick-up will be at the Park & Ride lot on the west side of North County Fair adjacent to the Texaco station in Escondido. Bus will leave from this stop promptly @ 9:00am. Please be there on time - we would certainly hate to disappoint anyone, but if you miss the bus - well, you've missed the bus. Fees are not refundable, as we still must pay the fees for the bus and our guide.

Our host and botanical expert for this trip will be **Jim Dice**, who presently resides in the Anza-Borrego and works for the Department of Wildlife, Fish & Game for San Diego & Imperial Counties. Jim was president of the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, as well as being a past editor of our own *Espinas y Flores*. He has contacted us several times in the past few weeks and has enthusiastically planned several very good stops where we will be able to easily view a luscious variety of wildflowers, native plants, some rare and interesting succulents, and many wonderful cactus in full bloom. There will be a particular emphasis on cacti, of course!

Cost is \$22 per person and at this time we still have approximately 8 seats available. So, if you are interested in joining us, or wish to bring along a friend — please contact **Michael or Joyce Buckner - (619) 222-3216 ASAP** to make arrangements. Everyone needs to bring: A BAG LUNCH including extra water (*Please, no glass containers!*), Hat, Sunscreen, Umbrella if necessary, GOOD COMFORTABLE WALKING SHOES, and fun tickets! Other optional suggestions: camera & film, reading material or natural history oriented videos or a pillow & blanket for the bus trip. There is plenty of room for all extra luggage under the bus. And we will be bringing a couple of coolers full of ice and extra drinks & water. We should be getting home just before dark — about 6:00 to 7:00PM.

This is a truly remarkable year for color and vibrancy in the Anza-Borrego. If you are unable to make this trip — you should still find a way to visit and enjoy this rare view of the best that the desert has to offer.

**April 11 - 12: Southcoast Annual Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale** - 9:00 am through 4:30 pm at the Southcoast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula; for more info (310)832-2262. Open show - ENTRIES ACCEPTED Friday, April 11 from 12:00 noon to 9:00 pm. Admission free to participants - \$5 to Botanic Gardens - \$2.50 for seniors and children - Free Parking.

**April 13: Roger Elliot, author of *Encyclopedia of Australian Plants*** - 6:30 @ the Satellite Wagering Facility, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar; information regarding the San Diego Hort Society (760) 630-7307.

**April 18 - 19: Buds and Blooms / EARTHFAIR - Balboa Park.** Bring the family - there is lot's of fun events to participate in for everyone! **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO MAN (OR WOMAN) THE SDC&SS BOOTH!** If you are interested in participating in this event please contact **Pam and/or Lee Badger at (619) 589-1223**. Last year we had lots of fun and talked to thousands of people about our club and our favorite plants.

**April 18 - 19: Coronado Flower Show @ Spreckels Park** - This is a terrific annual get together with something to interest every member of your family. If you would like to enter a succulent plant contact John Blocker @ (619)435-8397 or Don Bloom @ (619)437-8445 for a show schedule.

**April 25 - 26: San Diego Bonsai Club Show & Sale** - Room 101, Casa del Prado - Balboa Park

**April 25 - 26: Baja Greenhouse Roof Raising** - The Baja volunteers at the Wild Animal Park need help reroofing their greenhouse at the Park. They will start on Saturday April 25 at 7:00am and continue till around 2:00pm. Sunday will be a pick-up day to finish the loose ends. Please lend a hand with this endeavor, SDCSS members can be proud of their contributions to the worlds largest collection of Baja succulents outside of Mexico. To help please call Joey at 619 569-8510 or E-mail jabetzler@aol.com.

**April 29 - May 3: Art Alive 1998 at the San Diego Museum of Art** - Balboa Park. Art Alive is an annual fundraiser, social event and educational forum which combines the beauty of nature and the elegance of art. The museum and its collections will be alive with 175 floral arrangements created by professional floral designers and award winning amateur exhibitors. Proceeds provide funds for preservation of the museum's collections. Look for **Virginia Innis'** design to compliment The Red Cactus by Norfeldt in Gallery 13 — good topic for a SDC&SS member!

**May 10 - Annual Epiphyllum Show & Sale** Room 101, Casa del Prado - Balboa Park, San Diego. This is a great show and sale — take your Mother!!! It's Mother's Day!! For information: (619) 491-9495.

**VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED TO HELP AT THE MONTHLY PLANT SALES TABLES. PLEASE CONTACT ANY BOARD MEMBER IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING US OUT. THANKS!!**

**May 16 & 17: The 23rd Annual Gates Society Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale** - at the San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands - telephone (909) 798-8570. Show and sale are open to all.

## **JUNE 6 -7: SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE**


**Casa del Prado - Balboa Park, San Diego** This is an open show! Come One! Come All! And a terrific sale. Show set-up all day Friday, June 5 and early morning Saturday, June 6. NOW IS THE TIME TO START PREPARING YOUR PLANTS FOR THIS FANTASTIC SHOW - EVERY SDC&SS MEMBER MUST SHOW!!!! For more information: (619) 462-1805.

**June 20: Bruce Bayer, world renowned expert on the genus *Haworthia*** from South Africa @ Noon at the Joslyn Senior Center, 724 North Broadway, Escondido. This very special event will be co-sponsored by the SDC&SS. Anyone and everyone with any interest in Haworthias should plan to attend this rare opportunity with a world-class botanical explorer and taxonomist. We are looking into renting a bus or organizing a ride-share so that as many of our SDC&SS members can see this extraordinary speaker as possible. Tentative departure from the Organ Pavilion parking lot @ 11:00am - cost would be \$10. Interested?? There will be a sign-up sheet at the May meeting.

**July 11 - 12: CSSA Show & Sale, Huntington Botanical Garden** - San Marino. SDC&SS Bus Trip will be leaving the Organ Pavilion Parking Lot in Balboa Park at 8:00 am on Saturday, July 11th and will make one stop in North County at approximately 8:30 for additional passengers. Cost will probably be \$25 per person. Further details and a registration form will be published in the May issues of *Espinas y Flores*. This is a great sale!

**August 22 - 23: Inter-City Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale @ the L.A. Arboretum, Arcadia.** And perhaps a SDC&SS Bus Trip/Field Trip is in order for this very special event!

**October 23 - 25: Sonoran 2 - A Cactus & Succulent Conference - Seminar - Symposium in Tucson** - For more information regarding this terrific event contact: **Carol Clapp**, P.O.Box 91560, Tucson, AZ 85752-1560; phone (520)908-9001 or e-mail://www.desertcactus.com/tcss/ or kitfox@azstarnet.com.



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# The Monthly Benefit Drawing

Our March table brought Spring to all our hearts and joy to the hearts of our numerous winners! And, YES, we had terrific donor contributions to the table . . . like icing on the cake! Take a bow you wonderful donors!

**Joe Quijada** for the *Sansevieria schweinfurthii*; **Carol Jean Wolcott** for her *Aechmea recurvata* "Tokuri"; **Bruni Scheffler** for her *Agave* "FO 76"; **Stephen Johnson** for FOUR of his handmade pots; **Marilyn & Ric Newcomer** for a lovely *Mammillaria geminispina*; **Ted Alford** for one of his hand-thrown pots; **Betty Athy** for her *Euphorbia suzannae*, *Mammillaria senilis*, *Haworthia lockwoodii*, *Sinningia leucotricha* and an *Echinocereus rusanthus*; and to **Michael & Joyce Buckner** for one of their hand-built "Tex" pots and the *Pelargonium cordifolium* cutting.

Many thanks to **Betty Athy**, our plant procurer, for locating the bewitching collection of plants for our benefit table.

Make someone happy! If you have a duplicate plant, a special book . . . or a gardening item in your collection that is sweet to see — common or rare — there is always room on our drawing table! And it certainly helps our organization!

Many Thanks, **Kay Quijada**

---

## BRAG TABLE WINNERS FOR MARCH 1998: JUDGED BY MICHAEL BUCKNER

SUCCULENT:	FIRST PLACE:	<b>Rudy Lime's <i>Ficus palmeri</i></b> - wonderfully staged on a rock.
	SECOND PLACE:	<b>Phyllis Flechsig's <i>Echeveria lauii</i></b> - NO TOUCH ! Please!
	THIRD PLACE:	<b>Monte Woodworth's <i>Euphorbia alfredii</i></b> - a fabulous miniature.
CACTUS:	FIRST PLACE:	<b>Don Patterson's <i>Mammillaria bombycina</i></b>
	SECOND PLACE:	<b>Kelly Griffin's <i>Ortegocactus macdougallii</i></b>
	THIRD PLACE:	<b>Shirley Berry's <i>Mammillaria pseudoperbella</i></b> - pristine

MANY THANKS TO **EVERYONE** WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE MARCH BRAG TABLE — IT WAS A SPECTACULAR SHOWING!! MICHAEL NOTED THAT HE COULD HAVE EASILY GIVEN DUPLICATE RIBBONS IN ALL CATEGORIES. WE CERTAINLY HOPE THAT WE GET TO SEE **ALL** OF THESE WONDERFUL SPECIMENS AGAIN AT THE JUNE SHOW!! IF YOU HAVE NOT YET HAD THE CHANCE TO SHOW YOUR PLANTS — THE BRAG TABLE SERVES AS A GOOD EDUCATIONAL TRIAL RUN. HERE'S WHAT YOU DO: CLEAN UP ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE PLANTS, LABEL IT WITH BOTH ITS NAME AND YOUR NAME, BRING IT IN — GOOD LUCK!!

**Please Bring in  
the Goodies!**

THANK YOU REGALEMENT COMMITTEE: **RUDY LIME, LEE BADGER, LAURA DeMERRITT & STEFY MANGOLD** - FOR FEEDING THE HUNGRY MASSES!!

# ***NEOCHILENIA (NEOPORTERIA)***

## ***NEOIMPORTOCHILENIAS?***

CACTUS OF THE MONTH

BY EDWARD NOLAN PH.D.

*Neochilenia* (Backbg.): The new cactus from Chile! That is as good a name as any, I guess, to describe this group of cactus. Apparently, Backeberg liked the idea behind the name *Neoporteria* (Br. & R.) so much that he used it when he created the *Neochilenia*. Maybe that is why taxonomists keep lumping and splitting the *Neoporteria* with the *Neochilenia*. And whatever you do, don't even mention the *Horridocactus*, *Islaya* and *Pyrrhocactus*! It is issues exactly like this that should be used to ban a molecular biologist, such as myself, from ever writing anything that has to do with plant taxonomy.

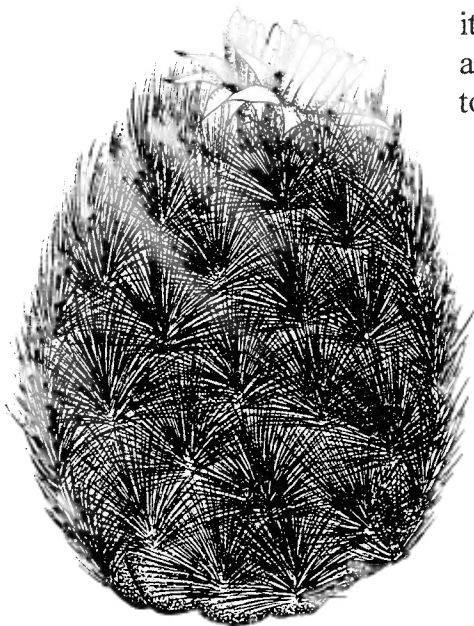
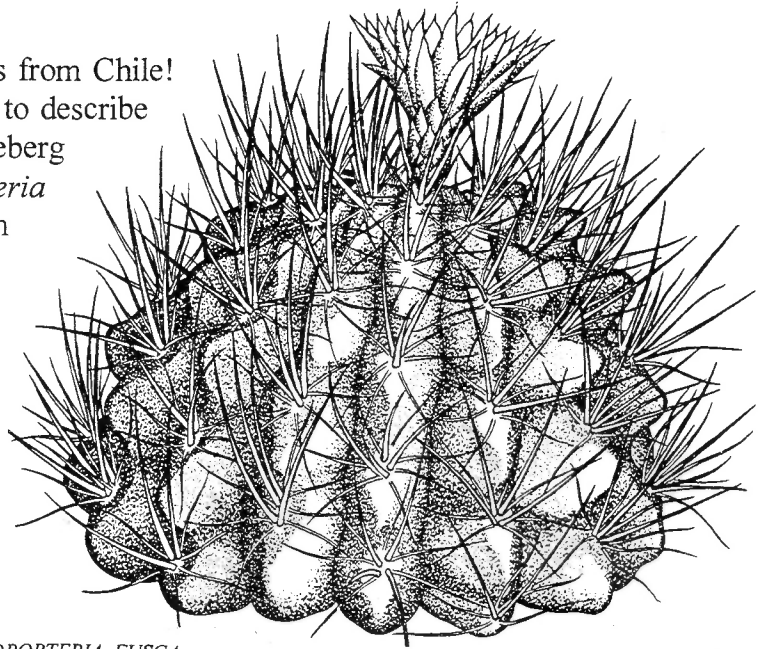
Just give me the genes, baby!

*NEOPORTERIA FUSCA*

Better yet — give me the sequence of the genes — then we'd have an article! Alas, until the world comes up with a theory and operational protocol to separate species based on quantitative genetic information, the lumpers and splitters, (i.e. chaos) will rule. Rob Wallace... Where are you? (But even Rob needs to get into the chromosomal genes, not just the chloroplast DNA.)

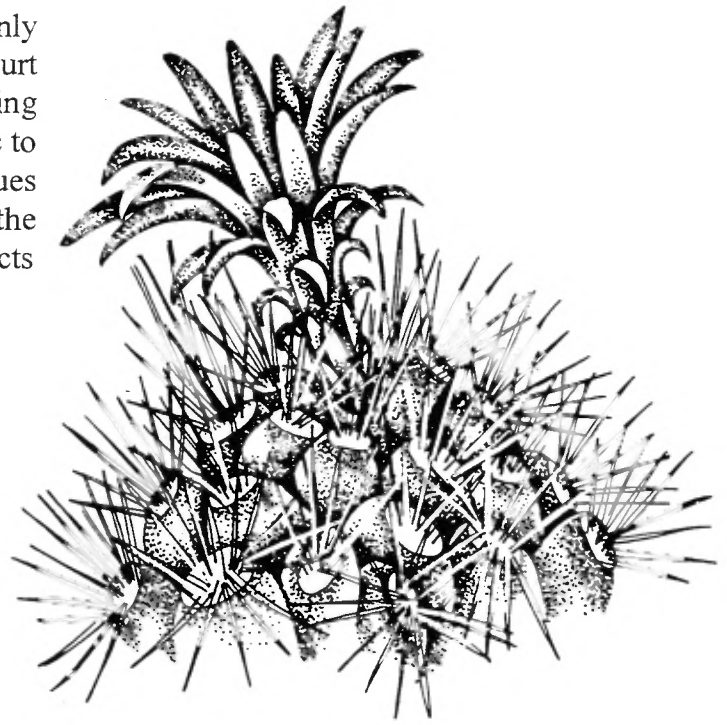
The last time I looked, the *Neochilenia* had been lumped in with the *Neoporteria*, but I am not sure if that was "official", or not. At least Britton and Rose failed to distinguish the *Neochilenia* from the *Neoporteria*. Botany is one of the unique sciences on this planet where a single individual can revise an entire group or family of plants, lump and split at will, based

on their opinion; and the rest of the world is obligated to accept it. (Or, if you are a botanist, you can redo the whole thing over again!) In fact, even the name *Neochilenia* is invalid, according to the Code of Botanical Latin! If recognized as a separate genus, the name *Neochilenia* should be changed to *Nichelia*. In either case, one could adapt the arguments of Curt Backeberg and leave these genera separate. Hey! If it's good enough for Curt, it's good enough for me. Backeberg argued that the differences in the flower color, shape and structure were enough to split the *Neochilenia* from the *Neoporteria*. In the *Neoporteria*, the flowers are always light reddish with the inner petals curving towards one another until the flower fades, which contrast with the open funnel form seen in the *Neochilenia*. However, despite the flower differences, both genera are very similar. Both are mostly small plants with spherical to elongated bodies; most have a stout taproot and ribs either straight or tuberculate.



*NEOPORTERIA NIDUS*

The *Neochilenia* and *Neoporteria* are found only in Chile, and on the west side of the Andes. Curt Backeberg makes an interesting and convincing argument for separating genera that are endemic to opposite sides of the Andes. Backeberg argues that a systematic separation of plants found on the east side of the Andes from the west side reflects in every way the natural phenomenon. The Andes are a very ancient mountain range and thus a very effective barrier since time immemorial. Backeberg goes on to state that the inclusion of the *Neochilenia* with the *Neoporteria* ignores the differences in the floral indumentum (hair covering). The *Neoporteria* possess an extremely reduced indumentum, while the *Neochilenia* have an open flower shape. Thus, Backeberg argues that other genera, such as *Pyrhocactus* could be included in with the *Neoporteria*, if one uses that same logic. But the *Pyrhocactus* are on the **east** side of the Andes, and thus should not be included.



*Neoporteria subgibbosa*

(nē'-ō-pōr-tēr'-i-ā)

Brian Lamb, (who also recognizes the genus *Neochilenia*), states that there are about 50 species. Lamb also states that there are over 24 species of *Neoporteria*. So, if you add them together, there are roughly 74 species belonging to the genus *Neo*....*whatever you want to call it*. What a dull world this would be without such daunting issues to resolve! So, as not to be taxonomically impetuous, let us consider the *Neoporteria* and the *Neochilenia* as one genus, as least for our concerns.

What attributes make these plants so appealing? I personally am very much a fan of the Chilean cactus in general, and especially the *Copiapoa*, *Neochilenia*, and *Neoporteria* type plants. These plants have a very pronounced and often very beautiful spination. Also, the body color is very unique, with plants coming in shades of dark green to purplish to almost black. In addition these plants are small and don't ever get large, (we wish) and are generally easy to deal with. The *Neoporteria* also flower in our winter and provide long lasting blooms of reddish hue. I have, at one point or another, owned most of the species in this genus. I find most to be of easy culture. Specific tips on their culture should include providing them with some sun protection. Do not overwater — especially in winter. And limit the pot size by using a shallow wide pot. A few rather choice species are: *nidus*, *napina*, *esmeraldana*, *oculta* and *taltalensis*, but every species in this genus is worthy of owning.

References:

Curt Backeberg, **CACTUS LEXICON**, 1977, Blanford Press, Dorset, England.

Brian M. Lamb, **LETTS GUIDE TO CACTI OF THE WORLD**, 1991, Harper Collins Publishers, London, England (*and illustration on this page*).

Illustrations:

W. Taylor Marshall & Thor Methven Bock, **CACTACEAE WITH ILLUSTRATED KEYS OF ALL TRIBES, SUB-TRIBES AND GENERA**, 1941, Abbey Press, Pasadena, U.S.A.

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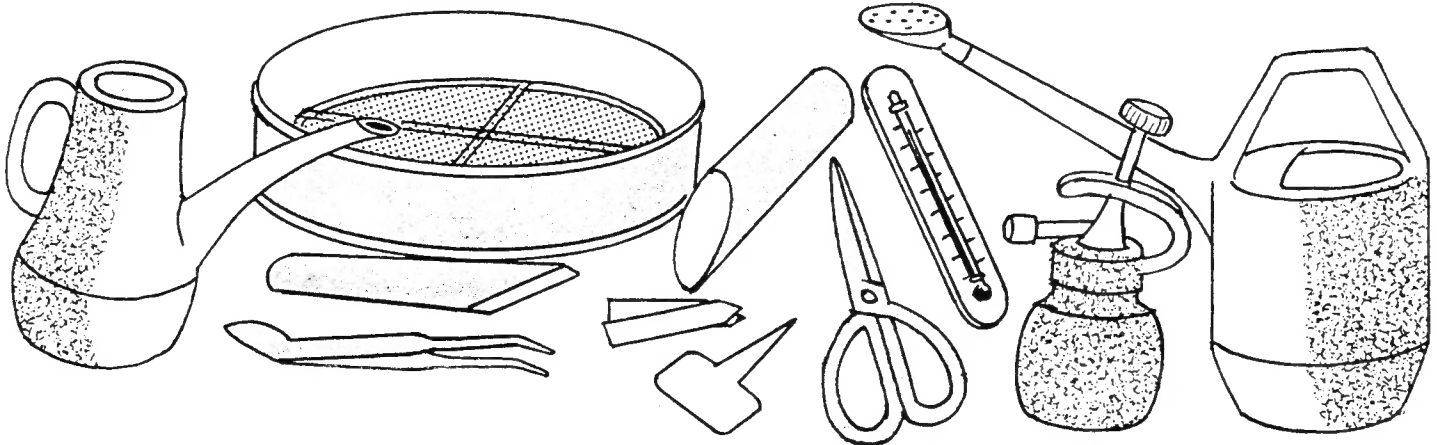
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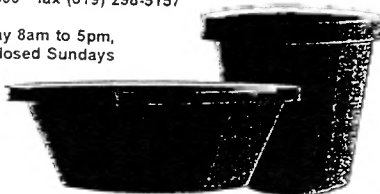
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# I AM THE DESERT

by Brunhilde Scheffler

I am the Earth. I am the Desert.  
The sun has been burning down on me for many moons.  
My face is cracked and torn.  
Deep crevices split my skin — tear my body.  
Hot wind whistles playing a harsh game with me.  
Sharp pebbles swirl about  
Big rocks roll down from mountain heights.  
He is a merciless fellow: the Desert Wind.  
Ripples and wrinkles my skin.  
It looks like that of an elephant, or like a washboard.  
Some parts of me are like ocean waves.  
The fine sand has piled up,  
Built hills and valleys and creates  
Ornamental patterns upon my body, just like tattoos.

Sometimes fog clouds draft in from the oceans at night.  
Dew drops fall in the morning.  
But soon a relentless sun licks it up  
Drop by drop — before my creatures can get relief.

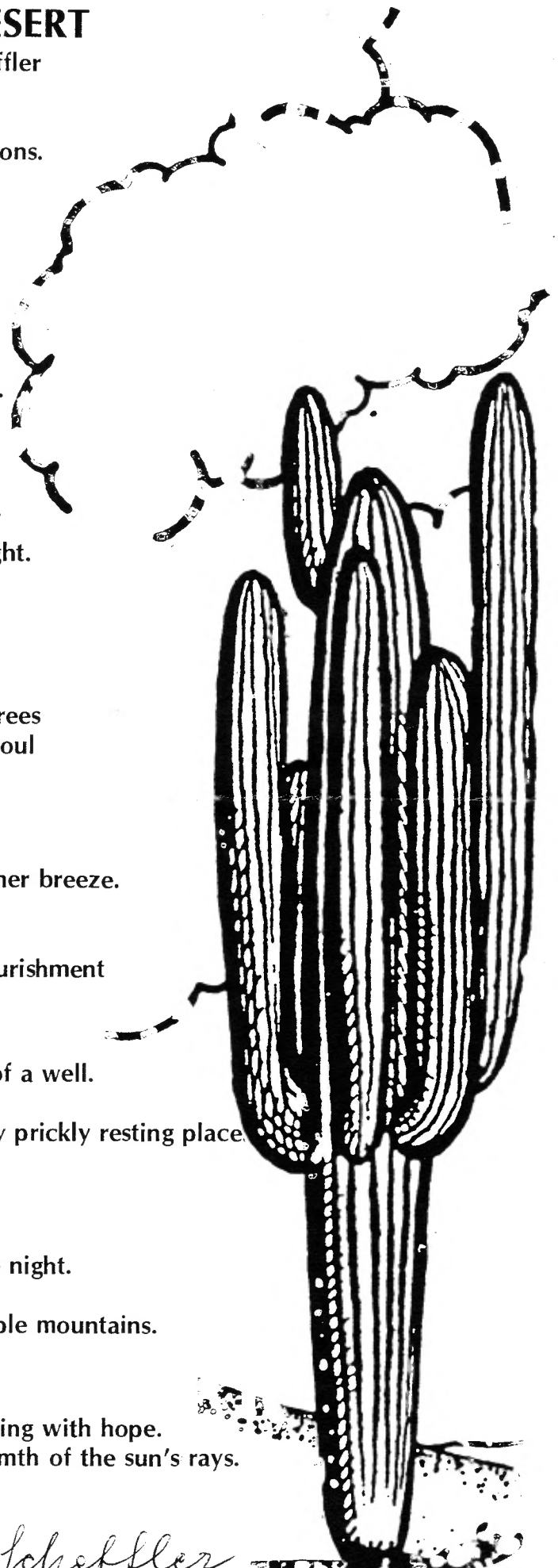
There are many living beings hiding in my folds.  
Flowering bushes, spiny cacti, ocotillos, and Joshua trees  
They push their roots deep into my body — and my soul  
In search of water.  
They adapt their lifestyle to suit mine.  
They depend on me.

I shelter many seeds blown about by last year's summer breeze.  
They are resting here. Buried in dust they wait,  
And will burst and grow and bloom again,  
When the skies open up and send their life-giving nourishment  
Rain.

We wait for water — the essence of our existence.  
A lonely wanderer crosses my sandy body in search of a well.  
A desert turtle tickles my nose - rushing to and fro.  
He finds some shade under a jumping cholla — a very prickly resting place.  
Here and there a spider spins its web  
From one branch of my thorny denizens to another.

At last, black clouds rush in and darken the heavens.  
The sun retreats with one last golden waving into the night.  
Lightening flashes.  
Thor, the god of thunder, comes rolling over the purple mountains.  
Clouds burst and unleash a merciful downpour,  
Giving us new life.

Soon a spade of grass here and there greets the morning with hope.  
A desert lily opens her lovely white petals to the warmth of the sun's rays.  
A lizard caresses my face.  
I rise for a new flowering.



*Brunhilde Scheffler*

# THE GOOD OLD RED, WHITE AND YELLOW

## PACHYPODIUMS - A SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH TALE

BY ED DELOLLIS

It was a rainy Friday the 13th in March in Southern California. Edmund DeLow stood outside the San Colinas Correction Facility Detox Center under an awning yawning and waiting for his ride. He had been released after serving three months — the result of his former wife, Debadee's charges of trespassing, loitering, littering, removing the "do not remove" tags from all their bedding and pillows, and unauthorized use of her gold card to make nearly \$900 worth of telephone calls to the Psychic Hotline. All this he had done during his frequent binges of ingestion of fermented plant material. She had also stated that he barely performed his husbandly duties and ignored her — obsessing on his massive plant collection.

"Where was Clem Snide?" wondered Ed. His assistant was an hour late. Suddenly, the awning collapsed under the weight of the heavy downpour. DeLow was soaked; his hair dye ran down his face, burning his eyes and staining his clothes. Abruptly the sound of Clem Snide's '63 Dodge jalopy drowned out the sound of the pouring rain as he pulled up. Only one headlight was working and the frayed windshield wipers made a high-pitched screeching noise as they etched the glass.

"Where were you?" yelled Ed over the din of the rain.

"I had some people come in from out of town. I ran out of gas. . . . I got a flat tire . . . I . . ."

"That's enough," said Ed as the sled pulled away from the curb. "Take me to the office."

"I meant to tell you, Ed. We were evicted from the office for back rent." He pointed to some cardboard boxes in the back seat. "I was lucky to get your stuff out of there. By the way, there is a fax from Botany World Magazine. A reminder that your article "*Pachypodium*, The Most Challenging of Succulents" has a deadline for this Monday."

"Oh, I forgot all about this!" blurted

DeLow as he grabbed the fax.

Edmund DeLow held a unique position in the world of horticulture. He was a Botanical Detective and a consultant. He was also a garden writer extraordinaire. Botany World had been paying his bills for several years.

"Well, I have some nice Pachys in my collection."

"Ah . . . I meant to tell you," replied Clem. "Debadee killed all of your plants — by neglect. They disconnected your irrigation lines when they confiscated your still. In fact, you'll find a bill from Debadee in one of those boxes for the giant dumpster she used to haul away all of those dead plants."

"Oh brother," moaned DeLow.

"We can go to my place," offered Clem.

\* \* \* \* \*

At the apartment in Vista, Edmund began to recite all he knew about pachypodiums into his grimy tape recorder . . . "*Pachypodium* is a member of a family of dicots, the *Apocynaceae*. These plants are found in South Africa and Madagascar. There are about twelve species, and a number of varieties, clones and even some hybrids. Growth habits range from spiny arborescent to semi-globular miniatures to giant columnar — often with a silver-gray epidermis which reflects the hot rays of the sun. Flowers are red, white, and yellow, or mixtures of the same."

DeLow and Clem needed to see and photograph some specimens, but could not afford to fly to Africa. They could go to that nursery in Ohio, Bill-What's-His-Name, with the largest offering of Pachys in the world, but time was running out.

Clem, who was the photographer of the team, suggested they visit Walter Burris who had magnificent gardens and a glasshouse in Hidden Valley. Walter possessed over twenty different forms of *Pachypodium*. A phone call was made and a meeting set for Saturday morning.

DeLow thanked Clem for giving him a place to stay and said, "It's a damn good thing you know this guy, Burris, because I only know *lameri* and *geayi*."

From the shower Clem said, "How do you know I'm gay?"

"I just know," said DeLow as he carried a blanket to the couch.

\* \* \* \* \*

Saturday, after the Coffee Shop, they arrived at the home of Walter Burris, who showed them around the manicured and botanically eclectic grounds. Finally they made it into the glasshouse where the crown of his collection, the pachypodiums, were kept. Most of them were in bloom. In habitat pachypodiums flower from October through May. However, they adapt well to the northern hemisphere. "Here in the glasshouse we see flowers from February through October," stated Burris.

This was readily apparent as the two plant hunters looked around. Red buds on *Pachypodium baronii* var. *baronii*. Open red flowers on *Pachypodium baronii* var. *windsorii*. There were blooms with yellow hues on *Pachypodium densiflorum*, as well as, pale yellow blooms on an aged multi-caudexed *Pachypodium brevicaule* which sported a curvaceous seductive shape. The flowers of the *Pachypodium bicolor* had yellow petals with a white throat; they were displayed side-by-side with the largest of the pachys, *Pachypodium decaryii*, which exhibited large (3½ inch wide) white blooms.

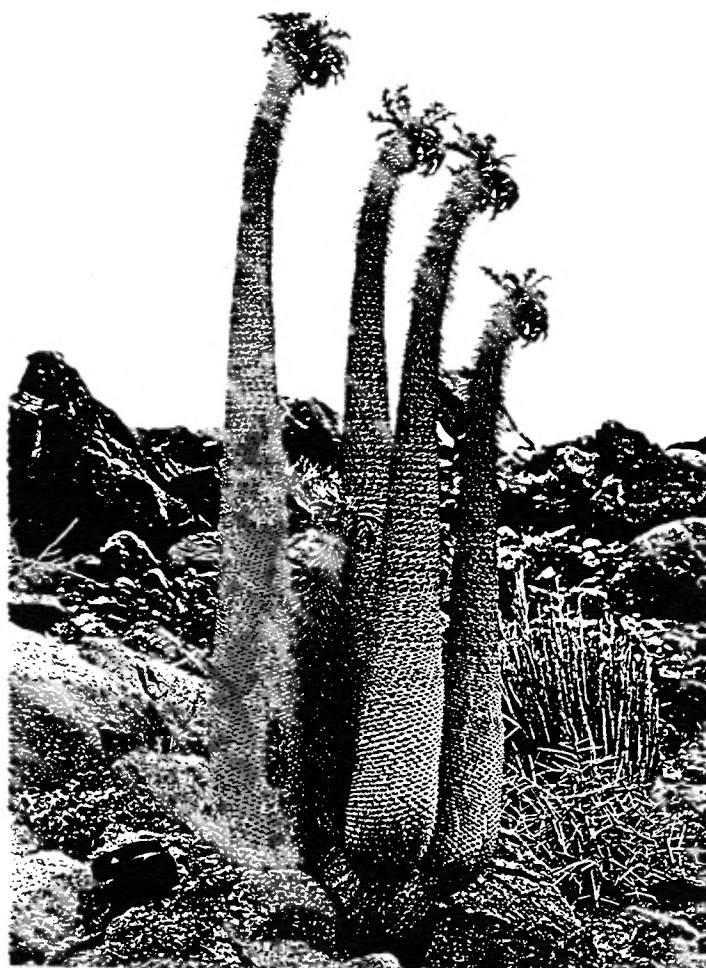
Walter Burris, a very gracious and dignified man of retirement age, also owned many show-quality plants. He showed them a mature specimen of *Pachypodium densiflorum* with a thick many branched trunk, and a *Pachypodium bispinosum* with an almost globular caudex that was beginning to sport its bell-shaped pink and white blooms. One crested *Pachypodium lameri* caused DeLow to stare for many seconds, until he was startled back to reality by the flash of Clem's camera.

They stepped outside to observe a potted *Pachypodium namaquanum* set in a southern exposure: its characteristic curly green leaves sucking up the sun. It was

nearly three feet tall — the largest DeLow had ever seen. Although he knew that *Pachypodium namaquanum* in South Africa can grow to be ten feet tall and at least a foot thick with myriad spines up to two inches long. The flowers of *P. namaquanum* are a strange purplish-red in the center with bright yellow perianth segments outside. This is a particularly difficult species to grow because of the three distinctive growing periods that it exhibits throughout the year.

Burris admitted that he had bought many plants from the guy in Ohio, and that a good number had past away in his care, because of their challenging nature. He took from his freezer a dead *Pachypodium brevicaule*. It was as big as a loaf of bread — an amazing sight. After Clem had photographed all of the plants, Walter mentioned a lady he knew from Pacific Shores, Gwen Hoyg, who was another hobbyist with a nice collection of pachys. Clem took down the info. They said their good-byes and drove off toward the ocean some 30 miles away.

\* \* \* \* \*



Gwen Hoyg walked up from the beach, across the boardwalk avoiding an out of line inline skater, and greeted the two men who stood in front of her home armed with cameras and a tape recorder. A bed of fifteen foot tall *Pachypodium lameri*, much branched and topped with copious white blooms cast their spiny shadows from the midday sun on the three people.

"These beds are pumice bottomed and I cover up the roots of these plants during their rest period — from November through January," she said while motioning to the dozen bulging and bespined columnar trunks. The pachypodiums provided a type of fence with a gate in the middle which the three passed through on their way to her greenhouse, which was on the southeast side of her modest dwelling. Gwen had most of the species that Walter had, although somewhat different in shape, and not as many of her plants were blooming. In 8" pots she had old globular specimens of *Pachypodium lealii* var. *saundersonii* and *P. rosulatum* var. *horombense* that looked to be chiseled by a sculptor. There was a *Pachypodium rutenbergianum* with its narrow stems shooting up from a semi bulbous caudex.

"These plants are difficult to grow well," said Gwen. "It is easy to give them too much water and watch them get fat. Here at the beach, the biggest limitation to growth is not enough heat — sunlight at the correct times. . . . But it is the challenge of taking care of these wonderful plants that keeps me going since my husband passed away." The trio were then startled by the bleating of a cell phone from the house. Gwen excused herself to go answer it. While she was away, DeLow and Clem nosed around the greenhouse — taking a photo here and touching a caudex there. DeLow picked up a brochure from one of the benches. It featured fitness guru, Vic Scipio, who had been appearing in television "infomercials" since the '60's, selling everything from blenders and protein powders to rowing machines and herbal tinctures. In this brochure "Virile Vic" was hawking his latest cure-all: magic

magnets from the Orient. On the back of the brochure DeLow found some scribbled directions to a point in the desert some eighty miles to the east, accompanied by names of numerous species and varieties of pachypodiums. DeLow showed his find to Clem, and quickly pocketed the list of rare plants. Without so much as a good-bye, the two sleazy reporters exited the premises and headed for Clem's clunker which had been judiciously parked a block away.

\* \* \* \* \*

Making one stop for gasoline and beer, DeLow and Clem headed east. Upon reaching their destination according to the directions, they parked the car and hiked up and down and over rocks for an hour without seeing any plants but desert scrub. Nary a cactus at this 2,000 feet elevation . . . maybe a few agaves and then they spotted a mass of green leaves and silver trunks sticking up above some boulders — it was an oasis! They made their way around the rocks into a semicircular amphitheater formed by the steep escarpment that ringed the north ridge. They stood transfixed and beheld a veritable gallery of red, white and yellow. Blooming pachypodiums!!! Massive and towering, *Pachypodium geayi* topped with white flowers. Every rockery had caudaceous plants with spiny stems and typical apocynaceous flowers — like you see on an Oleander, Mandevilla (*Diplodemia*), Plumeria, Adenium, Carrissa, and Vinca. And there in a high up aerie was Vic Scipio, his wiry frame moving about, tending to multitudinous pachypodiums. Clem yelled.

"Vic . . . Vic . . . Vic!" his yell echoed through the gallery. Vic looked down and smiled. He grabbed a thick rope and swung the 30 feet to the flat area where DeLow and Clem were standing. DeLow turned on his tape recorder and shook Vic's hand, as Clem began snapping photos. Vic, who looked "normal" wearing nothing but Speedos and hiking boots, jumped up to a pulpit surrounded by the red blossoms of several varieties of *Pachypodium baronii* and began speaking.

"Gwen told me you fellows were coming out here, so I prepared a speech on pachypodiums, my favorite of all botanicals. We have over 25 forms planted here, and I am the caretaker. We chose this site because of the high light intensity which makes pachypodiums look more natural and beautiful. I come here every few days to provide water, fertilizer, etc. In habitat, pachypodiums experience four to eight dry months, but out here it can be as much as a year between good rainfalls. In South Africa and Madagascar pachypodiums are found growing in well drained sites on hillsides, humus filled cavities, fissures in limestone, thin acid soils on rocky surfaces in areas of high rainfall, or poor well-draining gravel or sand in dryer areas. The spread of *Pachypodium* is limited by shady forests and high rainfall. Here in California, their rest period is November through late February, but I make sure they get a little water anyway, if not by rain, then by me."

Vic rubbed his hand over the red flowers and continued, "Lavranos has noticed that higher elevations with less water and more sun produce pachys with a more compact globular or urn-shaped caudex. Conversely, lower areas with more water produce a more columnar and leggy growth within the same species. Next time a *Pachypodium* in your collection dies, dissect it. You will see the central pith that stores water and the bands of xylem and phloem, the water carrying vascular system, is next to the epidermis, which is silver and reflects light and heat. This system allows these plants to survive in a forbidding environment. Growing pachypodiums is a balance of the relationship between light, temperature, and water. If one of these factors changes, then we need to adjust the others accordingly."

DeLow meekly raised his hand and asked a question. "Did you get this information and these plants from Bill of Ohio?"

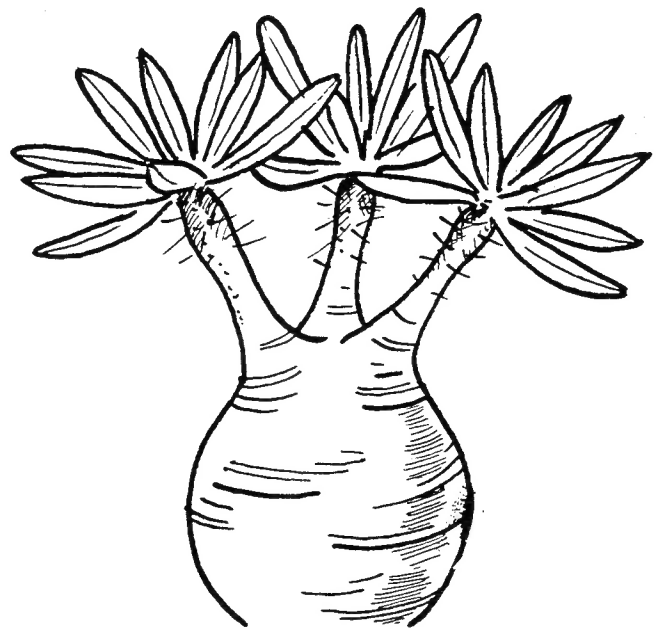
"No," said Vic. He waved his hand around the amphitheater. "We get new introductions direct from the sources. This site was chosen by the consortium to form a perfect collection of pachypodiums for

breeding and the future of the succulent hobby." He paused for a moment, "We are not ready for the public to come here and trample this sacred propagational shrine. So, I must ask you to hand over your film and tape," he said as he pulled a Luger out of his Speedos.

After exposing Clem's film to the brilliant sun and DeLow's tape to one of his magnets, Vic marched the two intrepid botanical sleuths back over the hills and boulders. As they reached their car the sun was sinking below the foothills in the west. Vic made them turn around, and without ever touching either one of them he positioned two of his powerful Japanese magnets near their groins rendering them both unconscious within moments.

Several hours later the men regained a groggy consciousness. They found themselves parked at a huge truck stop off I-5. The entire car reeked heavily of stale cheap beer and whiskey. DeLow found a very expensive bottle of single malt whiskey that was still more than half full beside him with a note. "No one will believe your story — you were drunk," read the unsigned note from Vic.

DeLow took a sip, then a good pull. As he passed the bottle to Clem, he mumbled to himself, "Don't worry . . . they won't." ❖



## FORMS OF *PACHYPODIUM* FOUND IN VIC SCIPIO'S GALLERY:

<u>NAME:</u>	<u>ORIGIN:</u>	<u>FLOWER COLOR:</u>
1) <i>P. baronii</i> var. <i>baronii</i>	Madagascar	Red
2) <i>P. baronii</i> var. <i>windsorii</i>	"	Red
3) <i>P. baronii</i> v <i>baronii</i> X <i>baronii</i> v <i>windsorii</i>	Hybrid	Red
4) <i>P. bispinosum</i>	South Africa	Pink & White
5) <i>P. brevicale</i>	Madagascar	Yellow
6) <i>P. bicolor</i>	"	Golden & White
7) <i>P. decaryi</i>	"	White
8) <i>P. densiflorum</i>	"	Chrome Yellow
9) <i>P. densiflorum</i> var. <i>brevicalyx</i>	Madagascar	Orange - Yellow
10) <i>P. densiflorum</i> var. <i>brevicalyx</i>	Northern Form	Yellow
11) <i>P. densilus</i> ( <i>densiflorum</i> X <i>rosulatum</i> var. <i>gracilis</i> )	Hybrid	Yellow
12) <i>P. eburneum</i>	Madagascar	White w/Yellow Throat
13) <i>P. geayi</i>	"	White
14) <i>P. griguense</i>	South Africa	White
15) <i>P. inopinatum</i>	Madagascar	White
16) <i>P. lameri</i>	"	White
17) <i>P. lealii</i>	South Africa	White - Pinkish
18) <i>P. lealii</i> ssp. <i>saundersonii</i>	"	White to Pink
19) <i>P. lealii</i> ssp. <i>saundersonii</i> f. <i>compactum</i>	Zimbabwe	White - Pinkish
20) <i>P. namaquanum</i>	Namibia	Purple-Red w/Yellow
21) <i>P. rosabense</i> ( <i>rosulatum</i> v. <i>horombense</i> X <i>rosulatum</i> v. <i>rosulatum</i> )	Hybrid	White
22) <i>P. rosulatum</i>	Madagascar	White
23) <i>P. rosulatum</i> var. <i>rosulatum</i>	"	White
24) <i>P. rosulatum</i> var. <i>drakei</i>	"	Chrome Yellow/Red Stripe
25) <i>P. rosulatum</i> var. <i>gracilis</i>	"	Yellow
26) <i>P. rosulatum</i> var. <i>horombense</i>	Madagascar	Yellow
27) <i>P. rosulatum</i> var. <i>stenanthum</i>	"	Yellow
28) <i>P. rosulatum</i> - super branching clone	horticultural specimen	Yellow
29) <i>P. rutenbergianum</i>	Madagascar	White
30) <i>P. succulentum</i>	South Africa	Pink & White

### References:

- M. Sajeva & M. Costanzo, **SUCCULENTS THE ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY**, 1994, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon.
- Graf, **EXOTICA - SERIES FOUR**.  
 CSSA Journal (U.S.) July/August 1996: All five articles.  
 CSSA Journal (U.S.) September/October 1997: Article by Lavranos & Rapanarivo.  
 Bill Ballard, **Highland Succulents**: 1995 Catalog, Guide to Culture, and 1998 Catalog.

*Special thanks to Bill Ballard for providing more than half of the information in this script. When I called him to request a catalog I asked his name. He replied, "Bill." The owner? I asked - yes one of the owners. I asked for his last name for my records of who I had spoken to on a long-distance call. He said rather snippily, "I choose not to give it!" Thus the "Bill-What's-His-Name" episode took roots in my tall tale. I'm am terrible sorry if I offended him in some way. However, I appreciated all the good material he gave me just the same.*

**CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
MARCH 14, 1998**

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park by Tom DeMerritt, President.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Tom DeMerritt advised that our Club will again participate in the annual Earth Day event which will be held in Balboa Park on April 18 and 19. Volunteers are needed to help with cashiering and handing out promotional material on the Society. Those who are interested in assisting should contact Pam Badger or Stan Yalof.

A bus trip to the Anza Borrego Desert is currently being planned and will take place on Sunday, April 5. The cost will be \$22.00 per person. The bus will leave promptly at 8 a.m. from the parking lot behind the organ pavilion and should return to San Diego between 6 and 7 p.m. Michael Buckner showed several slides recently taken in the Desert in an effort to generate interest and encourage members to sign up for the trip.

Joey Betzler advised that funds have been raised through the CSSA and the Horticultural Department of the Wild Animal Park for the re-roofing of the greenhouse for the Baja Cactus Garden. Volunteers are needed to assist with this project which will take place on April 25 and 26. Anybody who would like to help re-roof the greenhouse should contact Joey.

Kelly Griffin announced that the 1998 Offering of International Succulent Introductions will be published in the next issue of the Journal. He advised that the membership fee for CSSA is \$35.00, which includes the subscription to the Journal.

Susan Hopkins advised that tours of the Park are available through Offshoot Tours. Currently being planned is a Kate Sessions tour on Wednesday, April 1 at which time the statue will be dedicated, and on April 4 a walking tour on the 6th Street side of the Park will take place. This will be a guided tour from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. For further information on future tours, please contact Susan at 272-8897.

Joey Betzler informed the members that nametags can be ordered at a cost of \$5.00. A sign up sheet is available for those interested in ordering. Joey also asked that he be contacted by any members that might not be getting their newsletters.

Stan Yalof announced that SDCSS and the Palomar Club will be putting in two exhibits with themes at the Del Mar Fair. Ideas will be needed and volunteers are being solicited to work a couple of nights and possibly a Saturday. John Williams will lead in setting up the exhibits.

**PLANTS OF THE MONTH / BRAG TABLE** The genus Haageocereus was presented by Joey Betzler as the Cactus of the Month and Nibby Klinefelter discussed Cotyledons, the Succulent of the Month. The Bragging Table was conducted by Michael Buckner.

Following the refreshment break, tickets were called for the Benefit Drawing.

**PROGRAM** Kelly Griffin introduced John Trager who presented a slide program entitled "The Lonely Cotyledon Club" -- An overview of succulent monocots, their relationships, cultivation and propagation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Beverly Kirkegaard, Recording Secretary



When I called Lee Phelps last week to let him know that our dear mutual friend, Julianne Rice had passed away in Houston, Texas. Lee said that Julianne was one of the truly genuine ladies he had known in his life. He was so right. Those of you who were lucky enough to have known her understand his meaning.

Martin [Mooney] walked into his first SDC&SS meeting in the fall of 1970. He was greeted at the door by Julianne, the SDC&SS hospitality committee at that time. She welcomed him, and assigned a member to introduce him to the others, and made him feel a part of the proceedings. That was the beginning of a friendship our family has treasured for many years.

One year Martin and Julianne headed the committee to install the succulent garden exhibit at the Del Mar Fair for the society. Julianne included a wrought iron bench as part of the display. That lovely bench sits in our yard to this day. When I see it, it reminds me of her and brightens my day. There are several plants in our garden that we love not only because of their character, but also because they were gifts from Julianne's garden. Among them is a *Calabanus hookerii* that has grown here for 25 years and a *Bursera* which Julianne originally got from Charlie Glass. Her generosity to our family included wisdom, as well. She and her sister-in-law, Lena Rice, were always with us on holidays which made each one special. One memory we have is of a picnic in Balboa Park which Julianne organized to include our family and Lee Phelps' family. No paper plates for us — Julianne brought along the fine dinnerware and Grand Baroque sterling flatware!

Rick Latimer was one of the gifts that Julianne gave to the SDC&SS. She had met his sister in a department store and through their conversation, met Rick and brought him to his first meeting. He could not have been more than sixteen years old — probably closer to fourteen.

One day in 1978, Julianne mysteriously disappeared from our lives. Years later, just as awesomely, she reappeared. We were overjoyed in renewing our contact with her, thinking that we would never see her again. The last time we saw Julianne, she drove from Houston alone just to be here for our daughter Julie's wedding, in May of 1991. She had hoped to be here last summer for the CSSA Convention, but as the time drew near and we spoke she said that her health just did not permit the trip, much as she would have loved to see San Diego and all of us again.

Julianne spent her last years in Houston, Texas with Mae Nacol and her family. They had a wonderful relationship and called her Tia. They and we mourn her passing.

Pat Mooney



Julianne Rice and SDC&SS Life Member, John Pasek (now of Tucson, AZ) enjoy an interlude at the 1977 CSSA Convention held in Tucson.

Rick Latimer and Betty Athy had driven over with Julianne from San Diego.

Photograph by Pat or Martin Mooney.





*You belong among the wildflowers  
You belong somewhere close to me  
Far away from your trouble and worry  
You belong somewhere you feel free.*



Tom Petty

**Julianne Rice** . . . yes, she was a true southern lady from Georgia. How we have missed her since she went out of our lives.

One Saturday, a little less than 30 years ago, our Cactus Club went by bus to her home in Holtville, just outside of Brawley, to have a joint meeting with the Imperial Valley Cactus Club and a program by George Kennerson, now of Jamul. Her home was surrounded by acres and acres of beautiful farmland. Julianne, or "Granny Annie," as she liked to be called by the young people, was a widow. Doc Vaughn was along on this trip; we stopped on the way for him to visit some of his Indian friends at the Santa Ysabel Mission which he had contributed so greatly to. Upon our arrival the barbecue and all accompaniments were ready for us. Julianne was a terrific hostess. What a wonderful day we had; everyone enjoyed the meal, the meeting, the friends they made and the plants they discovered.

Julianne loved children and young people; she often took care of children in her spare time. Of course, cacti & succulents and the magic of the desert was her first love.

One weekend our family (Warren & Virginia, Douglas & Donna, and Michael Buckner) along with Nibby Klinefelter and Jim Stalsonberg decided to drive over to Arizona to visit the Phoenix Botanical Garden. We arrived at Julianne's early for breakfast and then took off for Phoenix by a back route. Warren & I and Douglas & Donna were in our car, Jim & Nibby in their van, and Michael & Julianne in her Jeep. Michael got to drive her Jeep - he was ecstatic about that! I had made our lunch which we ate on the bank of the Colorado River. That night was a real fiasco trying to get a place to sleep, but we finally did. We ate dinner at a truck stop and Warren had chicken-fried steak which he has never had since, and never will.

The next day we reached the Phoenix Arboretum and had an enjoyable time viewing the plants and all. On the way home - the third day - we ate dinner at Julianne's home. Yes, even though she had been away from her kitchen for three days she put together a lovely dinner for everyone in no time at all. Southern ladies, like my mother and Julianne, make do in a pinch. She had me sit in the living room and read some of her books, while she took the young people to help clean up the a.m. dishes from two days before. Then she set a beautiful table. What class she had!! We dined on scrambled eggs cooked with a can of salmon; there was toast and fruit, and more. After two days of eating at "greasy spoons" we eagerly welcomed this delicious homemade meal. Julianne even set the table with goblets for our drinks.

Well, needless to say, we had a great trip which I will always fondly remember. Later on, Julianne moved to San Diego to live with her sister-in-law, Lena, who was getting on in years. I remember other bus trips, such as the one to the Los Angeles Arboretum. We always enjoyed her company.

Virginia Buckner

"Granny Annie", Julianna Rice, was old when I first met her in the late '60's. But she was the youngest ancient that one could ever possibly meet with a "secure onto thyself" laugh that would light up a room with candlepower. Fond of life, with a self effacing glint in her demeanor, she could tell an off-color joke to a church crowd without offending even the biggest prude. Her love for the desert was immense. She drove like a hellcat in her offroad top-down style Jeep with 18" rims and a specially built rollbar. "A necessity for an ol' desert rat like me!" she'd say. "Wear a hat son, and slab on that sunblock. We're gonna stir up some dust."

I had many wonderful adventures with her in the desert, in Arizona, the Anza-Borrego, and Baja. She would call the plants she pointed out along the way by their proper binomials — a familiarity of intimacy from years of transversing and living in the desert. She talked to the plants and they, I'm sure, talked back to her. She was a very active participant in our organization for years — really well liked and missed terribly when she finally moved to Texas. She was still a member of the SDC&SS, sending her dues religiously each year in her Christmas card full of compliments about how much she enjoyed reading *Espinas y Flores* each month.

Joyce and I received her usual Christmas card this year — but not until January. Her writing was pretty shaky and she wrote of aches and pains and a cold that just would not go away. She had wanted so much to attend the CSSA convention here in June, but her body refused to participate. I was surprised that the card did not include her yearly membership check — and I knew that she was moving on — at the speed of light, agile, young, full, through the desert. Bye, bye, Granny Annie.

Michael Buckner

*April is a promise that May is bound to keep.*

HAL BORLAND

WISE AND  
OTHERWISE

by Michael Buckner



*And forget not that the  
earth delights to feel  
your bare feet and  
the winds long to play with you hair.*

— KAHIL GIBRAN

*Now then! Those who have ears, listen! What is California? Nothing but innumerable stones and these you find in all four directions. It is a pile of stones full of thorns - because this is the whole of California, that means beside stones and thornbushes you find nothing else in California; or to quote the scripture, a pathless, waterless thornful rock, sticking up between two oceans.*

*Jakob Baegert on September 11, 1752 - in a letter to his brother, Father George Baegert.*

The antelope jack rabbit has made its own superb adaptations to desert life. It can speed across its open habitat at 35 miles an hour, bounding along like its namesake and easily outdistancing its predators. Lacking sweat glands, it keeps cool through the unusual means of its eight-inch-long ears: arteries carry blood saturated with body heat to the ears, from which the heat is then dissipated into the air. But this mechanism will work only if the animal spends as much time as possible facing north — a mysterious habit that may enable the rabbit to take advantage of minute temperature differences in air striking its ears from a northerly direction. Whatever the reason, a jack rabbit facing south absorbs heat through its ears.

But perhaps the most fascinating of this animal's adaptations is its ability instantly to turn the color of either one of its flanks from tan to white. Called "flashing" and used to befuddle pursuers, this quick change appears when the jack rabbit employs muscles that pull its skin over its flank so as to expose the white underfur.

As it takes off in a full-speed zig-zag that a football halfback would envy, the jack rabbit always whitens the side visible to its pursuer. By this maneuver, known as directive coloration, the hare deliberately draws attention to its changes of direction, thereby adding confusion to the chase and aiding its escape.

Taken from CACTUS COUNTRY by Edward Abbey and the editors of Time-Life Books, 1973. A gift from Chuck Everson of Rainbow Gardens - Thank you, Chuck!

# *The earth laughs in flowers.*

— RALPH WALDO EMERSON

If a black jackrabbit [ed. *Lepus insularis*, of Espiritu Santo Island, Baja California] should turn up here and there from time to time that would be no great surprise. "Melanistic sports" as they are called are perhaps not as common in the animal kingdom as their opposite numbers, the albinos, which latter are, as a matter of fact, quite common so that, for instance, the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum at Tucson has a living albino opossum, albino pack rat, albino gopher snake, and even an albino English sparrow, which latter looks very much like a rather dingy canary. But though melanism as well as albinism is hereditary in accord with certain laws, neither is ever very common in the wild because the unfortunate individuals are easily picked off by their enemies and even, sometimes, persecuted by their normal fellows. Of course, if an abnormal strain is artificially protected and thus not exposed to competition, many color variations can be perpetuated — which is why domestic animals often exhibit many color patterns unknown among their wild ancestors: cows and cats, for example, coming in a bewildering number of color patterns while in every species of wild cattle and every species of wild cat every individual is almost precisely like every other. Moreover, it is this fact which probably gives a clue to the mystery of the Black Jackrabbit of Espiritu Santo.

Joseph Wood Krutch, *THE FORGOTTEN PENINSULA - A NATURALIST IN BAJA CALIFORNIA*; 1961, University of Arizona Press.



*Living in the desert in a spiritual cathartic many people need. I am one of them.*

— FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT commenting on his winter retreat at Taliesin West, outside of Scottsdale, Arizona.

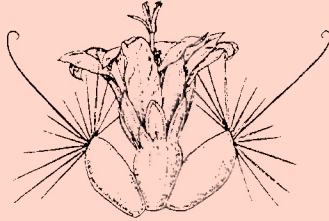
At least twenty-five different species [of birds] nest in the branches of the Joshua tree. In the trunk, woodpeckers gouge holes that are later claimed by wrens, flycatchers, bluebirds, and owls; orioles weave their nests from yucca fibers and hang them from the lancelike leaves, which are cannily employed by loggerhead shrikes to impale their prey. The desert night lizard (*Xantusia vigilis*) lives underneath the fallen branches and in the rotting collapsed trunk, subsisting on ants, termites, beetles, flies, crickets, aphids, moths, caterpillars, ticks, and spiders, all of which live there too. The Navajo yucca borer lays its eggs on Joshua-tree rhizomes; the larvae burrow into the stem, feeding and pupating on the underground roots. The most celebrated relationship is between *Yucca brevifolia* and *Tegeticula yucasella* — the yucca moth. The Joshua tree's flowers, whose season coincides with the last few days of *Tegeticula's* life, have evolved a scent that attracts the moth at night. Male and female mate inside the flower; the female then begins collecting pollen. When she has enough, she finds another vacant yucca flower and lays her eggs near its rudimentary seeds. After depositing each egg, she forces pollen grains onto the flower's stigmas, beginning the process of seed production. The emerging moth larvae eat the developing seeds but leave most of them to mature and germinate. In the fall, the larvae drop from the tree and pupate underground — emerging as adults during the flowering season. This cycle relationship, upon which both species depend completely for survival, is considered one of the world's neatest examples of coevolution.

From *THE MOJAVE - A PORTRAIT OF THE DEFINITIVE AMERICAN DESERT* by David Darlington, 1996, Henry Holt & Co, NY.

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*Mammillaria thornberi*

## *Espinas y Flores*

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