

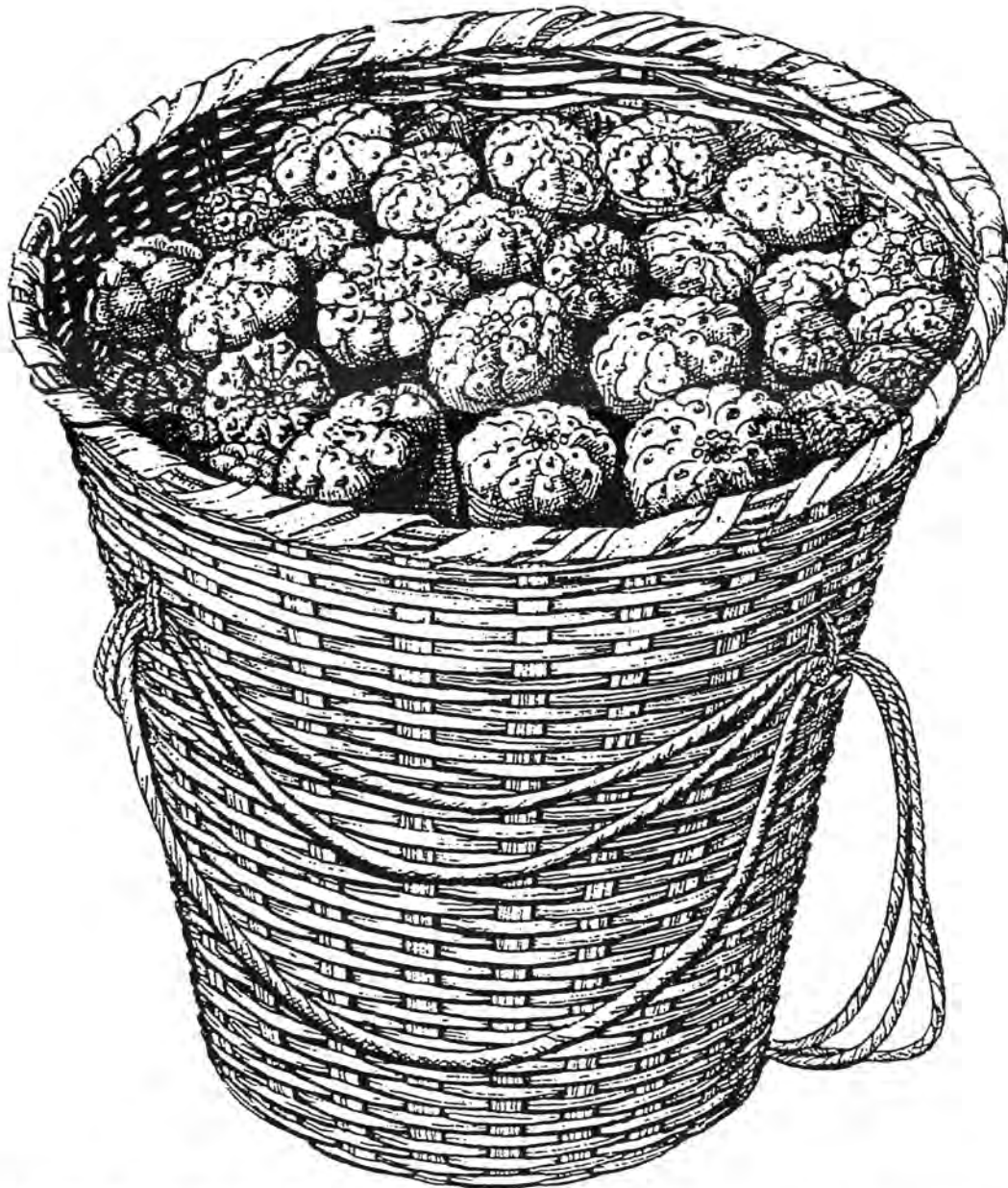
Espinas y Flores

MAMMILLARIA THORNBERI

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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

VOLUME XXXI NUMBER EIGHT, SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1996 @ 1:00PM



Canasto con peyote. Todos los peyotes que se cargan en los canastos se acomodan de uno por uno con la cara hacia arriba.

BRIAN KEMBLE — SUCCULENTS OF MADAGASCAR

Our August program features a slide show presentation by Brian Kemble, curator of Succulents for The Ruth Bancroft Botanical Gardens in Walnut Creek. His program, **The Succulent of Madagascar**, features major emphasis on Aloes. Brian, a world-renown specialist in Aloes, indulges in the cross-breeding of numerous Aloe species, and has created several interesting new medium to small sized Aloe hybrids. He has traveled to Africa twice to study Aloes. In September of 1995 he made the trip to Madagascar with Myron Kinnach — you will notice that his photography, point-of-view, and life-threatening experience while traveling in Madagascar offer a whole new perspective on this trip! Brian is past president of the Oakland Cactus & Succulent Society. He is active with many of the Bay Area Societies. **Dorothy Byer** has already privately viewed these slides; and she highly recommends them. We want to thank Dorothy for making the arrangements for this program, in Tom Knapik's absence.

OUR COVER: Twenty-five years ago, Judy Cadell, mother of our God-daughter Marcia, gave me two plates from an archaic Mexican reference. This plate gives significance to one the greatest icons in the cactus world, *Lophophora williamsii*, the Peyote. Known for its beauty and mystic qualities, the Peyote represents a significant interlocking of nature and religion for the Seri, Cora, Huichole, Tarahamara, and Navajo Native American cultures.

Caption states (*as near as we can translate it*): **A basket of Peyote. All the Peyotes that they put in the basket are placed one by one, so that each face is above [placed face up].** (*editor's note: Plants are carefully arranged one tier high - only, with the plant's large taproot filling the bottom of basket.*)

Espinas y Flores is the newsletter for the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, a non-profit corporation. It is published monthly with the exception of a combined May-June issue (11 issues per year). All material in the *Espinas y Flores* may be reprinted by non-profit organizations (**unless such permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the material**) provided that proper credit is given to the *SDC&SS Espinas y Flores* and the author — and that one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material be sent to the editors. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization or publication without the permission of the editors is prohibited. Please send comments and contributions to:

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FAX OR TELEPHONE US @ (619) 222-3216.
YOUR PARTICIPATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

INTER-CITY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW & SALE

August 17-18 The Eleventh Annual Southern California Inter-City Show & Sale @ the Los Angeles Arboretum on Baldwin Avenue in Arcadia. Sponsored by the Long Beach, Los Angeles, and San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Societies. This is an open show; setup begins on Wed 14th. This may be the largest cactus & succulent show in the world!!

We have just received (*Thank you! Jim Hanna!*) a large manilla envelope full of Inter-City Show Entry Labels and a few show schedules (*We may have to share?*). These will be available at our August meeting — please check for them on the SDC&SS membership table. Each plant category has three entry classifications: Novice = exhibitor with < 40 Blue ribbons total in all recognized shows; Advanced = 40+ Blue (1st Place) Ribbons; Open = commercial sellers of cactus & succulents or exhibitors with > 50 First Place Ribbons.

We'll be up there! Michael will be judging in one category, showing in another (Open), and selling! A carpool sign-up sheet will also be left with Elizabeth Glover on the membership table - anyone interested should sign up before meeting or during break - then check after the meeting for someone with a similar schedule. Questions? Ask: **Michael & Joyce Buckner (619)222-3216, Jim & Roberta Hanna (310)920-3046, Woody & Kathy Minnich (805)944-2784, Chris Rogers (818)891-6998.** Do not miss the Saturday night banquet — good food and great company - what a chance to make some new friends or visit with some old ones!

A Big Thank You! to Steve Plath for a terrific July Program!

Speaking of Thank yous — We left **Ruth & Francis Richardson** out of the June Show Thank You List. Our apologies & **THANK YOU!!** I'm sure others were omitted — please speak up!!

September 28 - Alfred Lau to Speak at the Palomar Cactus & Succulent Meeting. Begins 12:45pm at the Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido. Eleanor Hewitt has very graciously invited all SDC&SS Members to attend this very special program. If you plan to attend: Please R.S.V.P. Eleanor @ (619) 753-3651, so she may plan for the larger audience.

Welcome! New Members:

*Theresa Acerro
Joan & Jonathan Austin
Chuck Baker
Alison Baldwin
Betty Bedlion
Sabrina Berry*
Amy Buckner
Cynthia & Dofel Brunetti
Ruben Burk
Casey & Laurie Conway
Eric DeFrancis
Lynn Elliott*

*Hamida Lamb Feliciano
Warren Gershwin
James & Edith Harmon
Sally & Roy Heilpern
Leon Herzog
David Miller**
James Morris
Brian & Renee O'Connell
Pat Piper
Giulio Sista***
Mary Sorrentino*
Kathleen Sumida*

* Sabrina and Mary caught the "bug" by helping us the Del Mar Fair Exhibit.

** David Miller is manager of the Succulent Dept @ Walter Anderson's Nursery.

*** We met Giulio Sista at the 1995 CSSA Convention in Tucson — shared adventures over a bottle of El Patron! He resides in New York state - we are looking forward to seeing him in 1997!

**THE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th SDC&SS MEETING BEGINS
At NOON IN KATE SESSIONS PARK — NOT BALBOA PARK!!**

Our annual **SDC&SS Pot Luck Picnic & Plant Auction** is lots of fun, and a welcome change of pace and scenery after such a hot sultry summer. There are always some very special one-of-a-kind plants offered at the Auction. Children, parents & friends of SDC&SS members are welcome. Bermuda shorts, belly-buttons, and whimsical hats encouraged. If you are like me and think that some of our members dress kinda funny — you should see what they wear to this picnic!

The club supplies soft drinks, ice, cups, plates, napkins, utensils & BBQ Charcoal. You should plan to bring: a chair, sunscreen, hat, etc., and a Potluck Picnic Food Contribution — anything from chips, dips, fresh fruit & veggies to fudge brownies, a Jello salad, or steaks/burgers & buns for the BBQ! Tom DeMerritt makes a killer "Coca-Cola Chicken" — sure hope he brings it!! And if you play the harmonica, know an amusing "Stupid Human Trick", have a fun outdoor game (*No Opuntia Toss Competition, please!*) to share, a good BBQ, a picnic table, shade tent, or any other object or suggestion that might make our outdoor meeting more comfortable and entertaining:

Please contact Tom or Laura DeMerritt @ (619) 270-5544.

Plant contributions and auction inquiries should be directed to Betty Athy @ 469-7647.

**Popular is Our Monthly Benefit Drawing
(That's the way we like it . . . uh huh, uh huh)**

Our July Benefit Drawing was a very positive event with donations netting a little over \$100 to our Society! Now, *that's the way we like it!* The table was sensational — loaded with a much-prized *Pachypodium namaquanum*, *Agave victoria-reginae variegata*, *Alluadia dumosa*, *Uebelmannia flavispina*, and *Operculicarya decaryi*, etc. We even had a lovely landscaping *Ocotillo* to offer. Muchas gracias to the following donors:

Carol Jean Wolcott	14" Terra Cotta Planter Dish
Betty Athy	<i>Adenium obesum</i> & <i>Aloe</i> hybrid "Doreen Black"
Floyd Gable	<i>Aloe nobilis</i> (gold-toothed variety)
Jack Cannon	<i>Fouquieria splendens</i>

Remember, you too can help by donating one of your "Stars" to the benefit plant table. Just give Betty Athy a call at 469-7647, so she can make room for your "dream team gold medal winner"!!!

Thanks, Kay Quijada

We noticed that the July 1996 issue of **THE NMC&SS XEROPHILE**, newsletter of the Cactus & Succulent Society of New Mexico, featured articles by **Kelly Griffin, Tom Birt & Phyllis Flechsig** all reprinted from *Espinaz y Flores*. Past issues of Cactus & Succulent newsletters from all over the United States are sent to us in trade — we have been giving them to the library after reading. So, if you are traveling or moving to some other part of the country, or just curious about other newsletters, or want to see your name in print — please check with the librarian.

**BRAG TABLE WINNERS FOR JULY 1996:
JUDGED BY STEVE PLATH**

CACTUS:	FIRST PLACE:	Don Patterson's <i>Gymocalycium mihanovichii</i>
	SECOND PLACE:	Don Patterson's <i>Discocactus species Crest</i>
SUCCULENT:	FIRST PLACE:	Betty Athy's <i>Lithops marmorata</i>
	SECOND PLACE:	Don Patterson's <i>Euphorbia</i> hybrid
	THIRD PLACE:	Joe Quijada's <i>Huernia zebrena</i>

DEL MAR FAIR EXHIBITS

The Del Mar Fair Cactus & Succulent Exhibits Were Great! Not wanting to upstage in the well deserved acknowledgment of all helpers and participants in the SDC&SS June Show, we made no mention of the fine exhibit by Jeff Moore of Solana Succulents or of [our] Michael & Joyce Buckner's prize-winning Xeroscape. SDC&SS membership forms were made available at the exhibit and we met many people who were interested in learning more about cacti & succulents after viewing these gardens. This year we were given a premier location and we were presented with the **AMERICAN HORTICULTURE SOCIETY AWARD** for "the exhibit which best demonstrates the bond between horticulture and the environment", at the Garden Affair - Opening of Gardens, a Benefit Dinner held on June 17th (*one day prior to fair opening day*). Wow! We were even mentioned in Burl Stiff's Society Page column — a first and only, I'm sure.

However, the most satisfying part of this entire experience came from the realization that we have many wonderful, generous, selfless, strong, enthusiastic, dynamic friends — many who are also SDC&SS members. We would like to acknowledge all of these totally terrific human beings — we have highlighted all SDC&SS members in **bold**.

THANK YOU!!

Monte Woodworth & Mary Sorrentino, Bonnie Jones, Ed Brown, Rick Plant, Tom & Laura DeMerritt, Sabrina Berry, John Williams, Ed Nolan, Ed & Debbe DeLollis, Marcia Rennert, Doreen Perry, Michael Cullen, and George Plaisted. Also we wish to thank Lucas Graciano for the drawing, **Wilbur Glover** for his photographs.

Additionally the friendly nurseries that trusted us with some very fine specimen plants — allowing them to be exposed to Del Mar Fair dust & trauma for three+ weeks:

Altman's Specialty Nursery — **Ken & Deena Altman & Bob Reidmueller**

Cal Cactus — **Roger & Betty Montanus**

C & J Cactus — **Jim Kampworth & Karl Volkers**

KRC Rock — **Jerry, Cathy, Dave & Bart, the Crane Man**

Western Cactus Growers — **Hans & Gretel Britsch, Thomas Britsch & John Pluth**

Coniff Tree Farms — **Kevin Coniff**

Del Mar Fair Flower Show Manager & Crew: **Edgar Engert, Pam Burke, Mary, Roger, Cole, etc. etc.**

Thank you - without your help, it could never have been done!

A new Aloe book **GUIDE TO THE ALOES OF SOUTH AFRICA** written by Professor Ben-Erik van Wyk and Dr. Gideon Smith is a welcome edition since the "Aloe Opus" books of Dr. G.W. Reynolds have been out-of-print, as well as, out-of-date for several years. Introductions of new material, genetic findings, and the development of fascinating new hybrids has created a real need for a current Aloe resource book.

GUIDE TO THE ALOES OF SOUTH AFRICA will be released on August 25th and will be available at Rainbow Gardens Bookshop in Vista - phone (619) 758-4290. The price will be \$49.95. This 167mm x 240mm format hard cover photographic guide has more than 400 quality color photographs and 302 pages. Distribution maps, informative species descriptions, an easy to use identification system based on the growth form of the species, and complete indexes to scientific and common names with an illustrated glossary are all included to help the hobbyist and scientist alike. Of special interest will be chapters on medicinal & cosmetic aspects, cultivation, pests & diseases, and conservational status of Aloes. This book will be a welcome edition in anyone's library.

Chuck Everson, of Rainbow Gardens Nursery & Bookshop, told us look for SDC&SS member **Phil Favel's** review of this book in the CSSA Journal. How appropriate, that San Diego's Aloe Aficionado should be reviewing this exciting new book!

glob (glob), n. 1. a usually rounded quantity. 2. a globe-like or spherical lump of substance. [perh. b. GLOBE and BLOB]

SMOLA! OR?

Smola master Rudy Lime is right! We need a word for succulent bonsai, preferably without the word "bonsai". "Smola", a word created by Rudy, is good in that by itself it is memorable. But I can never remember what smola, or rather the initials, stand for, and the sound is such that I tend to avoid saying it. We could use a more euphonious word . . . so I tried to think of something.

First, I tried different combinations of the word "bonsai". With all those vowels, I figured there must be a good one. I failed to find it using my own brain (*not the computer*), and the best I could do was "IASNOB", which at least is funny. . . At least, I hope it's funny. Anyway, nothing sounds right.

Then I figured "Fat Bonsai" would be descriptive and memorable, which it is, but, well, it has no elegance — not a shred. I looked up "succulent", but "Juicy Bonsai" doesn't cut the mustard either, literally or figuratively.

Finally I tried to use the word "caudex" in some way, but it just does not work. I rather the fancy the phrase, "Caudices aux Bonsai" — but linguists and purists of any ilk would not approve, alas. Since I do not know botanical Latin and have no references of same, that leaves . . .

SMOLA!

— Carol Wujcik

SUCCULENT MEDIUM OF LIVING ART

— Rudy Lime

"Glōbonsai"

Several years ago, Gordon Rowley referred to succulents with above ground fat protuberances expressly designed to reservoir water for survival during drought and extended aridity as "caudiciforms", and whimsically called them "GLOBS". An apt new term (*neologism, if you will*), might be the juxtaposition of the two words: globs and what we do to them.

— Michael Buckner

"The current wave of popularity of the so-called **caudiciform succulents** among succulent plant enthusiasts started about ten years ago. . . . Many of the plants now designated caudiciform had already been in cultivation for a number of years, as rightly pointed out by Ron Ginns (1973), and the term *caudiciform* had been introduced into succulent plant literature as early as 1948 by Gordon Rowley. . . . The somewhat bizarre form of many of the novelties led to the coining of the frivolous, but amusing and widely accepted term T.C.P.'s by Allan Petty of the N.C.S.S. Bradford Branch. This expression first appeared in print in 1965, when we read of " . . . those twiggy atrocities, which are known locally as (Oakworth terminology embracing all caudiciform succulents) **Turnips, Carrots and Parsnips.**"

— Taken from Comments on the Caudiciform Cult by Len Newton,
National Cactus & Succulent Journal (Great Britain), vol. 29 #1, page 14.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH: MONOTYPIC CACTUS

BY JOE QUIJADA

One of a kind cactus seem to be fair game for the taxonomic lumpers and clumpers. For instance:

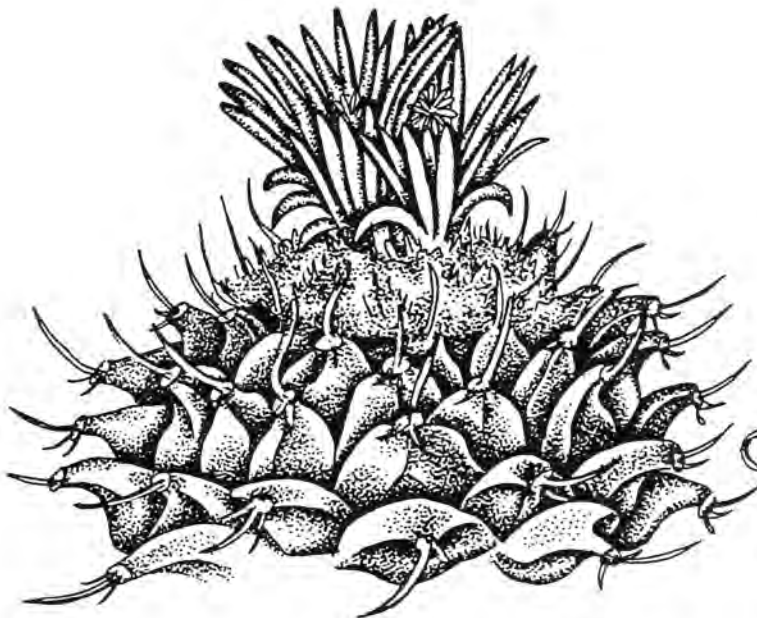
<i>Chiapasia nelsonii</i>	referred to	<i>Discocactus</i>
<i>Cochiseia robbinsorum</i>	referred to	<i>Escobaria</i>
<i>Cumarinia odorata</i>	referred to	<i>Neolloydia</i>

The following genera seem to have some differentiating characteristics which have delayed their referral, but the pressure is still on. One interesting example, in an article written by Bill Weightman for the British magazine *The Cactus File*, November 1992, states ". . . The fashion these days seems to be to eliminate the monotypic genera, but *Leuchtenbergia* has stood fast. This causes no surprise to layman – the outward appearance of the plant is quite unlike any other – but sine it hybridizes with *Ferocactus*, the two genera cannot be too far apart. However, since the genus *Leuchtenbergia* (1848) was created some 74 years prior to *Ferocactus* (1922), the process would actually involve moving a considerable number of plants into *Leuchtenbergia*, rather than removing a single plant out of *Ferocactus*. Clearly, the most peaceful solution is to leave things as they are.

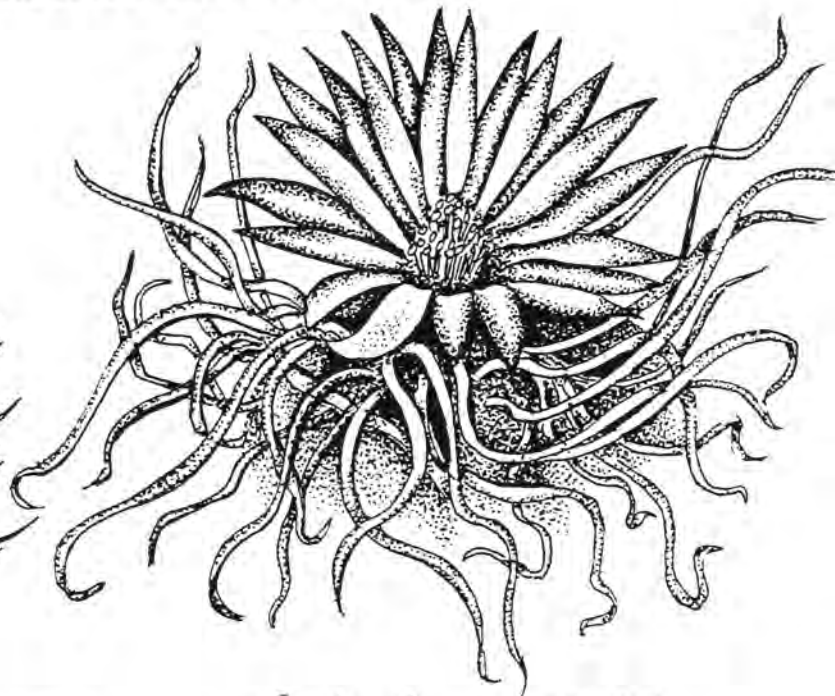
***Backebergia militaris*:** A native of Mexico, this cactus grows up to twenty feet tall in a tree-like form. An orange-brown dome-shaped cephalium forms at the ends of the 4½ inch diameter stems. Flowers are approximately 3 inches long and 1½ inches wide. Blooming at night during summer, the orange-red opening to creamy-white flowers protrude from the cephalium. This plant is not often seen in cultivation.

***Brachycereus nesioticus*:** This slow growing cactus from the Galapagos Islands has dense golden-brown spines on short columnar stems. The white-petaled flowers, 1 to 2 inches long and about 1 inch in diameter, are borne from the sides of the stems. Rarely found in cultivation, this plant blooms at night during summer months.

Illustrations from Brian Lamb's "Letts Guide to Cacti of the World", c. 1991.



Obregonia denegrii



Leuchtenbergia principis

Cactus of the Month: Monotypic Cactus by Joe Quijada continued . . .

***Leuchtenbergia principis*:** This unusual and distinctive cactus for north-central Mexico is named after a shirt-tail relative of Napoleon, the Duke of Leuchtenberg. Initially mistaken for a yucca or agave when first sent to the Kew Royal Botanical Gardens in England; it was later determined to be a cactus when it produced large yellow blooms. Unlike any other cactus, it has a cylindrical body, usually solitary, with 4 to 5 inch tapering, triangular tubercles. Four inch papery spines grow from the areole at the end of each tubercle. Older plants have a short, but definite trunk, because tubercles die and drop off as the plant matures. If kept dry *Leuchtenbergia* can survive near-freezing temperatures. This plant is easy to grow from seed.

***Dendrocereus nudiflorus*:** This Cuban cactus grows up to about 30 feet with tree-like branches developing from the top. The stems have 3 to 5 narrow ribs. White flowers are 4 to 5 inches long and bloom in summer.

***Obregonia denegrei*:** This unique cactus is named after two Mexican politicians: Alvaro Obregon, president of Mexico in 1920, and Denegri, the minister of agriculture. It has a very distinctive look which resembles an agave more than a cactus. The solitary depressed-globular stems consist of spirally arranged and flattened triangular tubercles. The tip of each tubercle bears a small areole with 2 to 4 whipsy spines. Copious amounts of loose fluffy wool are produced at the crown. Whitish-cream colored flowers are also produced from the crown. This species is easily grown from seed. However, it grows quite slowly, taking 4 to 5 years to reach the flowering size of 1½ to 2 inches. There is some pressure to have this plant referred to as a *Strombocactus*.

***Stetsonia coryne*:** I have heard this cactus referred to as "The Saguaro of Argentina". It grows to about 25 feet tall with base circumference reaching 12 to 14 inches. The glossy black spines are comprised of 7 to 9 one-inch radials around a killer 3 to 4 inch long central spine. Flowers are nocturnal and get up to 6 inches long. They appear in the summer, with white inner petals and glossy green external petals.

***Carnegiea gigantea*:** These forty foot giants of the Sonoran Desert of western Arizona and northern Mexico are better known by their common name "Saguaro". Large specimens are estimated to be 150 to 200 years old and can weigh from six to nine tons. Mature plants branch typically ten to fifteen feet from the base, which may be only 1 to 2 feet in diameter. Flowers are nocturnal and creamy-white in color. The fruit, containing a surgery red pulp, provides food for many desert inhabitants. The plants can be grown from seed — start when you are young!

***Ortegocactus macdougalii*:** This Mexican beauty is one of my favorites. It is a small globular plant with grayish-green heads sprouting from the base. The 1½ inch heads have rhomboid tubercles with wooly-white areoles bearing black spines. The yellow flowers emerge from the axials — blooming during the day in summer. Some would like to see this plant referred to as a *Escobaria*.

References Cited:

- Innes, Clives & Glass, Charles; 1991. **CACTI**, Portland House, New York, NY.
Pilbeam, John; 1987. **CACTI FOR THE CONNOISSEUR**, Timber Press, Portland, OR.
Neville, David. **THE CACTUS FILE**, volume 1 #4 and #7.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR RE: MONOTYPIC CACTI

Leuchtenbergia principis: Plant has an IUCN* conservation designation of safe /low risk and has continued its original placement in Appendix I of CITES**. Ted Anderson believes that it should be downgraded as it is one of the most wide-ranging species of cacti in the Chihuahuan Desert of Mexico. Anderson states, "The simple rarity of this species throughout its entire range means that it is impossible to estimate the number of plants that exist. At any given locality it is difficult to find more than two individuals [plants] and these may be separated by a considerable distance. Probably many thousands occur throughout the Chihuahuan Desert, but such an estimate could be wildly inaccurate. Perhaps this is a good example of a species near the end of its evolutionary life, which is now declining due to natural causes, i.e. environmental change, such as increased drought, effecting its ability to compete."

Backebergia militaris (Audot) Sánchez-Mejorada: This name is now considered a synonym for ***Pachycereus militaris*** (Audot) D. Hunt, 1989. It has been given a conservation rating of S/LR (safe /low risk). Anderson states, "Having observed the plant at various locations in southwest Mexico, it was concluded that it was no more threatened than the forest in which it grows. In places this forest is being disturbed or even cleared for agriculture, but for the most part the region is probably too dry to sustain intensive agriculture without considerable irrigation. The earlier threat to the plant by collectors seems to have passed, and it is hoped and expected that the Mexican authorities will be able to control illegal trade in this species effectively in the future. Perhaps consideration should even be given to downlisting it from CITES Appendix I to II."

Obregonia denegrii: This plant is another with a CITES Appendix I classification and a World Wildlife Fund/Species Survival conservation designation of SU (susceptible). This species occurs in only one valley area in the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico. The plant has always been rare and unusual and is highly valued on the commercial market. Anderson states, "There do not seem to be any major threats to the survival of this species, but soil erosion, commercial collecting, collecting by local people for medicinal uses, and road construction and urban development could all affect local populations. . . ."

We conclude that the species is safe, except for over-collecting, or unless human activities undergo a major change in the Valley of Jaumave."

The book **THREATENED CACTI OF MEXICO** by Edward Anderson, Salvador Arias Montes, & Nigel Taylor (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew © 1994) states in conclusion, ". . . the Mexican Government must be encouraged to set aside some protected areas, especially where their establishment will not involve depriving local people of useful land and where the habitat is not already too severely modified through human influence. We believe the most important regions for considering reserves for rare and endangered cacti are in southwestern Baja California (Llano de la Magdalena), eastern Querétaro, and various sites in northeastern Mexico (Coahuila, Nuevo León, Tamaulipas & San Luis Potosí). Certainly, in the latter region there are habitats, such as in the Valley of Jaumave and southeast of Ciudad Victoria (Tamaulipas), and in the valley of Rayones (Nuevo León), that could be turned into reserves if the federal government so determined (and was aided by financial incentives from abroad). Perhaps a more viable alternative, as least for some species, is the purchase of the land upon which they grow by private foundations and other NGOs***, such as is being contemplated by Cante A.C." Isn't about time that your C&S Society pledges a yearly contribution to this worthy foundation?

IUCN* The World Conservation Union.
CITES** Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
NGOs*** Non-government owned/operated

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: MONADENIUM

BY MARILYN NEWCOMER

The genus *Monadenium* from the plant family *Euphorbiaceae*, contains fewer than 50 species, ranging in form from small growing geophytes, to large arborescent shrubs---plus some geophytes with either perennial or deciduous branches. Many of the underground organs are figured. They are extraordinary in form and instantly recognizable once seen.

It is a close relative of *Euphorbia*, as both have a reduced inflorescence called a cyathium. *Monadenium* has an even more specialized flower structure than *Euphorbia*, the cyathium being asymmetric and gullet-like, moulded to restrict the range of insects that can visit. It closely resembles a single zygomorphic bee flower, and bees presumably are the agents of cross-pollination.

The genus *Monadenium* was first set up by Pax in 1895. By 1934 only five species had been described. In 1962 Peter P. O'Bally's research on the genus culminated in the publication of his monograph "The Genus *Monadenium*", in which he described 21 new species, beautifully illustrated with his own water color paintings. This book is now out of print but it is in our San Diego Club library.

Most of the species originate from tropical and East Africa. All the growth forms occur in Tanzania, and various types are found in West Africa, Kenya, Somalia, Zimbabwe/Rhodesia and the Transvaal into Natal. They require considerable warmth if they are to be grown well, with a minimum winter temperature of about 50° F. ideally. However, even those enthusiasts who are able to provide suitable growing conditions will not find it easy to acquire more than a handful of species from this genus, as none can be said to be common in cultivation, with perhaps the exception of *M. ritchei*. The difficulty of obtaining material and the need for careful nurture and continual warmth goes against their greater popularity, which is a pity, because they make desirable collectors pieces. However, they are not freely available from commercial growers.

The *Monadenium* species exhibit various habit; herbaceous, succulent, geophytic and arborescent. The succulent species are attractive, hardy and disease resistant plants, as well as resistant to attack by insect pests. They are readily recognized by their spirally, tuberculate stems which often have stipular spines. The inflorescence and the fleshy deciduous leaves are



*Monadenium
magnificum*



Monadenium elegans

Succulent of the Month: **Monadenium** by Marilyn Newcomer

both located at the apex of the stem. The herbaceous variety is dwarf, subfleshy with leaves terminally crowded, and are unarmed. Geophytic *Monadeniums* are hysteranthous plants (putting forth leaves after flowering) and have erect stems. The arborescent varieties can grow to 18' tall.

They seem to grow best in a light and sunny position in the greenhouse. When grown in good light the coloration of the stems, leaves and even the inflorescence is enhanced. The humidity in the greenhouse should be kept as low as possible to avoid problems with mildew or rot. This is best achieved with a fan to keep the air circulating. Because they grow in areas with a medium rainfall of 20-40" per year, it is necessary to lightly water them in the winter months to prevent drying out of the roots and stems. This is best given from the base of the pot, to prevent moisture around the stem or tuberous root, which may cause rot. However, as autumn approaches and the leaves of many species begin to shrivel, discolor and drop, it is imperative to drastically reduce the watering. If water is more or less withheld in the late autumn many of the thinner stemmed, tuberous rooted species will shed their stems; which results in tidier plants, for new, vigorous stems are produced each year. If the old stems are maintained from year to year they can begin to sprawl and look unsightly.

Many species take a long time to leaf out and get full growth after the winter dormancy, and as the sun gains in strength during the spring they will benefit from regular spraying and light watering to encourage growth. Once they are in full growth they should be back on a regular watering schedule with frequent low nitrogen fertilizer. Our plants are grown in our cactus mix, kept above 50 F. in the winter and are fertilized each week as watered, and we have never had a problem with any of them rotting. However, they do require a free draining compost.

Propagation is by stem cuttings, and quite prolific however it is important to let them dry out thoroughly before putting them in a moist medium to prevent rot.

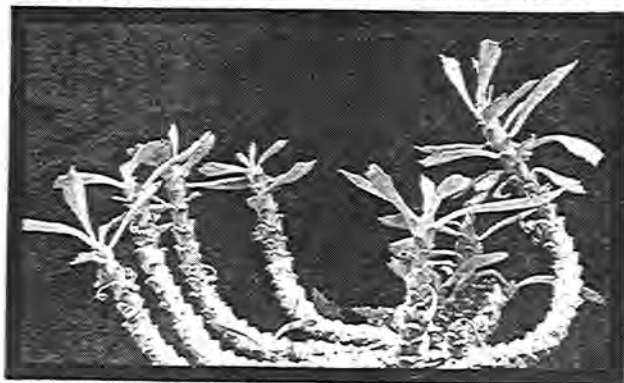
Because of an extraordinary wealth of growth forms, ranging from dwarf to sturdy tree forms, this is an attractive, fascinating and hardy group of succulents to grow. I will try to bring a fair representation of the various types for comparison.

O'Bally, Peter R. 1961. **The Genus *Monadenium***

Court, Doreen. **Succulent Flora of Southern Africa** ppg. 29-30

August 1991. **The Cactus File**

Rowley, Gordon D. 1987. **Caudiciform & Pachycaul Succulents**



Monadenium stapelioides



Monadenium spinescens

The 11th Annual Inter-City Cactus & Succulent Show

Sat. and Sun. August 17th & 18th 1996 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

At the

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301 N. Baldwin Ave. Arcadia, CA

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Cactus & Succulent Societies



Huntington Library
Art Collections
Botanical Gardens

Huntington Botanical Gardens Thirteenth Succulent Plants Symposium

Beyond Profit: The Future of Commercial Collections August 31, 1996

Program:

- **Dan Bach**, Bach's Cactus Nursery, Tucson, Arizona
Propagating Cacti and Succulents at Bach's Cactus Nursery
- **Steven Hammer**, Mesa Gardens, Belen, New Mexico
Macropropagation of Microsucculents
- **Chuck Hanson**, Arid Lands Greenhouses, Tucson, Arizona
Commercial Nurseries: Resources or Rip-Offs
- **Burl Mostul**, Rare Plant Research, Portland, Oregon
Plant Protection through Propagation and Dissemination
- **Ernst Specks**, Exotica, Erkelenz-Golkrath, Germany
CITES, Field Collecting ("Research") and Plant Trade
- **Carl Volkers**, C and J Cactus Nursery, Vista, California
From 10 to 10,000: The role of the Commercial Nursery in the Propagation of Endangered Succulent Xerophytes

Evening Speaker:

- **John Pilbeam**, Holbury, United Kingdom, editor of Cactus Files and well-known author
Aristocacti (a Gallop Through the More Demanding Genera of Cacti in Cultivation)

Registration:

- Symposium.....\$65.00
- Evening dinner.....\$25.00

Time:

Continental breakfast and registration begin at 8:30 A.M. The program, from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M., will include speaker presentations, silent auction, garden and conservatory tours, refreshments, and lunch. The optional evening dinner at the home of the gardens director will begin at 6:00 P.M.

To register:

Mail your name(s), address, and a check (made payable to The Huntington) for the appropriate amount to:

Succulent Symposium
Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, CA 91108

(818) 405-2160
(818) 405-2260 FAX

Deadline for registration is August 28th.
We cannot guarantee meals for late registrants.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Affiliation _____

Phone number: _____

Number of persons for program: _____ X \$65.00 = _____

Number of persons for dinner: _____ X \$25.00 = _____

Donation to defray expenses: _____

Total enclosed: _____

WISE AND OTHERWISE

by Michael Buckner



**" A garden
is Food for
the soul."**

— Sania

***"There is nothing constant in the universe.
All ebb and flow, and every shape that's born,
bears in its womb the seeds of change."***

— Ovid, *Metamorphoses*

One of the most important lessons I learned in the course of my apprenticeship in the art of Japanese gardens took place during year-end cleaning of the Yabunouchi tea garden in Kyoto. I had been squatting for some time with both feet flat on the ground in Japanese fashion, sweeping between the aspidistra (*haran*) with the customary bamboo whisk broom. It was an awkward position — I had to constantly on guard so as not to plant one of my feet on a *haran* clump — I was tired. To relieve the tension (so I thought), I shifted my weight forward onto the ball of my left foot, leaving my right foot flat on the ground with little weight on it. To my surprise, the crew chief immediately and sharply reprimanded me. Then he told me what I had done wrong. His explanation took the form of a parable. Imagine, he said, that the master of this garden were a blind person. Close to the garden every day, he would constantly breathe its air and become sensitive to its every mood. The uneven distribution of my weight in cleaning the garden would produce a disturbance in the atmosphere of the garden, an uneasiness that the blind master would sense. Hence even in the simplest act of garden maintenance I must conduct myself in the spirit of harmony the garden is intended to convey.

This story—lesson was indelibly impressed upon my mind, and I have never ceased to appreciate the crew chief's kindness in telling it to me. The lesson that the spirit with which one performs any task, no matter how "menial," is more important than getting it done cannot be ignored by any serious student of the art of Japanese gardens. The essence of that spirit is to be "centered." My body position indicated I was not. Perhaps in the early years of the crew chief's own apprenticeship his superior had kindly communicated the same message to him. In any event, I had been initiated into one of the traditional secrets of the art through the time-honored technique of oral transmission.

David Slawson, *SECRET TEACHINGS IN THE ART OF JAPANESE GARDENS — DESIGN PRINCIPLES — AESTHETIC VALUES*, c. 1987, Kodansha / Harper & Row, NY.

"One afternoon, I walked from Maras to Misminay with an old man with whom I had become acquainted . . . He asked how my work on astronomy was going, and I told him that I still felt completely ignorant. I then asked him if he thought that I would ever understand the sky and the stars. He thought for a minute, and indicating the land around with a wide sweep of the arm, he asked me if I understood the land and the community yet. When I said that I did not, he drained another cup of trago and asked how, then, could I possibly hope to understand the sky."

Gary Urton *At the Crossroads of the Earth and the Sky: An Andean Cosmology*, c. 1981, Univ. Texas Press, Austin.

The most beautiful gardens I have ever seen are pristine coral reefs in the South Pacific. They are artifices, created by coral, transforming oceanic deserts into the richest biotic environments in the world. They are also benign, bountiful, and orderly. They are dynamic and they are natural. Perhaps coral should be exemplar to men who make gardens.

Ian L. McHarg, *"Nature is More Than a Garden"*, *THE MEANING OF GARDENS*, page 37 ed. Mark Francis & Randolph Hester, c. 1990, The MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass.

The Garden is productive. It produces food, which sustains physical life. The garden is a place where one learns lessons, namely the lessons of immortality and of the knowledge of good and evil. These lessons, however, are not to be experienced physically. "But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it." (Genesis 2:17). Rather they are to be considered and contemplated. In many Eastern cultures, the human entity is divided into three aspects: body, spirit, and soul. The biblical heavenly garden, the Garden of Eden, is an attempt to satisfy these three spheres of our being: our need to feed our physical body, to quench our endless thirst for beauty and spiritual experiences, and to bring some peace to our everlasting soul, struggling to come to terms with our mortality. . . .

. . . . This brings us to the last meaning, one that is so often overlooked in modern gardens but is always lurking in the back of our collective mind. Eastern cultures consider this meaning to be essential, and Western cultures have toyed with it since Christianity took over as the dominant religion. It is the garden as a sexual symbol. The Song of Songs states it clearly and explicitly: "A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed. Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates" (Song of Songs 4:12). Then follows a long description of the spices and perfumes associated with the act of love and a woman's body. The garden is the metaphor for woman's sexual arousal. "She is as a fountain in a garden, well of living water, or the streams that flow from Lebanon" (Song of Songs 4:15). The bride calls the wind to come south to "blow upon [her] garden that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come in his garden and eat his pleasant fruits" (Song of Songs 4:16).

Yet this ancient meaning is also very modern. Has not Emily Dickinson written:

Come slowly, Eden!
Lips unused to thee,
Bashful, sip thy jasmines,
As the fainting bee,
Reaching late his flower,
Round her chamber hums,
Counts his nectars — enters,
And is lost in balms!

Emily Dickinson 1939

Achva Benzinberg Stein, *"Thoughts Occasioned by the Old Testament"*, *THE MEANING OF GARDENS*, page 43-44, ed. Mark Francis & Randolph Hester, c. 1990, The MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass.

Espinas y Flores

Editors: Michael and Joyce Buckner - (619) 222-3216
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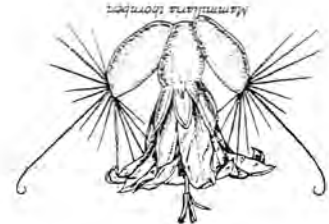
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The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Inc. is open to all persons interested in growing cacti and other succulent plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month (except June, Sept. and Dec.) at 1:00 PM in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Executive Board meetings are open to all members; call any officer or director for the time and location. Annual dues are \$10.00 per single member per year, \$5.00 for each additional member within the same household. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are \$1.00 per copy sent within the USA; foreign subscriptions are \$20.00. Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc. Fax available - please call editor at (619)222-3216



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