



# *ESPINAS Y FLORES*

Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Inc.

Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

Volume 34, Number 9, Saturday October 9, 1999 at 1:00 PM



Dorothy Byer '99

# WESTERN SOUTH AFRICA, 1998

## DOROTHY BYER AND BETTY ATHY

Dorothy and Betty spent seven adventurous weeks in South Africa in September and October of 1998. They first attended the IOS conference in Capetown then rented a van and went exploring the rest of the time. Camping in the Richtersveld, photographing all kinds of succulents, they found many treasures including young *Aloe pillansii* and a crested *Trichocaulon* sp. Getting lost on mountain dirt roads is a easy thing to do and these ladies had their share of wrong turns. But, Dorothy studied and speaks Afrikaans, which helped immensely. They found the locals to be very gracious and wonderful hosts in the west.

The nights were cold but the days were nice. Although the dry conditions made it difficult to find *Lithops* and *Conophytums*, they had their share of excitement in a small airplane excursion into Namibia to see *Welwitschia*, an Arabian horseback ride, and a close encounter with a male ostrich!

Come join us for their fantastic adventure in and around the mountains of western South Africa Saturday, October 9 at 1:00 PM, Casa del Prado, room 101, Balboa Park.



Cover: Original painting of *Aloe erinacea* by Dorothy Byer. I want to thank Dorothy for letting us reproduce one of her masterpieces. Her work is internationally known and highly regarded by all those in our hobby who appreciate fine art.

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

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Newsletter submissions are due before the 14<sup>th</sup> each month  
Unless other arrangements are made

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE FOR OCTOBER 1999

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### This years PICNIC was a BLAST!!!

We had quite a large gathering. The food was great – enough to feed a small army. This years spot offered a great background, filled with sail boats, kayaks, roller-skaters, and many picnics. There was ample parking – we even had a guide as you entered the turnoff to make sure you found the spot. The weather was perfect.....with quite a breeze blowing off the bay, and boy, can **Jeff Harris** fire up a grill! I want to thank everyone who came for a swell time.....ALL pitched in to make it a success. The club also benefited from the plant auction, thanks for those plant donations. This club tradition has endured for many years, hopefully, with many more to come. I hope to see all of you there next year.

SDC&SS's Board Member positions are up for election this year. This is a two year commitment. Any SDC&SS member who is interested in making a very worthwhile contribution to this organization by becoming a SDC&SS Board Member for this term should contact a nominating committee representative. The nomination committee representatives for the **2000-2001 term** is comprised of the following club members: **Jeff Harris @ 619-294-5708**, **Susan Hopkins @ 619-272-8897**, **Stan Yalof @ 619-743-1560**. This is a very important position as the board represents the membership and as a board member you can help shape the clubs present and future interests. Nominations be taken from the floor at the October general meeting and a vote will be taken at the November general meeting.

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## FYI FYI FOR YOUR INFORMATION FYI FYI

- ⇒ The **Pam and Lee Badger** donated the video series: *The Secret Life of Plants*, in five parts, By Sir David Attenborough, to our Library. Watch it and be amazed by what plants can do. There is a nice segment on plants in dry environments.
- ⇒ There will be a plant sale and auction at Arid Lands Nursery to make room for **Gehard Marx's** incoming collection. It will be on October 16. Call 520-883-9404 or e-mail [tucson@aridlands.com](mailto:tucson@aridlands.com) for details.
- ⇒ **Anne Shein** made the front page of the Home and Garden section of the Monterey County Herald on Saturday August 28, 1999. The headline read: The Cactus Queen, Anne Shein of Marina gets up close and personal with her prickly beauties. It was a nice article with two beautiful color photos on the front.
- ⇒ "Name this succulent!" sort'a got off to a slow start at the Picnic. Please bring in your guesses and enter to win at the next meeting. Rules were published last month.
- ⇒ Kudos to **John Stanley** and SDCSS member **Chris Miller** for their outstanding work at the Baja and Old World Succulent Gardens at the Wild Animal Park! Also, thanks go to **Stan Yalof** for volunteering to help with a table representing these gardens at the Park during the Association of Zoological Horticulture Conference. The Wild Animal Park's succulent gardens need your more help, please call 858-569-8510 if you are interested, leave a message THANKS!

## SIXTEENTH SUCCULENT PLANTS SYMPOSIUM: RESULTS OF THIS CENTURY'S PLANT EXPLORATION

The Huntington symposium was great this year. **Jon Rebman** began on a high note with an introduction to Baja California's cacti and succulents. He showed an overview of the past and present explorers starting out with George Lindsay and the *Echinocereus* named for him. He mentioned Reid Moran, Donald Pinkava, Hugo Cota, Jose Delgadillo, and a host of others. He brought us up to date on his work and teased us with some of his current projects. He ended his talk with a special request; to leave the rediscovered *Echinocereus lindsayi* alone. It is a scarce and fragile species that cannot survive in the wild if collecting occurs. He also pointed out that collecting plants in Mexico is illegal anyway.

**Gary Lyons** then lead us on one of his latest efforts: tracking the history and development of one of the best collections of succulents — The Huntington. In 1906, the garden opened and one of the earliest plant records is for *Puya chilensis*, planted in 1914. Gary is a modern day detective who is trying to locate original data of acquired plants since the beginnings of the estate. **Vic Landrum** talked about the "movers and shakers" in southern Africa of the past and present. The plant communities are diverse and have made for a lot of confusion until botanical investigators started to look at it carefully. Most of our favorite succulents come from this region:

*Lithops, Crassula, Euphorbia, Conophytum, Portulaca* and a whole lot more.

**Mark Olson** is a new explorer who talked about his studies of *Moringa*. He has traveled to the habitats of these succulent bottle trees, under adverse conditions. **Myron Kinnach** completed the day time events with a discussion of his plant collecting experiences. He made a proposal that the U.S. and Mexico try to open the way for the legal collection and propagation, by nurseries, of material for the hobbyists trade. It is important to get plants out to the public legally and not circumvent the laws of Mexico. In the evening, **Reid Moran**, Curator Emeritus of the San Diego Natural History Museum, delivered a talk titled *Dudleya in the Scheme of Things*. Between the talks there was an auction and a tour of the new facilities at the Huntington, their new multimillion dollar development will directly affect the botanical and horticultural areas. **Jim Folsom** is overseeing one of the best modernizations to date at the Huntington. It will be finished by the next Symposium — see you there!

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

— 1999 —

### ✠ OCTOBER

- 7 – 10 Huntington Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Festival, Noon – 4:30 PM. Info. at the Huntington call 626-405-2141. Oct. 7, Bus Trip arranged by Docent Council of the S. D. Museum of Art, \$30, Call 619-696-1932
- 11 S. D. Horticultural Society 6:30 – 9:30 PM, Mums Alive by Cary Sharp and Pat Hammer, general meeting. Info. 760-630-7307, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Satellite Wagering Facility.
- 16 CNPS Native Plant Sale 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Casa del Prado Balboa Park. Info. 619-685-7321 or [www.san.rr.com/cnpssd](http://www.san.rr.com/cnpssd).
- 16 & 17 Orange County CSS Show & Sale, Fullerton Arboretum.
- 23 & 24 Quail Botanical Gardens Annual Fall Plant Sale 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Reduced admission price. Please come and support our only Botanical Garden! Call 760-436-3036 or [www.qbgardens.com/qbgframed.html](http://www.qbgardens.com/qbgframed.html)
- 23 & 24 San Gabriel Valley CSS 6th Annual Winter Show, Arboretum of Los Angeles County, Baldwin Av., Arcadia CA. Info. Woody Minnich 805-944-2784
- 26 – 30 First Congress of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Second Mexican Congress on C&S Plants, Oaxaca, Mexico. Info. [cactus-mall.com/congress.html](http://cactus-mall.com/congress.html) or e-mail [gmanzanero@vmredipn.ipn.mx](mailto:gmanzanero@vmredipn.ipn.mx)

### ✠ NOVEMBER

- 3 Lotusland with the S. D. Floral Assoc., One Day on Wednesday. Call Ann Waters, 619-277-5004 cost \$50 or \$53.
- 6 & 7 Lake Hodges Native Plant Sale 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Vons Market, Plaza Center, Bernardo Center Dr., Profits go to the WAP Nativescapes Garden.

### ✠ DECEMBER

- 11 SDCSS Holiday Dinner Noon to 5:00 PM.

— 2000 —

### ✠ JANUARY

- 8 SDCSS 3rd Annual Winter Show and Sale 10:00 PM to 5:00 PM

### ✠ FEBRUARY

- 25 – 28 Southeastern Conf. Info. SFCSS Inc., PO Box 161407, Miami FL 33116, e-mail [sflacactus@aol.com](mailto:sflacactus@aol.com)

### ✠ MARCH

- 21 Midwest C&SS Show & Sale, Botanical Garden of Greater Cleveland, Noon to 5 PM Info. Penny Chaikin, 216-381-2525, 1556 Sheffield Rd., South Euclid OH 44121

### ✠ APRIL

- 8 – 16 CSSA Tour 2000, a field trip to the Big Bend, TX region. Info. Borderland Tours, 2550 W. Calle Padilla, Tucson AZ 85745, 800-526-7753. *Last Call* – It may be booked up?

FOR MORE C&S INFO. SEE: [WWW.CACTUS-MALL.COM/CSSA/EVENTS.HTML](http://WWW.CACTUS-MALL.COM/CSSA/EVENTS.HTML) OR [WWW.CACTUS-MALL.COM/EVENTS.HTML](http://WWW.CACTUS-MALL.COM/EVENTS.HTML)



# Melocactus Remberances by Pam Badger

August 29, 1976 (Diary entry)

We took off early for Guatemala City after a night of rum, fish, and visiting with a new found friend, Justo Rodriguez, a tobacco grower from Florida. We planned to stop on the road to Salama in central Guatemala where we had been told the *Melocactus* roam. We drove into the mountains and pine forests without seeing a trace of them before we realized if they are around here they would be back down the mountain nearer the highway. We headed back down and stopped in a wide spot in the road about three miles from Route CA 9 and El Progreso. There was no sign of *Melocactus* but we took off climbing up a steep ravine. It was not long before we spotted them. *Melocactus maxonii* was growing on the steep, southern facing walls of the ravine in blazing hot sun. The plants were quite numerous, both juveniles and mature specimens with their striking orange cephaliums. They were growing in quite a garden of other succulents, including *Pilosocereus leucocephalus* and a long spined *Lemaireocereus*. There were also many Puyas and thorn trees on the steep slope, growing out of solid rock. Gymno our Great Dane and I almost died from the heat before making it back to the truck.

This was my first experience with finding *Melocactus* growing in the wild. I had sold many of these striking plants (grown by Hans Britsch) but seeing them growing in the wild was a singular experience. Their wonderfully round, shiny green bodies with contrasting orange cephaliums, leads me to understand why they were amongst the first cactus to be taken back to the old world by Christopher Columbus. He probably collected *M. mantanzanus* or *M. guitartii* from Cuba or possibly *M. intortus* from Puerto Rico. These "Melon Thistle", as they were first called, were originally described in 1588. Other common names include Turks Head or Turks Caps.

About eighteen months after the excursion through Guatemala, I once again found *Melocactus* growing in the wild. This time we were traveling through Northern Nicaragua passed the town of Jalapa near the Honduran border. Driving along a remote dirt road, I asked Lee to stop, thinking I had seen some kind of barrel cactus near the road. Upon further exploration it turned out to be a species of *Melocactus*. I was surprised because from what I had read there are no species reported from any Central American countries besides Guatemala and Honduras! These were growing in a very different type of locality than the ones in Guatemala.

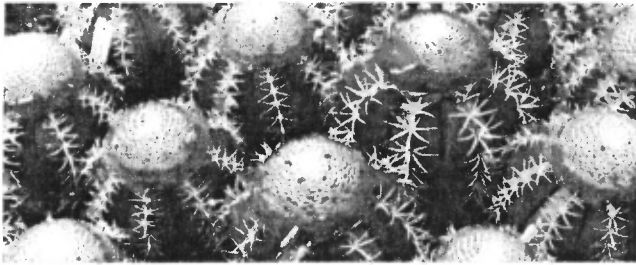
This could be a far-reaching population of *M. ruestii*, which is native to Honduras. They look more like the *M. maxonii* from Guatemala. So it is possible that all specimens except these have been eliminated by grazing cattle. However, the more I examined the specimens the more I thought these plants had been dug up elsewhere and planted along the fence line by locals, either in appreciation of the plants or as a barrier to keep cattle from crossing the fence row.



Lee preparing to transport a plant back to our ranch for further observation



Close-up of plant growing along one of the fence line.



Young *Melocactus mantanzanus* flat at C & J Cactus Nursery with their newly developing cephaliums.

*Melocactus* have an extensive geographical distribution from Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, Venezuela, Columbia, Cuba and Brazil. Over 300 species have been described though only about 10% of these are currently recognized as distinct species. The barrel shaped plants, with prominent ridges reach maturity at about six to eight years of age at which point they cease vegetative growth and develop a true cephalium. A true thrill for anyone who owns one of these plants is to watch the transformation as the cephalium develops. I was greatly surprised the first time I experienced this because the cephalium developed rather quickly. The species was *M. mantanzanus* which had grown slowly to about five inches in diameter. It then started to develop the cephalium, which grew quickly, to about two and a half inches in diameter in three months!

In general, the cephalium on *Melocactus* is densely covered with hairs and bristles and come in a variety of colors shapes and sizes, the largest being *M. intortus* which can grow up to a meter high. Small flowers, which appear in the cephalium in spring and summer, are reddish to brilliant pink. The flowers are easily self-pollinated and in late summer through the fall, many cute little fruit push up out of the cephalium with a colorful display ranging from red to violet pink.

Cultivation can be tricky (unless you happen to be Joe Quijada). Sandy humus, very acid soil is recommended and finding just the right spot in your growing area seems to be equally important. After years of hit and miss techniques, I have found that they are best suited to a very warm, bright area, well away from the areas of regular watering. Regular misting is all the water they get. I have had some problems with pests, mainly scale and root mealy so I add a bit of Safer Insecticidal Soap on a regular basis for treatment and prevention.

References:

*Cacti and Succulents* by Gunter Andersohn, 1983

*Cactus Lexicon* by Backeberg, 1966

[Ed. Note — Many of the species of *Melocactus* mentioned have been lumped into a few species, check current references for synonyms]

## Membership Corner

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# Graptopetalum, Pachyphytum & the Indiscriminate Echeveria

## by Joyce Buckner

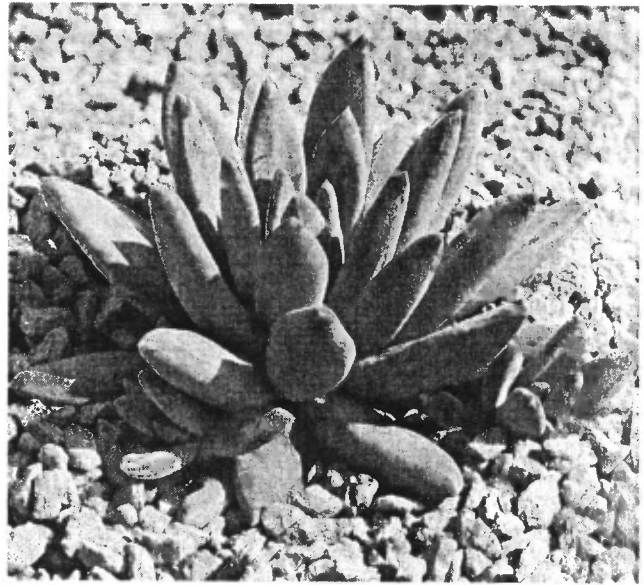
In the course of creating succulent dish gardens and color bowls, I have acquired a fondness for several intergeneric hybrids from related genera of the stonecrop family or Crassulaceae. Initially I discovered × *Graptoveria*, an *Echeveria* × *Graptopetalum* hybrid, and × *Pachyveria*, a *Pachyphytum* × *Echeveria* hybrid. These hybrids proved to be hardy, colorful, vigorous plants that are grown commercially and used extensively in succulent gardens. This amazing propensity for hybridizing with *Echeveria* has also been discovered occurring naturally, and fertile hybrids have been found in the wild and in commercial cultivation.

A short time later I came across several colorful species presented as × *Sedeveria*, *Echeveria* × *Sedum*, whereupon I referred to Stephenson's book, *Sedum - Cultivated Stonecrops*. Stephenson touches on several additional crosses, synonyms, classifications, theories, etc. including but not limited to: *Graptopetalum* species that are/were considered by some botanists to be a group within *Sedum*, *Graptosedum* (*Sedum* × *Graptopetalum*) hybrids, × *Cremnosedum*, a *Sedum* × *Cremnophila* hybrid. Stephenson groups all of these *Sedum* species under the subgenus: *Pachysedum*, the Latin American group. He states, "The subfamily ECHEVERIOIDEAE [of CRASSULACEAE] includes New World genera *Dudleya*, *Echeveria*, *Graptopetalum*, *Pachyphytum*, *Tacitus*, and *Thompsonella*. Although the boundaries of these genera have been redefined to include or exclude newly discovered species, gardeners, by studying the flowers of the ECHEVERIOIDEAE can identify each genera without too much difficulty. Other recently discovered species of ECHEVERIOIDEAE are difficult to assign with confidence to any genus, as they appear to bridge gaps between existing genera. These species, called "gap-bridges," have endured many name changes as taxonomists try to group closely related species.

At this point I was falling into that gap, things were getting real confusing! The more books I referred to, the more species I found, most with multiple names, genera and/or hybrid classifications. As I read on, three points became clear: (1) Hybridizing species are all endemic to Mexico with some extending into Arizona. (2) Plant species /hybrids of these subfamilies, genera, and groups are rapidly evolving, consistently altering, a vacillating evolutionary chain still in motion. Hybridization, variances in growth patterns & vegetative traits, convergent

species, intermediate species, and contrasting subspecies, varieties and forms appear to be the "norm" here. (3) There are nearly as many opinions on the correct classification of several of these species as there are botanists who have stated their opinion in books, articles, and papers. Trying to decide on a valid name for some has turned into a Herculean task. I'm getting a lumpy splitting headache!

Gordon Rowley (author of *Encyclopedia of Succulents*) states, "This suggests close affinity between the genera and adds to the suspicion that they are artificially segregated. I could agree with that . . . but have much invested in the segregation. How many times did I have to look it up, or ask Michael before I could tell the difference between an *Echeveria* and a *Graptopetalum*? I fondly remember that endorphic rush I got from actually recognizing the bigeneric aspects exhibited by a "Jewel Plant," × *Pachyveria haagei*. Somehow, if the nomenclature for this species was changed to a cultivar or variety of *Echeveria heterosepala*, it just would not give me the same thrill. . . I guess, I'm a splitter at heart!



× *Pachyveria* hybrid

The genus *Pachyphytum* has about fifteen species or varieties, and there are probably another twenty recognized bigeneric hybrids (× *Pachyveria* and × *Pachysedum*). One of the more remarkable, *P. oviferum*, is named for its thick egg-shaped leaves. The bluish-purple leaves are covered with white powder. The powder facilitates water collection for plant, when grown in areas of high humidity or coastal fogs and infrequent rains. As the evening and early morning fog condenses on the leaves, the powder

causes the water to bead up and form droplets which run down the stem to the roots. Plants can survive years with little or no rain using this mechanism. Our coastal dudleyas obtain much of their moisture in this same fashion.

Colorful purplish-pink varieties or clones of *Pachyphytum oviferum* and *P. bracteosum* are available from commercial nurseries. These eye-catching fat leaves lend a dramatic affect to any succulent garden or potted bowl. Solitary potted plants prove to be disappointing. Every touch disturbs the fine powder coating on the leaves, and they bruise and scar quite easily. I have considered keeping them in a glass or plexiglass bubble similar to the way Phyllis Flechsig shows her *Echeveria lauii*, but so far I have never kept one pristine long enough to warrant this approach!

Delicate blooms on crooked or cane-shaped spikes are common to *Pachyphytum* and × *Pachyveria* species. Blooms appear in the spring, and sometimes again in the fall. Flower spike and sepals are a translucent tone of green, while the tiny flowers inside are brilliant and alluring, ranging in color from salmon orange to a dark rich burgundy red. Inflorescence on × *Pachyveria* hybrids have the same translucent crook-necked spike and sepals, however, I have observed flower petals in a wide variety of colors, from creamy white to yellow, orange, and brilliant pink. Blooms on my × *Pachyveria haagei* were a salmon orange with bright yellow centers. It should not take anyone very long to figure out why this × *Pachyveria* is called the “Jewel Plant.” Cylindrical leaves that are about as thick and long as fingers form intricate symmetrical rosettes 3" - 5" in diameter. The tip of each tapered leaf is clearly faceted - like a fine gem in a ring or pendant.

This hybrid is far more forgiving than its *Pachyphytum* parent; it travels well, seldom losing its leaves and does not scar or bruise easily. A great plant for dish gardens, kids, and beginners! Miles Anderson notes, “This particular hybrid will tolerate more heat and a brighter exposure than *Echeveria*, as well as temperatures of -4°C/25°F for brief periods.” Since it very rarely gets above 80°F or below 60°F in our little piece of paradise, I cannot vouch for this bit of information. Cold and wet is a deadly combination for almost all of our succulents.

All *Pachyphytums* present thick, fat leaves, hence the name. *Pachyphyllum* means thick-leaved in Latin. Fat leaves come in a variety of colors, sizes, and shapes. Notably, *P. viride* has very yellow cylindrical leaves. Large

(typically 3.5" long and 1" wide) waxy green, tapered leaves grow sparsely and asymmetrically from a thick (almost 1" in diameter) stem of *P. fittkaui* giving it a somewhat unnatural appearance, as if it had been “blown-up” or given some giant-producing steroid. Leaves of my *P. hookeri* are a brownish purple, although the description of this species states that the leaves are green - maybe I have a hybrid. I have mailed off a photo to Myron Kimnach, perhaps he can identify it. Leaves of *P. compactum* are a pruinose whitish green with a very distinguishable white nipple at the tip.

A *Pachyphytum* won't hesitate to drop its leaves if jarred or rubbed the wrong way - a survival technique which may work well for perpetuating the species, but makes for lousy show plants! I recently potted a small specimen of *P. compactum* in preparation for this article. I noticed that every fat little leaf that fell off was equipped with a tiny hair root. They depart from the mother plant prepared to grow, wherever fate might toss them.

*Graptopetalum* is a diverse genus with about a dozen species. The name means painted petal referring to the reddish or magenta markings on the lobes of the flowers, and was given to this group by Dr. Rose (Britton & Rose) in 1911. Most *Graptopetalum* species were placed in a wide assortment of genera before landing in this genus *Cotyledon*, *Echeveria*, *Dudleya*, *Byrnesia*, and *Sedum* seem to be the most prevalent. Some *Graptopetalum* species have been moved to other genera (i.e. *Sedum suaveolens* Kimnach and *S. craigii* Clausen). The monotypic genus *Tacitus* is sometimes included, but I have already registered as a “splitter”, and will exclude it from this article. All are found in Mexico; two species, *G. bartramii* and *G. rusbyi* can also be found in Arizona.

*Graptopetalums* have an appearance similar to *echeverias* -fleshy leaves form rosettes either at the end of prostrate stems or clumping on low vertically branched stems. Often it is necessary to view the flower before *Graptopetalums* and their hybrids can be identified. Many *Graptopetalums* more closely resemble a species in some other genera than they do other *Graptopetalum* species. For example, *G. macdougallii* looks like *Sempervivum alba*, and *G. pachyphyllum* closely resembles *Sedum diffusum*.

Leaves can be quite colorful lending to its popularity. *G. rusbyi* forms clumps of stemless powdery rosettes in hues of turquoise, blue and lavender. *G. superbum* forms beautiful, multiple, flat-topped pinkish purple rosettes (about 3" - 4"



across) which grow at rather awkward semi-vertical angles on thick succulent stems (5" to 10" tall). Flowers bloom on many branched stalks in late spring - early summer; most are small and not particularly flashy; white with magenta to red markings. Graptopetalums cannot tolerate intense heat. They do best with afternoon shade. In the wild they are commonly found in rock crevices on north slopes and shaded cliffs at lower elevations. They will tolerate brief periods of frost if kept dry.

× *Graptoveria* cv. Silver Star has a very distinctive appearance. Leaves are tipped with long thread-like filament. This delicate pattern enhances any succulent bowl. Requires some shade to maintain its healthy light green color.

Showing, re-potting, shipping, or moving a *Graptopetalum* can be a very disappointing venture. They do not travel well. Leaves break away with only the slightest touch. New plants grow easily from fallen leaves which may be why plants are so fragile. Leaf disbursement is a highly successful method of asexual reproduction. Intergeneric hybrids are generally more vigorous than their parent plants. They are more apt to remain intact, making them popular and commercially feasible. Additionally, these crosses can tolerate more extreme temperatures.

The most commonly available *Graptopetalum* is *G. paraguayense*. The species first came into cultivation as a volunteer in the glasshouse of Frank Weinberg in New York (1904). History of this species is rather bizarre between 1912 and 1937 it held ten different names under five genera before finally becoming *G. paraguayense* in 1938. There are two recognized subspecies: *paraguayense* has larger grayish violet leaves and *bernalense* (collected in 1979 on Cerro Bernal, Tamaulipas, Mexico by Alfred Lau) has smaller yellowish or whitish green leaves.

Up until now I thought this species was from Paraguay - it is not. So how did it get this name? The answer is simple: ghosts! If you are

interested in this almost supernatural, not quite whole story, see: *Graptopetalum paraguayense: A history and a new subspecies* by Myron Kimmach & Reid Moran; CSSA Journal (U.S.), Vol. 58, March-April 1986. Sometimes the truth is wilder than anything we can make up!

The name "ghost plant" was probably a marketing ploy. Weinberg shared this plant with nurserymen around the world. Rosettes 2" to 4" in diameter form on prostrate stems; thick tapered leaves with a translucent powdery matte coating over variable shades of green, blue and purple sounds ghostly to me! "Mother of Pearl Plant" and "Indian Rock Plant" are common names for *G. paraguayense* hybrids. *Lexicon of Succulent Plants*, 1970 lists five recognized *Graptoveria* hybrids. By now there must be hundreds. Add one × *Graptosedum* "Vera Higgins" (*G. paraguayense* × *Sedum nussbaumerianum*, or *S. rubrotinctum*) for your yellows and you can create a full color spectrum with these hybrids alone. Other bigeneric crosses of *Graptopetalum* include × *Grapsonella* (with *Thompsonella*), × *Graptophytum* (with *Pachyphytum*), × *Lengrapophyllum* (with *Lenophyllum*), and × *Cremnopetalum* (with *Cremnophila*). This is an extremely interesting, evolving genus that deserves more study and recognition. I've only just touched the surface.



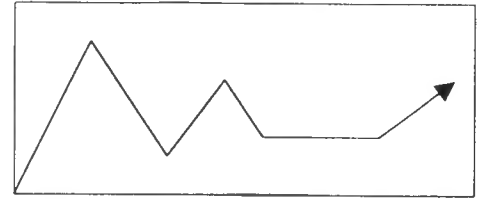
× *Graptoveria* cv. Silver Star

#### References:

- Ray Stephenson, *Sedum Cultivated Stonecrops*, 1994, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, USA.  
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## WHAT'S THE STATUS?

by Tom Knapik

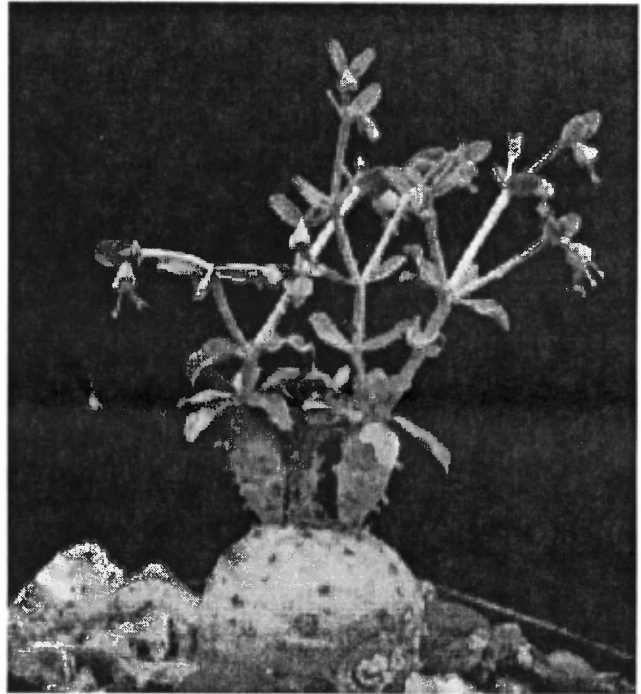


### Topic #3: *Euphorbia globulicaulis* S. Carter

John Lavranos first collected this plant during a 1985 expedition to Somalia. It was published in Volume 4 of the Euphorbia Journal as *Euphorbia* sp. aff. *longituberculosa* Lavranos 23439. In 1990 Susan Carter Holmes named it *E. globulicaulis* for its small, almost spherical stem in the Kew Bulletin v.45: p.655. It is related to *E. longituberculosa* by the tubular structure of the cyathia but differs in its glabrous body and smaller ovate, almost crisped leaf margins.

The type locality is 49 km south of Garowe, Somalia, where *E. globulicaulis* occurs on a limestone slope at an elevation between 725-800 m. It was observed flowering and in fruit during October and November. Susan Carter Holmes believes this may be a short-lived perennial, which may account for its rarity in cultivation. It has been propagated by seed only.

Chuck Hannson of Arid Lands Greenhouses was successful at growing *E. globulicaulis* from seed and offered it on his sales list in the spring of 1992 and then again in the summer of 1994 for \$35. I purchased one that survived for 2 years. Chuck has since lost his plants as well and to his knowledge there are no more plants in cultivation. Perhaps this is a short-lived species, but a beautiful one none the less, that requires our special attention. If you know of any surviving plants in cultivation please contact me at [eyf2000@aol.com](mailto:eyf2000@aol.com).



from volume #4 of the Euphorbia Journal

**Update:** I was contacted by Kelly Griffin regarding topic #2, *Ferocactus lindsayi*. Kelly, Dylan Hannon, and Brian Kemble visited the state of Michoacan, Mexico last year. Kelly writes, "As for *Ferocactus lindsayi*, we saw quite a few plants early last September. They were just beginning to push buds through the areoles. The plants were rather petite for *Ferocactus*. They were the size of softballs to basketballs and the spines were fewer and smaller than the species we see in Baja and Anza-Borrego. They were growing on very rocky steep areas above the dam (Presa de Infierno) in Michoacan. I would not suspect that they were endangered, but they were not far from the area where *Backebergia militaris* grows and I believe it is still listed as endangered and clearly it wasn't, as it occurs in far greater numbers (at least from what I saw). I think it may be that it is not in cultivation because no one has been there to collect seeds at the right time or perhaps it is because the species is really not all that spectacular. I did not see the flower so maybe there is still hope for some thrill! It is definitely a different one though, both in where it grows and what it looks like". Thanks for the information Kelly!

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