

# Espinas y Flores

BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

Vol. XVI, No. 5

May 1981

## May Meeting

Saturday, May 9, 1981

1:30 pm

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

"Cacti in Color"

by Mark S. Donnell, M.D.

Mark Donnell, a member of our Society, an amateur photographer and a fellow collector will give a slide show on cacti in flower. He has taken pictures of Peter Sharp's collection, Huntington Botanical Gardens' and his own collection. This will be a good program and one that was requested in the interest survey.

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We will celebrate our 20th Anniversary at the May Meeting  
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## Cactus-of-the-Month

Loxanthocereus      Backeberg

F. C. Thrombley

Loxanthocereus (lŏx-ăn-thrŏ-sē-rē-ŭs)  
Cereus Group

A genus of slender-stemmed, columnar plants erect to decumbent. The ribs are slender to tuberculate. The flowers are various shades of red and the opening is funnelform. The fruits are relatively small with black seeds. The spines vary in color from yellow-brown, grey-brown to purple-brown. The native habitat is in the South American country of Peru, from 100 foot to the 10,000 foot elevation.

In general they are a very handsome species and are grown for their attractive formation and spine colours. They rarely exceed 5 foot in height (in habitat) with stems varying from 2 to 3 inches in diameter. If grown from seed under ideal conditions they would flower in approximately twenty years.

Cultivation of these plants is not difficult, but they are slow growers. They respond to an open compost to allow for good drainage and probably do best with a fibrous leafmold as the base for the compost. When we discuss cultivation we generally mean pot culture and this is no exception, however, Loxanthocereus should do much better in our gardens in San Diego County. They develop better and faster with a free root run and they can be grown from our coast to the desert. They can be watered freely in the hot weather and will take the coastal fog or dampness with no adverse effects. Certainly a good plant to grow on a rocky ledge where a decumbent plant could be appreciated.

The genus Loxanthocereus was created by Curt Backeberg and is one of the genus that has been placed under the Borzicactus umbrella. See the Borzicactus article in the January 1981 issue of Espinas Y Flores. Further, most authors do not recognize Loxanthocereus as a separate genus and describe most of the species under the genus Haageocereus, which was also created by Curt Backeberg.

Loxanthocereus acanthurus was chosen by Backeberg as the type of species for his genus. Fredrick Vaupel described this species in 1913 and named it Cereus acanthurus. Britton & Rose placed it in their genus Binghamia in 1923 and most authors place it in the genus Haageocereus. For the collector, who is not a botanist, this becomes confusing. To make up ones mind as to who is right is beyond my scope of understanding. However, I do like Backeberg's descriptions and the reasons he puts forth.

### Reference Used:

Backeberg, Curt. 1977, Cactus Lexicon, Blandford Press, England

Barthlott, Wilhelm 1979, Cacti, Stanly Thornes, England

Borg, J 1976, Cacti, Blandford Press, England

Britton & Rose 1937, The Cactaceae, Dover Publication, N.Y.C.

## MAY SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH

### The DIDIEREACEAE

Alluaudia  
Alluaudiopsis  
Decarya  
Didierea

Until recently botanists have had a hard time finding a proper 'place' to put this group of peculiar and controversial plants. At present they have decided on an area between Portulacaceae and Cactaceae. Yes, you read it right; Between succulents and cacti! They are considered succulents, especially in the juvenile forms, but they hold many of the characteristics of cacti as well.

All of the genera are native to Madagascar, have small round to oblong leaves, and have unisexual flowers (the plants are either male or female). Except for the red flowered Alluaudiopsis marnieriana, all flowers are whitish-yellow. Most of the plants have an unusual growth habit. First the juvenile plants form a thicket (like a mess of spined caterpillars), and from this thicket rises the main tree stems, then the thicket dies and only the main stem remains.

#### ALLUAUDIOPSIS: two species.

A. marnieriana, A. fiherensis Both species form a low spiny bush.

#### ALLUAUDIA : Six (?) species.

A. ascendens; Tallest of all plants in this family. Plant will reach 30 feet or more.

A. comosa; Three foot main stem branches in a 'V' form. The many secondary stems form a flat cushion like crown on the 24 foot tree.

A. duocosa; Short trunk with many branched stems to 24 feet. Small leaves very short lived so plant looks leafless.

A. humbertii; Bush-like tree to 21 feet tall. Very thin whip-like branches.

A. montagnacii; Handsome. May be natural hybrid between A. procera and A. ascendens.

A. procera; After bushy juvenile stage, one or more main trunks rise fifteen feet into the air. Then another ten feet or more of thin arching branches top the main trunk.

#### DIDIERIA: Two species

D. madagariensis; Most unusual and 'wanted' plant. Club-like main stem branches into elegant many stemmed crown. Up to 25 feet tall.

D. trollii; 20-24 foot stems develop from dense thicket of juvenile form.

#### DECARYIA MADAGASCARIENSIS

Monotypic. Common name 'Zig-Zag' bush perfectly describes growth. Stems grow anyway except straight.

For more information; Read series of articles by Dr. Werner Rauh 'Xerophytic Vegetation of S.W. Madagascar' in Cactus and Succulent Journal (U. S.) Vol. 49 & 50.

Illustrated Encyclopedia of Succulents; by G. Rowley

Lexicon of Succulent Plants; by H. Jacobson

Safer Agro-Chem's Insecticidal Soap --  
A New Product

Dr. R.E. Monroe

Although soaps have been used as surfactants with organic insecticides or used as an insecticide per se, most were not really too effective nor were they scientifically developed. Recently, however, Canadian scientists have developed and thoroughly researched a new soap product which has insecticidal activity and yet is perfectly safe to use (you may wash your hands with it!) and is environmentally safe because it is completely biodegradable. The material contains the potassium salts of ca. three fatty acids which are the most bioactive against insect pests; quality control during production assures a continuous, safe effective material which kills aphids, mealybugs, whitefly, soft scale, earwigs and spider mite.

This material has been tested on cacti of several species, asclepiads, Pachapodium, Echeveria, Greenovia, Sedum, Agave, Aloe and several other genera and species of succulent plants and after several weeks no ill effects could be found.

The positive aspects of this material is that it is non-polluting, is safe to use, cleans the plant, will not kill lady beetles, parasitic wasps or honeybees and it leaves no odor or telltale residue except normal water spots (minor).

The negative aspects of this material is that it is a direct contact insecticide and leaves no residue (will kill only when sprayed directly on the pest insect), has no systemic action (root mealybugs will not be affected, but a soil drench will kill these as well), is expensive to use and the high concentration required (two tablespoons per quart of water) uses up the material rather quickly.

Regardless, the positive aspects outweigh the negative by far and I endorse this new insecticidal soap without reservation.

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Wanted--A New Editor

Because of other commitments, I informed our President, Rick Latimer, that I would not continue as editor after the June meeting.

We need a member to come forth and fill this highly challenging position as editor of Espinas y Flores. Interested persons should contact Rick or one of the Board of Directors.

It would be appropriate at this time to thank all those people on the different committees and their associates who have made my job easier, and the Board of Directors who allowed me to serve in this capacity.

In addition, I would like to thank those persons whose contributions were so essential for the success of Espinas y Flores for the past year and a half. They are Rick Latimer, Madelyn Lee, Ron Monroe, Frank Thrombley, Paul and Joan Johnson, Beverly Kirkegaard, Shirley Berry, Barbara Anderson, Robert Kirkpatrick, Martin Mooney and Julianne Rice.

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS:  
REVIEW OF PLANT TAXA FOR LISTING AS  
ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES.

Dr. R.E. Monroe

The Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently published a current list of those plant taxa native to the United States which are being considered for listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Federal Register, Dec. 15, 1980). This list includes over 3000 species of native plants and the following is a synopsis of the cacti:

I. Taxa currently listed:

Ancistrocactus tobuschii, endangered  
Coryphantha minima, endangered  
C. ramillosa, threatened  
C. sneedii v. leei, threatened  
C. sneedii v. sneedii, endangered  
Echinocactus horizonthalonius v. nicholii, endangered  
Echinocereus engelmannii v. purpureus, endangered  
E. kuenzleri, endangered  
E. lloydii, endangered  
E. reichenbachii v. albertii, endangered  
E. triglochidiatus v. arizonicus, endangered  
E. triglochidiatus v. inermis, endangered  
E. viridiflorus v. davisii, endangered  
Neolloydia mariposensis, threatened  
Pediocactus bradyi, endangered  
P. knowltonii, endangered  
P. peeblesianus v. peeblesianus, endangered  
P. sileri, endangered  
Sclerocactus glaucus, threatened  
S. mesae-verdae, threatened  
S. wrightiae, endangered

II. Taxa currently under review --

- a. Where no. 1 are taxa which presently has sufficient information on hand to support the biological appropriateness of their being listed as endangered or threatened, or
- b. Where no. 2 are taxa for which information now in possession indicates the probable appropriateness of listing as endangered or threatened:

Cereus eriphorus v. fragrans (1), Florida  
C. gracilis v. aboriginum (1), Florida  
C. gracilis v. simpsonii (1), Florida  
C. greggii (2), Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas  
C. portoricensis (1), Puerto Rico  
C. robinii v. deeringii (1), Florida  
Cochisea robbinsorum (2), Arizona  
Coryphantha dasyacantha v. varicolor (2), Texas  
C. duncanii (1), New Mexico, Texas  
C. histeri (2), Texas

C. recurvata (1), Arizona  
C. scheeri v. robustispina (1), Arizona, Mexico  
C. scheeri v. uncinata (1), Texas  
C. strobiliformis v. durispina (1), Texas, Mexico  
C. sulcata v. nickelsiae (2), Texas, Mexico  
C. vivipara v. alversonii (2), Arizona, California  
C. vivipara v. rosea (2), Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah  
Echinocereus blankii v. angusticeps (2), Texas  
E. chloranthus v. neocapillus (1), Texas  
E. engelmannii v. howei (1), California  
E. engelmannii v. munzii (2), California  
E. ledingii (2), Texas  
E. reichenbachii v. chisosensis (1), Texas  
E. reichenbachii v. fitchii (2), Texas  
E. rusanthus (2), Texas  
E. viridiflorus v. correllii (2), Texas  
Ferocactus acanthodes v. acanthodes (2), Arizona, California, Nevada  
F. eastwoodiae (1), Arizona  
F. viridescens (1), California  
Mammillaria oresteria (2), Arizona  
M. thornberi (1), Arizona  
Neolloydia erectocentra v. acunensis (1), Arizona  
N. erectocentra v. erectocentra (1), Arizona  
N. goutii (1), Texas  
N. warnockii (2), Texas  
Opuntia arenaria (1), New Mexico, Texas  
O. basilaris v. brachyclada (1), California  
O. basilaris v. longiareolata (2), Arizona  
O. basilaris v. treleasei (1), Arizona, California  
O. basilaris v. woodburyi (2), Utah  
O. bigelovii v. hoffmannii (2), California  
O. imbricata v. argentea (2), Texas  
O. munzii (1), California  
O. parryi v. serpentina (1), California  
O. phaeacantha v. flavispina (2), Arizona  
O. phaeacantha v. majavensis (2), Arizona, California  
O. phaeacantha v. superbospina (2), Arizona  
O. spinosissima (2), Florida, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands  
O. strigil v. flexospina (1), Texas  
O. triacantha (2), Guadalupe, Lesser Antilles  
O. whipplei v. multigeniculata (2), Arizona, Nevada, Utah  
O. wigginsii (2), California  
Pediocactus despainii (1), Utah  
P. papyracanthus (1), Arizona, New Mexico  
P. paradinei (1), Arizona  
P. peeblesonianus v. fickeiseniae (1), Arizona  
P. winkleri (1), Utah  
Rhipsalis baicifera (2), Florida  
Sclerocactus polyancistrus (1), Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah  
S. pubispinus (1), Nevada, Utah  
S. sp. nova. (2), Utah  
S. whipplei v. heilii (1), New Mexico  
S. whipplei v. reevesii (2), New Mexico  
Thelocactus bicolor v. flavidispinus (2), Texas



Also Listed:

- Dudleya traskiae, endangered (currently listed)  
Agave arizonica (1), Arizona  
A. chisoensis (1), Texas  
A. eggersoana (2), Virgin Islands  
A. parviflora (1), Arizona  
A. schottii v. treleasei (2), Arizona  
A. toumeyana v. bella (1), Arizona  
A. utahensis v. eborispina (2), California, Nevada  
A. utahensis v. nevadensis (2), California, Nevada  
Dudleya bettinae (1), California  
D. blochmaniae subsp. insularis (1), California  
D. brevifolia (1), California  
D. candelabrum (1), California  
D. eymosa subsp. marcenscens (1), California  
D. densiflora (1), California  
D. multicaulis (1), California  
D. nesiotica (1), California  
D. parva (1), California  
D. saxosa subsp. saxosa (1), California  
D. stolonifera (1), California  
D. variegata (1), California  
D. virens (1), California  
D. viscida (1), California  
Nolina arenicola (2), Texas  
N. atopocarpa (1), Florida  
N. brittoniana (2), Florida  
N. intersata (1), California

## PROGRAM FOR THE JULY MEETING

A mini-show of ones favorite plant is planned. This show is for all members and will be a "warm-up" for the August 29-30 societies annual show. For all who participate it will be educational as well as fun and there will be prizes.

## RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

1. The show will consist of two groups of people: First Group will be made up of all new members, members who have not participated in past SDC&SS shows and members who have not won blue or first place ribbons in the past SDC&SS shows. Second Group will be made up of the members who have won blue or first place ribbons in past SDC&SS shows.
2. Judges will not be allowed to enter plants in the show. There will be two sets of judges, one set for each group. Their names will be published in the June bulletin.
3. All participants will bring one cactus or succulent plant only, to enter the show. The size or species does not matter. Bring your best plant with the intention of winning.
4. All plants must be labeled. The genus and species should be on one side of the label and your name on the opposite side.
5. There will be a first, second and third place winner in each group. The two groups will not compete against each other. There will be prizes for each winner.

For the July meeting all members should bring a bag lunch with them (refreshments to be served at noon instead of normal break) and enjoy the park.

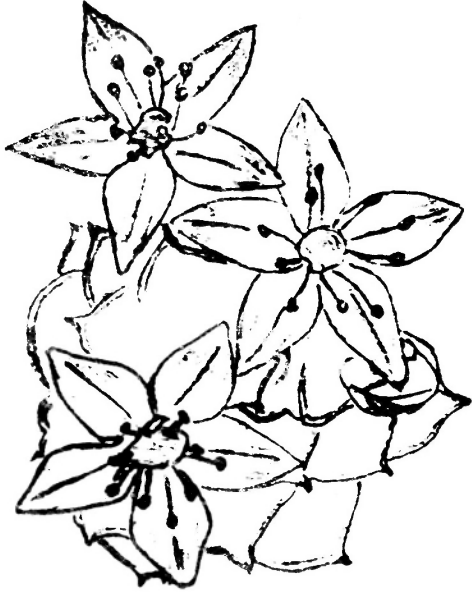
## THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS BY TIME

- 11:00 AM - doors open.
- 11:00 AM to 12:00 noon - leave plants at meeting room.
- 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM - members eat and enjoy themselves.
- 11:45 AM to 12:30 PM - committee arranges plants.
- 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM - judges pick winners.
- 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM -
  - A) meeting comes to order.
  - B) judges announce the winners.
  - C) two of the judges will discuss why the winners were chosen.
  - D) the floor is open to the members for questioning the judges and general discussion.
- 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM - the annual plant auction will be held. This special event should not be missed.
- 4:00 PM - meeting is ajourned.

Plan to attend the July meeting - compete and enjoy yourselves.



Tacitus bellus Moran



Questions: 1. Who first discovered this succulent? 2. Who first described this species? 3. Define the name Tacitus bellus. 4. What is the common name? 5. This plant belongs to what family? 6. Where was Tacitus bellus first discovered? 7. Give a general description of this species. 8. How can this plant be propagated? 9. How can this succulent be cultivated?

Answers: 1. In 1974 this small succulent was discovered by a missionary working in Mexico, Alfred Lau, who has written a series of travelogs for the CSSA Journal.

2. Dr. Reid Moran (San Diego Museum of Natural History). He placed this plant into the monotypic genus--Tacitus bellus. 3. Beautiful without words. 4. Mexican Jewel Flower. 5. It is considered to be the most showiest in the Crassulaceae family. 6. It was first discovered in the Sierra Madre on a distant canyon wall close to the Chihuahua-Sonora boundry. 7. Resembling graptopetalums & echeverias, this rosette is a small clustering succulent with large (about one to 1 1/4 inch) 3 to thirteen perpendicular, sparkling carmine-red, star-shaped flowers on each plant. In addition, yellow anthers are conspicuous. 8. a. Seeds. b. offsets. c. leaves d. Tissue culture has been very successful in test tubes but after placing the tiny plants in greenhouse conditions, they do not reestablish well. 9. Place in a warm greenhouse during the winter months (50°F). Using a soil with good drainage, water more frequently starting in spring. Fertilize with a low nitrogen, high-blooming fertilizer during the growing season. In April, before Tacitus bellus starts to form its buds, place the succulent in a warm and sunny location in your greenhouse. A warm, sunny window sill may do just as well.

Reference:

Kimnach, Myron. New Succulents from the Huntington. Winter 1978-1979. Pacific Horticulture. pages 36-37.

Kimnach, Myron & G. Lyons. Offering of Plants of the International Succulent Institute, Inc., 1978. CSSA Journal Vol L. March-April. pages 87-92.

Reiter Jr., V. Tacitus bellus. Winter 1980-1981. Pacific Horticulture. page 7.

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We wish Bertha Landers a speedy & early recovery from a recent accident.

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New Publication

Desert Plants. Published by The University of Arizona for the Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum. Volume 2, Number 4, Winter 1980-81, 41 pages with 10 color and 10 black and white photographs and 12 drawings. In this quarterly magazine are excellent contributions by the following people in the field of botany on Propagation Techniques for Desert Plants (Part I of a minisymposium): Kent C. Newland, Sarah Ives, Gene E. Joseph & Mark A. Dimmitt, Marc Mittleman, R.E. Foster, Carol Scannell, W.R. Feldman, Frank S. Crosswhite and Chuck Hansen. Some of the subjects covered were: The Baggie<sup>R</sup> Method of Cactus and Succulent Seed Germination; Growing Boojum Trees from Seed; Propagation of Certain Semi-succulent Shrubs of the Sonoran Desert; Germination of Agave, Yucca, Nolina and Similar Plants; A Radical Departure in Propagating Prickly Pear Cacti; Results of Germination Enhancement Trials with Certain Xerophytes; Mist-House Propagation of Succulent Euphorbia Species; Propagation and Establishment of Welwitschia mirabilis. In addition, there is an Arboretum Progress report; Living with Desert Plants Through the Year (articles written by different readers); Catastrophic Freezes in the Sonoran Desert by Janice E. Bowers; Ferns and Fern Allies of the Garden Canyon Area of the Huachuca Mountains, Cochise County, Arizona by George Yatskievych and two book reviews: Plants of Deep Canyon & the Central Coachella Valley, California, by Jan G. Zabriskie and Dry Lands (Man and Plants) by Robert Adams, Marina Adams, Alan Willens and Ann Willens. On the back cover is an excellent article on The Story of Jimson Weed (Jamestown Weed) Datura stramonium (its effects and uses). Desert Plants is geared more to the interest of the nurseryman and hobbyist and the serious student and professional may find this magazine deficient. It can be purchased from Desert Plants, Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum, P.O. Box AB, Superior, Arizona 85273 for \$10.00 yearly membership and in the very near future the library will be ordering back issues and the present issue for member use. Reviewed by Marcia Monroe.

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Special Announcements

San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation Show Schedule in Balboa Park (Casa del Prado)  
San Diego, California, 92101:

May 10	San Diego Epiphyllum Show	Sun: 11 am-5 pm
May 16 & 17	San Diego Geranium Show	Sat: 12-5 pm Sun 10 am-5 pm
May 30 & 31	Heartland African Violet Show	Sat: 12-5 pm Sun 11 am-5 pm
June 6 & 7	Exotic Plant Show	Sat: & Sun: 11 am-5 pm

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Green Thumb Show Schedule-----at the Wild Animal Park:

May 16 & 17	San Diego Bromeliad Soc. Show & Sale	Sat: & Sun: 9 am-6:30 pm
May 30 & 31	San Diego Fuchsia Soc. Show & Sale	Sat: & Sun: 9 am-6:30 pm
June 6 & 7	North County Rose Society Show	Sat: & Sun: 9 am-6:30 pm

## News of Interest

If available, the Plant-of-the-Month (this month Loxanthrocereus, Didierea, Alluaudiopsis, Alluaudia and Decarya) plus other plant taxa will be for sale at each meeting at the "Plant Sales" table.

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Those members, who need a ride or can take an extra passenger to the Convention, should contact Martin Mooney to make further arrangements.

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Martin Mooney will be selling 6" by 4" Desmond Cole Lithops prints for CSSA. Each print is numbered and identified and the type specimen and location is given. These prints are sold in three sets (10 prints in each set) and one set is \$10. Members may purchase these pictures at the next meeting or at the CSSA Convention from Martin.

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Those members, who ordered name tags at the last meeting, should pick them up at the May meeting.

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We welcome this month the following new members:

Floretta & Eugene Warner, Chula Vista  
Bertha Landers, Valley Center  
Steve Redding, Valley Center  
Evelyn Diamond, San Diego  
Jack W. Schlotte, Jamul

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A reminder that the following members have signed up to provide refreshments for the May meeting:

Rick Latimer, Jan Miller, Alberta Widen, Vangie Englert, Larry Lovell, Douglas Diener, Catherine Engel, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Clark, Jean Hapeman, Roxanne Rayburn, Floretta Warner.

We need volunteers to clean up after the regalement. Contact Nancy Roth, Refreshment Chairwoman.

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Winners of the "Bragging Plant" competition for April were:

1st: Mamilloopsis senilis - Joan Johnson  
2nd: Rebutia aureiflora - Ron Monroe  
3rd: Echinocereus davisii - Joan Johnson

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We would like to give a special thanks to Gerald and Eleanor Dice, Joan Johnson and Martin Mooney for their plant donations at the "Plant Sale" table.

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-----Deadline for the June issue is May 28-----

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Officers

President - Rick Latimer		
5990 Lake Murray Blvd., La Mesa, CA. 92041		463-1655
1st V. Pres. - Frank Thrombly		
16333 Roca Drive, San Diego, CA. 92128		487-5544
2nd V. Pres - John Pasek		
10283 Covina Place, San Diego, CA. 92126		271-0515
Recording Secretary - Beverly Kirkegaard		
10009 Bonnie Vista, La Mesa, CA 92041		<del>463-2001</del>
Treasurer - Joan Johnson		
3599 Via Zara, Fallbrook, CA. 92028		728-7317
Corresponding Secretary - Anna Cornett		
3905 Ibis St., San Diego, CA. 92103		291-6426
Immediate Past Pres. - Tom Hamecher		
996 Terrace Crest, El Cajon, CA. 92020		440-6245

Board of Directors

Elizabeth Athy, Shirley Berry, Dr. Ronald Monroe  
Martin Mooney, Lee Phelps & Phyllis Flechsig

Committees

Activities:

Audit: James Berry

Conservation: Dr. Ronald Monroe

Education:

Cacti - Frank Thrombly and Dr. Ronald Monroe

Succulents - Madelyn Lee and Dr. Leroy Phelps

Exhibits:

Bragging Table - Shirley Berry

V.I.P. (Very Important Plants) Table - Sandra Buck

Historian: Rick Latimer

Library: Elizabeth Athy, Ruth Nelson and Caroline Miller

Membership: Joan Johnson

Open House: Martin Mooney

Plant Exchange Table: John Roth

Plants & Supplies Table: John Pasek and Gerald and Eleanor Dice

Programs: Frank Thrombly

Publication: Marcia Monroe (ph. 461-8444)

Reception: Rose D'Attilio and Perlso Lewis

Regalemt: Nancy Roth

Representatives:

Balboa Park Desert Garden - John Pasek

Quail Botanical Garden - Audrey Johnson

S. D. Botanical Garden Foundation -

S. D. Floral Association - Verna Pasek

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

Marcia J. Monroe  
5635 Severin Drive  
La Mesa, California  
92041

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing cacti, other succulents and exotic plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 1:30 pm in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held after the general meetings. Annual dues are \$7.00 per family. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are 60¢.