

Espinas y Flores

MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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

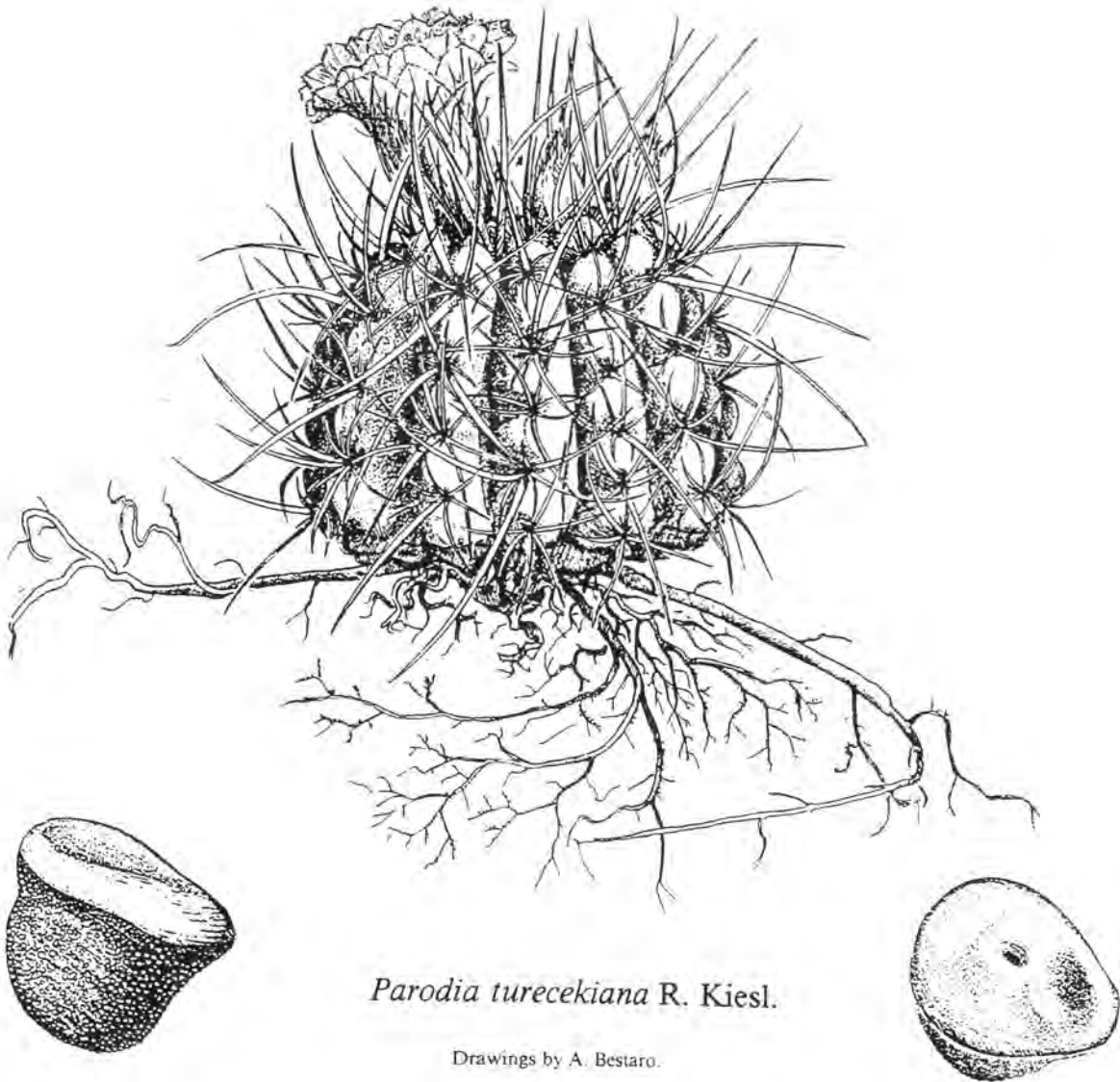
VOLUME XXXI NUMBER TWO, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1996 @ 1:00PM



CACTI OF ARGENTINA

FEBRUARY PROGRAM WITH VICTOR TURECEK

Mr. Mercurial, Victor Turecek of Los Angeles, will present a slide show program on the Cacti of Argentina. Victor was recently honored when Roberto Kiesling named a new species nova, *Parodia turecekiana* for him. Victor works as a bi-lingual high school science teacher in Los Angeles. He maintains an extensive cacti and succulent collection, and is an active participant in multiple society events throughout Southern California. Victor is a highly qualified National Cactus & Succulent judge. Each summer (Argentinean winter) he travels to South America where he continues his botanical research and explores many other aspects of natural history. A knowledgeable and amusing speaker — this should be a great program.



Parodia turecekiana R. Kiesl.

Drawings by A. Bestaro.



Our cover: A magnificent portrait of an Aloe species (*Lomatophyllum?*) taken in Madagascar by Gian Paola Barbieri and published in the Harvill Press book "MADAGASCAR", c.1995. Professor Werner Rauh writes in **Succulent and Xerophytic Plants of Madagascar**, "The main difference between the genera *Aloe* and *Lomatophyllum* is in the anatomy of their fruits. *Aloe* species have dry capsules which open to release the seeds. *Lomatophyllum* species have fleshy berries which fall to the ground without opening. This is not a sufficient taxonomic characteristic to justify two separate genera. Growth habitat, floral structure, pollen morphology and chromosome numbers are the same in both genera. The 12 species of *Lomatophyllum* could, therefore, be united into the genus *Aloe*.

Ⓢ Sorry, the list of January's Brag Table winners has not reached the editors in time for publication. We hope to publish it along with the February Brag Table results in the next issue — if you know the names of the plants and their people, please write them down for us — so we can acknowledge all who take the time and care to participate.

The Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society will host the **1996 CSSA Mid-American Regional Conference in Denver, Colorado on June 21-22, 1996** at the Executive Tower Inn in downtown Denver. Panayoti Kelaidis, curator of the Denver Botanic Garden's rock Alpine Garden will speak at the Conference banquet and several prominent members of the cactus & succulent community have been invited to lecture; a plant show and sale will be held. Attendance is restricted to 125. If you are interested send your request to: Mr. Chris Lyke, 985 S. High Street, Denver, CO 80209. A detailed schedule with a registration form will be sent to you.

We were unsure of exact dates when we published the 1996 calendar in January — here are a couple of dates you should mark on your calendar now:

April 13-14: South Coast Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale at the South Coast Botanic Gardens on Crenshaw — Palos Verdes Peninsula; info: Dick Hulett (310)832-2262.

May 4-5: San Diego Epiphyllum Sale at the Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego — 10am - 5pm. Then on the following Sunday, **May 12th: San Diego Epi Show** — Mother's Day. Contact show chairman Don Francis @ (619)276-0109.

July 6-7 — CSSA National Show at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, set-up on the 4th & 5th. Plant sale July 5-7. For info: Duke Benadom (805)526-8620 or Joe Clements (909)624-2282.

August 17 & 18: The Eleventh Annual InterCity Cactus & Succulent Show — Los Angeles State & County Arboretum in Arcadia. Don't miss this fantastic show! Set-up starts August 14th; Show Banquet, Auction & Awards Ceremony on Saturday the 17th. Info: Woody Minnich (805)944-2784.

October 19-20: Third Annual Winter Show of the San Gabriel Valley C&S Society at the Huntington Botanical Gardens — Show Dinner Saturday the 19th; info: David Tufenkian (818)794-3082.



February 19th is Floyd Gable's 93rd Birthday!
Happy Birthday Young Man!



SDCSS MONTHLY BENEFIT PLANT DRAWING

A new plan to add super quality plants to our member's collections and bring in a few extra dollars for the Society's coffers is off and running. As a non-profit organization, we are not allowed to hold a raffle. However, we understand that we may hold benefit events for the good of the Society. Each month we plan to offer a small selection of choice plants, either purchased or donated from quality growers. Our Plant Sales Chairwomen, Elizabeth (Betty) Athy is our hardworking plant procurer. Betty will be scouring the globe for those exquisitely collectible plants, that we just can't resist. Donations for the benefit drawing are \$1 per ticket, or six (6) for \$5. All donations over the cost of the plants benefit the SDC&SS by helping keep operating expenses down, such as the cost of printing & postage, offering good programs, and maintaining a wonderful library. We are hoping these benefits will help us purchase a much needed portable lapel microphone.

Many, many thanks to the following members who donated plants for our January Benefit Drawing:

Martin and Pat Mooney for the *Welwitschia mirabilis*, and **Elizabeth Athy** for the *Cheiridopsis purpurata*, *Frithia pulchra*, and *Gibbaeum dispar*.

Also, we are grateful to **Jim Kempworth** of C & J Nursery, for allowing the SDC&SS to purchase the beautiful *Mammillaria lauii* crest from his private collection.

— Kay Quijada



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Medical Center
3350 La Jolla Village Drive
San Diego CA 92161

January 10, 1996

In Reply Refer To: 664/135

Dear Mr. Buckner:

Once again we thank the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society and their members for the generous donation of plants for our V. A. Bazaar.

Our shoppers look forward to buying and learning about cactus each year.

The monies raised at the Bazaar goes to help our patients. It lets them know we remember and appreciate their selfless sacrifices for us all.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Stewart".

John A. Stewart
Dir. Voluntary Resource Management

Page 4

AN EMBARRASSING MOMENT IN MY LIFE
Our Photo Safari in the Borrego Desert Ended in a Very Peculiar Way
by Brunhilde Scheffler

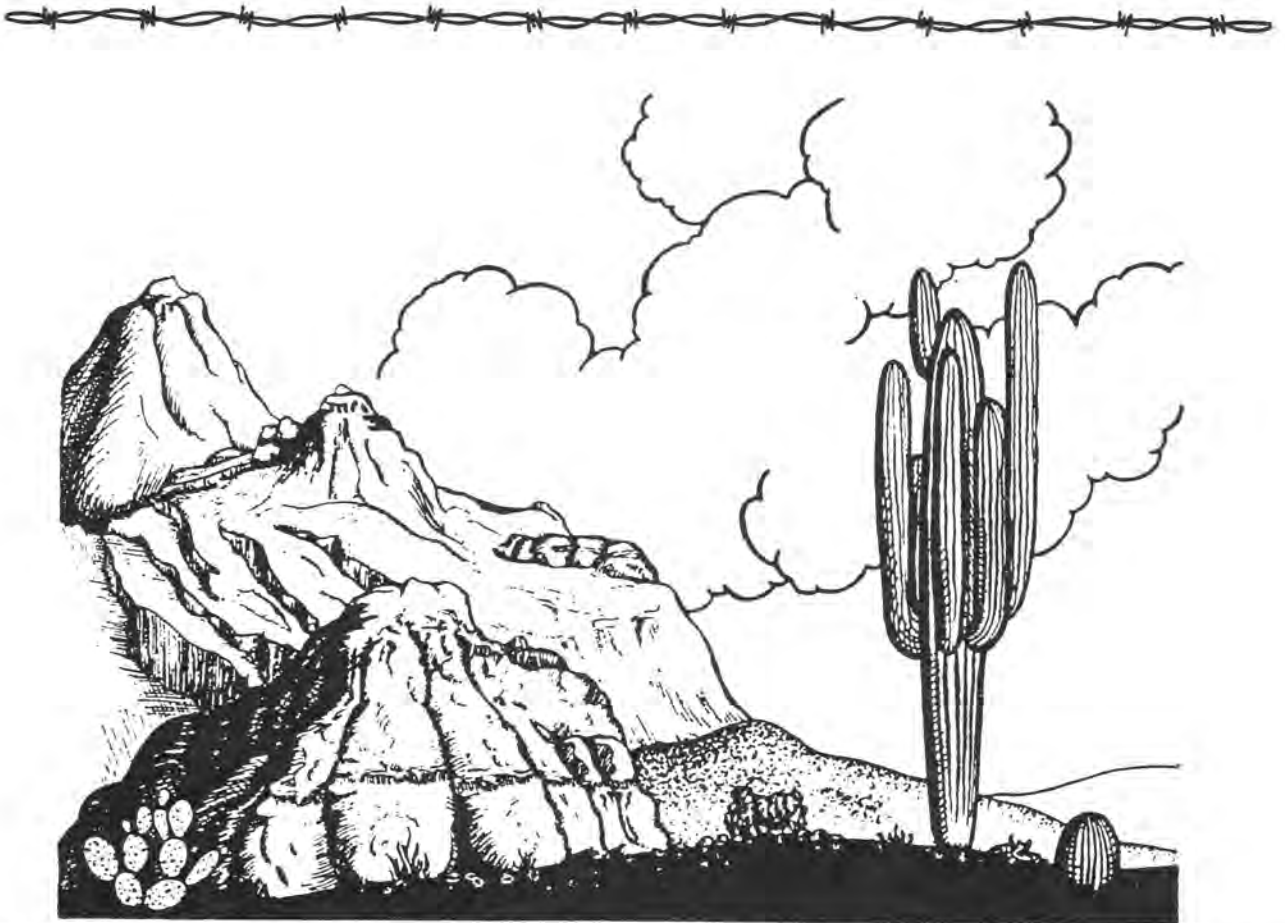
It was one of those gorgeous spring days, when the sun dances over rocks and flowers. The rain had washed the world. The air was sparkling and fragrant from a thousand flowers. A "Sleeping Beauty" had come to life.

In order to see, hear, and appreciate this land - one must get out of the car, wear good walking shoes and explore. This is what we did, walking through ravines, and up into the hills through the washes. We did not know where to look first and I just shot away with my camera. The *Opuntias*, Barrel Cactus, and *Cerrii* often bloom under shading bushes. Ocotillos and Century Plants, Agaves shoot their flowers into the sun. I was after one of the white candle-like flower stalks, a splendid one. Higher up it silently prayed to the brilliant sky.

My camera ready, I positioned myself to compose the picture. I did not watch what was under my feet, or behind me. When the black box clicked, I tripped over a rock and fell into a jumping Cholla - a nice "soft" seat, so to say.

The spines of this species have barbs - mean ones! They went right through my light-weight summer shorts. My son and my daughter-in-law used pincers to pull these meanies out, so that I could sit in the car on the way home.

The premise is: No fun for nothing - one pays for everything!



CACTUS OF THE MONTH

CORYPHANTHA

BY RIC NEWCOMER

Although the *Mammillaria* Society was set up in 1960 with the object of studying primarily *Mammillaria*, it has never confined itself exclusively to that genus.

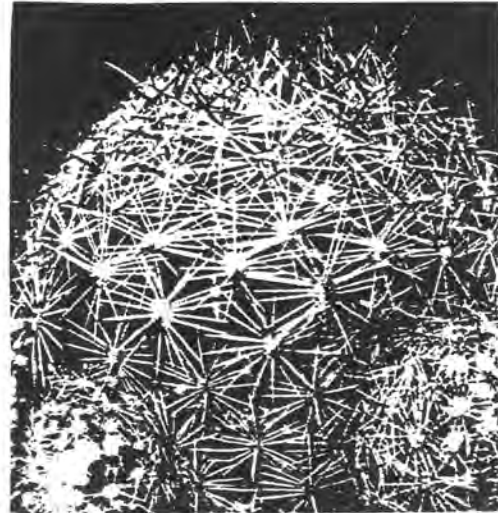
Such closely associated genera as *Coryphantha*, *Thelocactus* and *Escobaria* have always been considered as falling within the Society's remit. This breadth of operation no doubt owes its origins to the generally accepted classification of that of Britton and Rose, as set out in their major work, "The Cactaceae" published around 1920. They classified a large group of mainly globular plants coming from Mexico and the U.S.A. as *Coryphanthanae*, which included *Mammillaria* (for which they preferred the name *Neomammillaria*, now discounted).

Thus for many years it was possible to talk about plants which were *Coryphanthanae* other than *Mammillaria*, a term which included in addition to the above, an assortment of mainly minor genera.

Coryphantha is a large genus of globular or short cylindrical tubercled cacti with some 50-80 species, depending on the particular botanical concept that one chooses to follow. Although predominately Mexican, their range extends from southern Mexico to southern Canada, and in the process, covers a variety of differing habitats.

To quote John Pilbeam, "The genus *Coryphantha* is poorly represented in many plant collections, but given a few years patience, these slow growing, undemanding cacti will reward you with stunning spination, copious amounts of snowy-white wool, and glorious flowers.

Coryphantha are sadly neglected by growers, but have all the attributes generally sought after, with wonderful spination, wool-like snow caps on the Rocky Mountains, spines that are boot-proof, and beautiful flowers. What more are you looking for in your cacti collections?! Alright, so you have to wait



C. vivipara var. *bisbeeana*



Coryphantha andreae

CACTUS OF THE MONTH - CORYPHANTHA BY RIC NEWCOMER

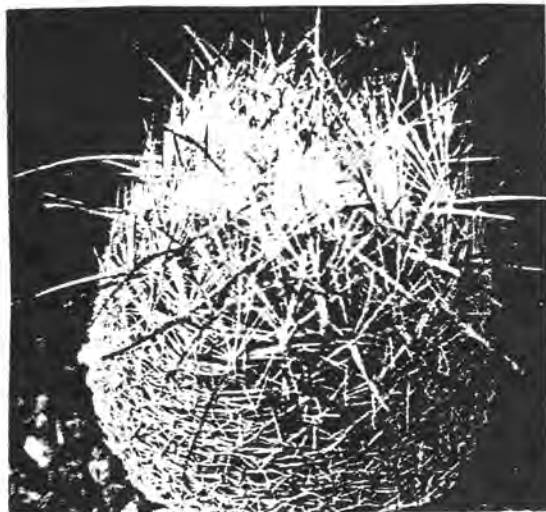
a few years for those blooms opposed to some of the more popular genera. But like some of the other savored delights of life, they are worth waiting for, and not all are yellow. Surprised? Although this is the predominant color in the genus. I was, however, surprised to see in the Cites Cactaceae checklist that only 41 *Coryphantha* as named are recognized as good species.

The generic name means "bearing flowers in the crown". The flowers are large for tubercled cacti, predominantly yellow in various shades, but there are a few exceptions. The flowers are borne in the axil at the base of tubercles in the crown of the plant which is often, but not always, full of wool. *Coryphanthas* do not come into rapid growth in spring; they are at their most active in mid-summer producing their flowers between then and the end of the season. The genus is characterized by light brown—occasionally black—seed with a soft thin shell, and by greenish fruit with a watery sap. One group of *Coryphantha* inhabit the more desert areas, growing in open situations and are strongly and densely spined.

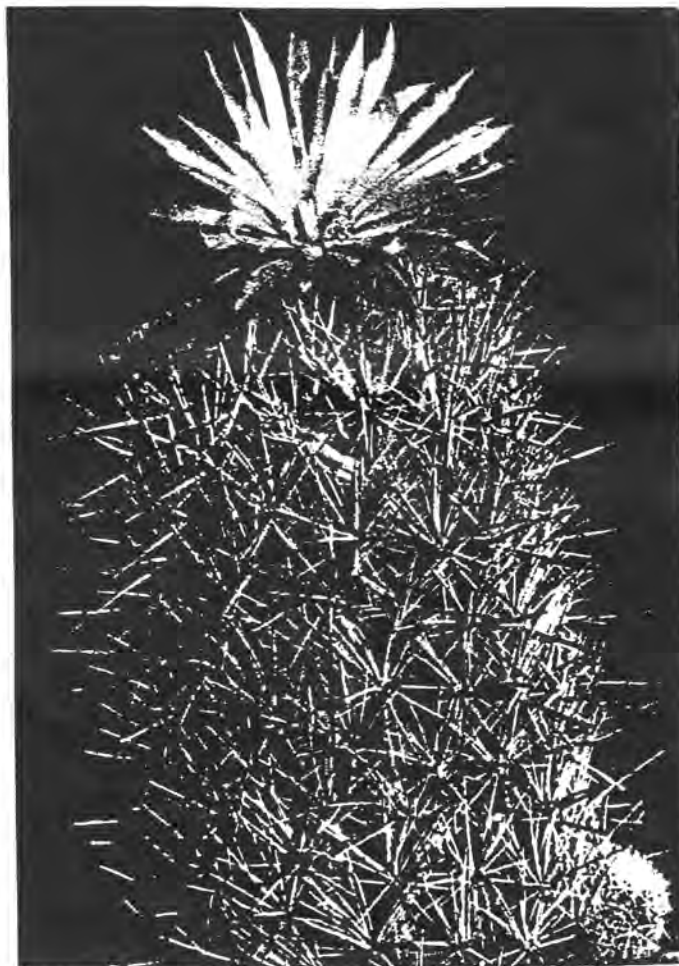
Most *Coryphantha* species require a sunny position under glass if they are to flower, but there are exceptions. Apart from the grassland species, they should not be watered too generously, and should be left quite dry over winter. They should be grown in a well drained mineral mix and with plenty of stones around the neck of the plant.

The other large group is found in grassland areas and grow more freely than the preceding group. They tend to be less spiny, with broad glossy green tubercles and will offset quite readily to form clumps. They prefer more humus in the compost and can be watered freely in the growing period.

I have found growing *Coryphanthas* to be a wonderful experience and very rewarding, but can be difficult.



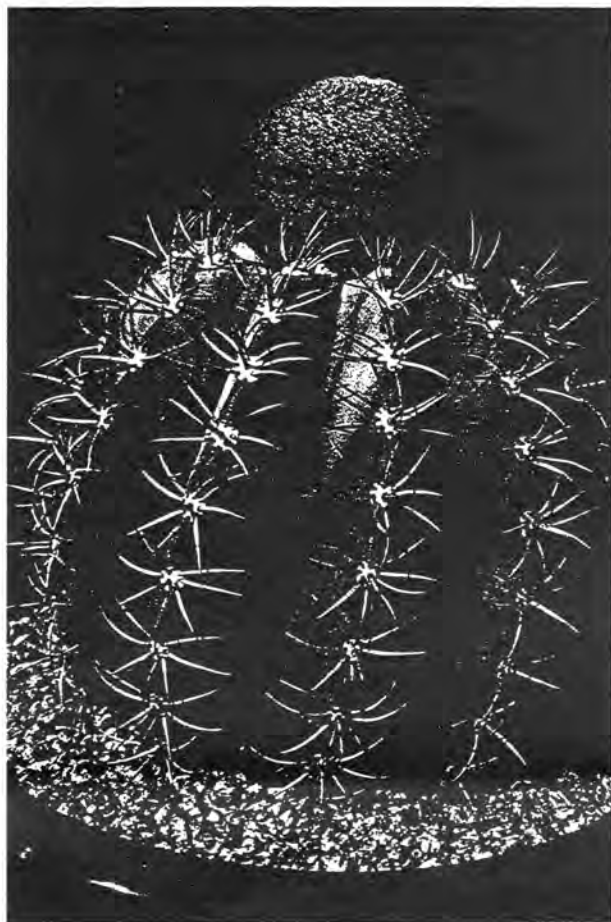
A young plant



Coryphantha werdermannii

Reference: Lawrie, Ian. 1988. *Coryphantha and Associated Genera*
Pilbeam, John. "Elephant's Teeth?"
Cactus File. Vol. 1, No. 12, 1994

We were pleased and surprised when the 1995 November — December issue of the **Cactus and Succulent Journal of America** (vol. 67, 1995) featured the trophy winners from our 1995 Annual June Show. We were equally delighted to see SDC&SS member **Carol Wujcik's** photograph of yucca blossoms on the cover of this issue! Great job, Carol — congratulations.



CACTI & SUCCULENTS

BY DUKE BENADOM

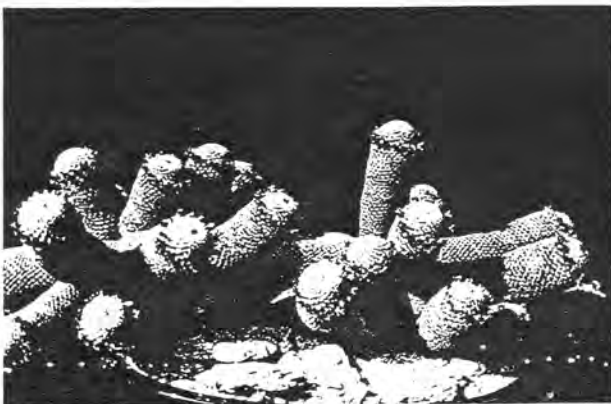
1746 Julie Circle, Simi Valley, CA 93065

All plants featured in this issue are award winners from the annual show of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, normally held at Balboa Park in San Diego, California. This show is usually held toward the end of spring. All plants featured are from the 1995 show.

Melocactus warasii Pereira & Bueneker grows to a height in excess of a meter, making it among the tallest species in the genus. Twelve prominent ribs embellish the bluish-green to grayish-green stems. The formidable spination on the rib-apices is brown to gray, while spines on the cephalium are red at first, intermixed with white wool, turning to a brownish-red on all but the top-most portion. When a melocactus reaches full maturity, the plant's body virtually ceases to grow; a cephalium then emerges and increases in height with each growing-season. Ed and Karla Nolan captured the award for Best Cactus with this mature specimen. This magnificent Brazilian species needs full sun, temperatures above the low 60's, and a well-drained compost.



Pterocactus tuberosus (Pfeiff.) Br. & R. was picked as Best Opuntia in the show. Phyllis Flechsig is the ennobled grower of this attractive cactus. Endemic to Argentina, this caudiciform is a real ground-hugger with brownish-green, cylindrical stems that can reach a length of only a little more than a foot. The 18-mm-diameter stems emanate from the tuberous (ergo, the epithet) root-stock. Minute hair-like spines emerge from small areoles. In summer, 18–26-mm diurnal, yellow flowers occasionally adorn the ends of the mature branches. Most species in this genus can take full sun when growing in well-drained soil. Moderate watering during the growing season is recommended.



Mammillaria matudae Bravo grows at an elevation of about 1500 meters in the Mexican states of Mexico and Guerrero. Often only a solitary pendulous stem, the pulchritudinous cluster shown is a prodigious specimen. The 18–20 white radial spines, only 2–3 mm long, accompany a single red-tipped white central spine. Summer flowering produces a purplish-brown ring of blossoms that circumscribes the ends of 3-cm-thick stems. Steve and Rowena Southwell are the talented cultivators of this trophy-winning Best Mammillaria.

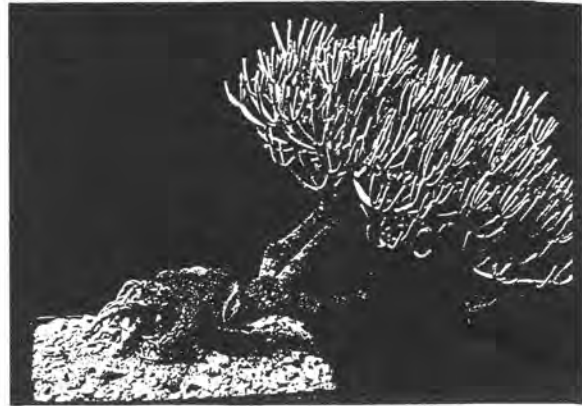
FOR THE AMATEUR

Photos by author

Glottiphyllum nelii Schwantes. This interesting succulent is autochthonous to the Cape Province of South Africa. It is adorned with light green leaves that attain a length of 12 cm and a width of 3–5 cm. Its distichous leaves stand more or less erect with rounded and hooked tips. As with many of the Mesembryanthemaceae, the flowers are yellow. *Glottiphyllum*s are late winter growers and are of relatively easy culture. They can be watered freely or sparsely, depending on the outcome you prefer. Easy to grow, but difficult to grow to perfection, this immaculate specimen, owned by Joe and Kay Quijada, was honored with the trophy for Best Mesembryanthemum.



Euphorbia aphylla Brouss. ex Willd. is an endemic of Gran Canaria, one of the Canary Islands located off the northwest coast of Africa. The word “aphylla” means without leaves, referring to the plant’s ephemeral (cauducous) minute leaves which make this plant look virtually leafless. A small compact shrub, *E. aphylla* can reach just over a meter in height. Its slender clavate stems are a glaucous grey-green in color. It grows along the coast, where it receives a generous supply of moisture from northeast trade winds, although it is found predominately along very steep, rocky slopes where it tends to have good drainage. Undoubtedly halophilic (salt-loving) this species is inundated with salt-spray both from the pounding surf and the landward winds. Michael and Joyce Buckner captured the trophy for Best Euphorbia with the handsome specimen shown here.



Ficus palmeri Wats. was awarded the trophy for Best Graft. A doyen among succulent bonsai growers, Rudy Lime has achieved perfection with the seemingly invisible graft on this magnificently staged masterpiece. In Baja California, Mexico, *F. palmeri* grows to a height of 3–4 meters. Branches covered with white velvety hairs emerge from the base of this xerophytic plant’s caudex. The ovate pointed leaves are white-felted at first, becoming quite thick and green on both sides with age. It is amazing how a plant that is normally seen as a tree can be cultivated and groomed into a miniature scene such as the one pictured here.



Succulent of the Month: Kalanchoes

by Joyce Buckner

My first succulent plant purchase was a *Kalanchoe tubiflora*; labeled "Good Luck Plant" or "Mother of Thousands" this tough little guy was the only survivor of a month+ abject and total neglect (finals week followed by the necessary three-week road trip). The fact that I couldn't kill it, was probably what first got me interested in succulents, although I have definitely killed my fair share of succulents since then. By the next semester, my little kalanchoe had a Jade Plant buddy, and one of those hot pink gymno-graft cactus things.

Kalanchoes are probably the most widely available succulent in the United States. With their bright long-lasting winter flowers, *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana* can be found anywhere that plants are sold. Although there are so many popular and exciting varieties, it is surprising to find that a monograph has never been written. Presently there is not even a book solely dedicated to Kalanchoes! (Hint, hint Dr. Herman Schwartz) Perhaps because they are so easy to grow, we overlook them.

Kalanchoes are from the *Crassulaceae* family; there are between 60 and 125 species, (depending on which book you refer to) and many more hybrids and cultivars. Many of the most exciting kalanchoes are native to Madagascar. The distribution area for this genus extends throughout all of Africa into southern Arabia and the island of Socotra. One species (*K. integra*) appears in Brazil, as well as Eastern Africa, India and Thailand. Most kalanchoes are perennial and monocarpic, and most can be propagated by leaf-or-stem-cuttings; they are fast growing requiring a deep, humusy soil and a bright, airy location. Kalanchoe flowers are distinguishable from other crassulaceas by their flower organs appearing in fours: four sepals, four petals, eight stamens, and four free (not united) carpels. The genus has been divided into three sections: *Bryophyllum*, *Kalanchoe*, and *Kitchingia*.



The scarlet flowers of Kalanchoe tubiflora contrast strongly with the browns and greys of the dry season landscape in July. This interesting plant is widespread in the south-central region of the Hauts Plateaux.

Bryophyllums produce brood buds or "plantlets" on their leaves or inflorescences, which propagate the plant vegetatively. These plantlets develop roots while on the mother plant, fall to the ground, and grow into new plants, and more plants, and more plants . . . and more plants . . . and more plants. Ask any greenhouse owner what the common name for *Kalanchoe tubiflora* (my "Mother of Thousands") is, and he will probably reply with something totally unprintable. Once you have one - you'll never be alone!

The species in the *Bryophyllum* section were formerly in their own genus *Bryophyllum* ("brood leaf"). Some of the Madagascar species in this section include: *K. fedtschenkoi*, *K. jongmansii*, *K. manginii*, *K. tubiflora*, *K. beauverdii*, *K. daigremontiana*, *K. prolifera*, *K. pubescens*, *K. rubella*, *K. schizophylla*, and *K. uniflora*. *Kalanchoe uniflora* is really misnamed, as the inflorescence is rarely one-flowered; the brilliant red flowers are urn or bell shaped, and sort of fuzzy; the round/oblong leaves are smooth and very thick; this beautiful creeping epiphytic plant is best cultivated in hanging baskets.

A climbing species in this section, the *Kalanchoe schizophylla*, grows in humid places. This species has a very fern-like non-Kalanchoe appearance with thin long leaves which are arranged along the stem in even pairs (decussate); the leaves have 6-8 pairs of curved leaflets which are adapted for climbing. Rauh states that this plant is easily cultivated, although I cannot remember having ever encountered one — perhaps I did not consider it a kalanchoe? *Kalanchoe beauverdii* (small black-violet flowers) is a climbing species which does better in a dry climate; the decussate leaves of the *Kalanchoe beauverdii* are long thin and curved downward with plantlets forming at the end (apex). Two other species in this section with the rock climbing adaptations and narrower linear leaves are *Kalanchoe jongmansii* (bright yellow broadly open four-petal flowers) and *Kalanchoe manginii* (hanging cylindrical bright red flowers with furry or hairy stalk and calices). Inflorescence is terminal and usually few-flowered on all of these creeping species.



Kalanchoe beharensis.

Equipped with large long triangular leaves which are beautifully marbled in deep purple on the underside, *Kalanchoe daigremontiana* is the "Big Fat Grandmother of Thousands". The entire margin of her leaves appear to have been cut with pinking shears — at each notch a small purple brood bud quickly develops — in humid air, roots develop — wow! instant succulent garden! Inflorescence shoot up in the winter, about one meter tall; flowers are small gray-violet. I often utilize the inflorescence of the *Kalanchoe tubiflora* (Synonym = *K. delagoensis*) in winter flower arrangements and have even nicknamed them "Jingle Bells". These long lasting colorful clusters of pendent (hanging) flowers develop on long thick purple (some are reddish brown) stalks about 2-3 feet tall. The flower colors range from a whitish yellow to a brilliant orangey red to a pinkish purple variety that has a powdery covering on the stalks, pedicels and calices. Now, I'm sure our garden grows a wide variety of hybrids, cultivars and mutants; so I'll just stick to knowing that these particular kalanchoes are species in the section *Bryophyllum*.

Kalanchoe pubescens (clusters of red to yellowish-orange hanging flowers bloom from rather tall multi-branched stalks) and *Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi* (large long flowers bloom from a thick short stalk base - colors vary from brownish red to deep violet) both sport a dense foliage of wide flat fleshy leaves. The leaves of the *Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi* are smooth with scalloped edges; there are many beautiful cultivars with a wide spectrum variegated and multi-colored leaves; some varieties have a powdery coating on the leaves. There are approximately ten varieties of *Kalanchoe pubescens*. The leaves of the *Kalanchoe pubescens* var. *pubescens* have a rich velvety covering with scalloped edges.

Kalanchoes in the *Kalanchoe* section can be annual or perennial, herbaceous or woody and arborescent; there are no adventitious buds — no plantlets or brood buds. Flowers can be erect or pendent. *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana* with dense numerous small flowers is commercially available in cultivar with colors ranging from brilliant red, purple, pale-violet, to fire orange and yellow. *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana* was discovered by Perrier de la Bâthie growing in the humid cloud forest of Mount Tsaratanana in northeastern Madagascar. The wild form is probably no longer in cultivation.

Most of my favorite species of kalanchoes are in the *Kalanchoe* section. They are the fuzzy kalanchoes with foliage you can almost pet: *K. tomentosa*, *K. beharensis* (the "Dr. Seuss Plant"), *K. millotii*, *K. eriophylla*, and the very lovely cultivar known only as *Kalanchoe cv*. The underside of the leaves on a *Kalanchoe cv* have a most unusual furry horned surface — very unplantlike attributes. All of these species are notable for their extraordinary foliage and because most are terminal after bloom, we try not to encourage flowering.



Segment of an inflorescence of *Kalanchoe thyrsiflora*

Flowering *Kalanchoe tubiflora*

Kalanchoe tubiflora plant with flower buds

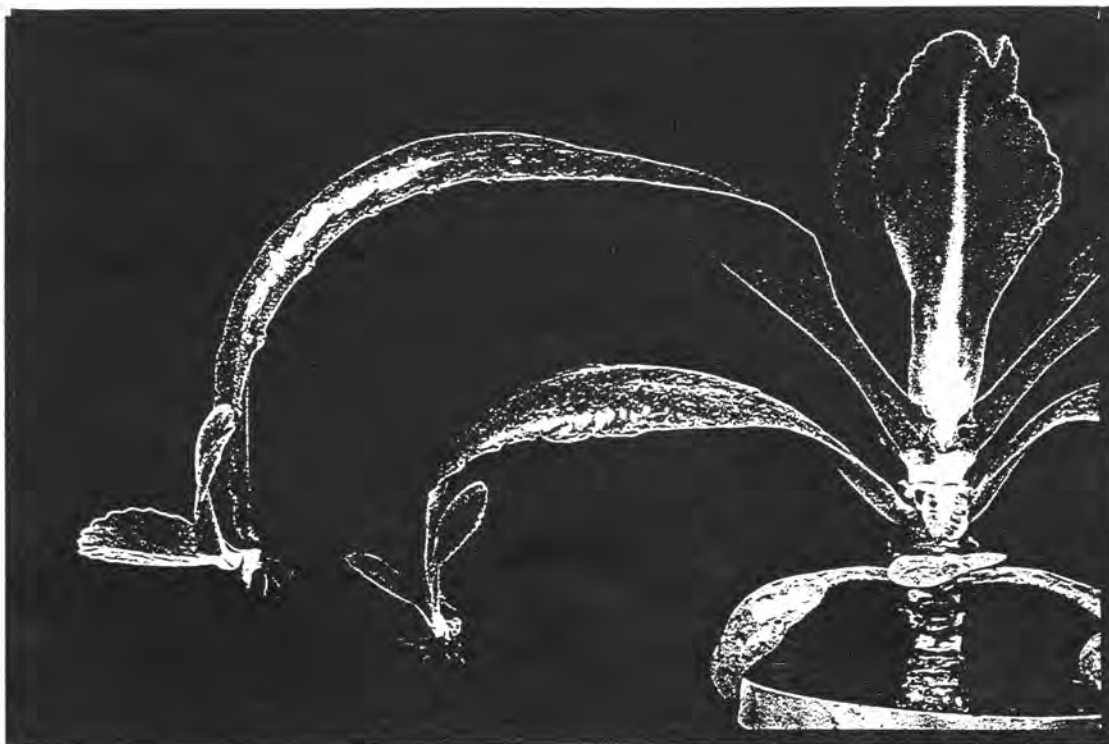
Kalanchoe thyrsiflora has very large wide rounded leaves that have a waxy powdery whitish coating. When grown hard and with good light, the leaves turn a lovely shade of red. As these plants mature the stem can get quite large, forming a glob-like "almost caudex". My common name for this species is *Kalanchoe* "Lips". *Kalanchoe thyrsiflora* is one of the few species that does not easily propagate from leaves or stem cuttings. And after the plant blooms and the fruit ripens, the plant dies, making propagation possible only from seed.

The third section of *kalanchoes*, *Kitchingia* contains many epiphytic varieties with elongated stems. I am not familiar with any of the species in this section, and therefore chose to skip them for the purpose of this article.

I would prefer to end this article with an "I want that plant" confession of lust. The *kalanchoe* species of my longing is pictured several times in Werner Rauh's *Succulent and Xerophytic Plants of Madagascar*. It has lots of fuzzy hair, beautiful bright orange to red to violet striped flowers and a wonderful name: *Kalanchoe aromatica*. The plant's stems and leaves are covered with long glandular hairs which apparently give off an intense aromatic smell. I find the entire description incredibly exciting. Now where can I get one? What's that you say? I can find it growing on the rocks in the region of Mahatsinjo on the eastern Central Plateau, half way up the road from Antanarivo to Mahajanga in Madagascar. I'll be right over!

References:

- W.Rauh, *Succulent and Xerophytic Plants of MADAGASCAR*, c.1995, Strawberry Press, CA.
 Sajeva & Constanzo, *Succulents, The Illustrated Dictionary*, c.1994, Timber Press, OR.
 L.H.Bailey Hortorium, *HORTUS Third*, c.1976, Cornell Univ, Macmillan Publishing, NY.
 Mats Thulin, *Flora of Somalia*, c.1993, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
 A.B. Graf, *Exotic Plant Manual*, c.1970, Roehrs Company, NJ.
 M.S. Buckner, *Plantsman & Spouse*, no copyright - they broke the mold, San Diego, CA.



Kalanchoe gastonis-bonnieri, adventitious plantlets forming at the tip of the leaves.

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Membership

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is a non-profit, hobby organization created to stimulate interest in succulent plants. This society brings together people (and plants) with a common interest for the purpose of educating the public about the beauty and uniqueness of these remarkable plants, encouraging proper collecting and maintenance of the plants through preservation of native habitats and horticultural propagation, and to foster good fellowship. You are invited to join our society, whether you are an expert, amateur, or beginner, who loves unusual plants and flowers. VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. BRING AN INTERESTED FRIEND.

Regular meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park at 1:00 p.m. (One may come as early as noon just to socialize or obtain a parking space easily.) Annual dues are \$10.00 for a single membership with an additional \$5.00 for each additional member at the same mailing address. The dues are payable at time of joining, and January of each succeeding year; for new members that join during our June show or at other times during the year, prorated membership dues can be paid in January of succeeding year. Members receive our monthly publication Espinas y Flores, are entitled to library check-out privileges, and may partake in our many field trips and other activities. We offer knowledgeable speakers at our programs; many are world renowned scholars, botanists, explorers and authorities. We have a number of shows each year, especially our Annual Show and Plant Sale in June. We have a wide range of plants and supplies for purchase at favorable costs at most meetings. We also have a plant exchange table and monthly door prizes. All members will be consistently encouraged to contribute and participate in our many functions. Please join us and help us grow.

For more information, call Elizabeth Glover @ (619) 264-6769.

- Yes, I (we) wish to become 1996 member(s) of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society.
- Yes, I (we) wish to renew our San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society membership (1996).

NAME: _____

NAMES OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

DO YOU KNOW THAT FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$5.00 PAID ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES – YOU CAN HAVE *Espinas y Flores* DELIVERED BY FIRST CLASS MAIL INSTEAD OF BULK MAIL??

- Yes, I (we) wish to pay an additional \$5.00 for First Class Mail .

SEND THIS FORM TO:

SDC&SS - Treasurer, P.O.Box 33181, San Diego, CA 92163-3181

WISE AND OTHERWISE

"Wealth is dew."

Azania proverb, South Africa

Hurley knew that, as in all prisons, both incoming and outgoing mail was read by authorities. He received a letter from his wife asking, "When do I plant the potatoes?" so he replied, "Do not, under any circumstances, dig up our old garden. That's where I hid all of the bank money."

Two weeks later his wife wrote back, "Six sheriff's deputies came to the house. They dug up every inch of the backyard."

Hurley picked up his pen. "Dear Helen," he wrote, "now is the time to plant the potatoes."

Playboy Magazine, Feb 1996



by Michael Buckner

Chitin, the external skeleton of insects, has the same complex chemical composition as fungine, a material found in the cell walls of fungi. Such facts make me wide-eyed with the realization of how connected and interdependent all forms of life are.

Ninety-nine percent of all species of animals that ever existed have become extinct through the ages. So what's all the fuss about endangered species today? In the latter half of the twentieth century the rate of extinction is ten thousand times higher than normal. Nineteen species of insects are extinguished every hour.

— *Conversations with Bugs* by Gwynn Popovac, c.1993, Pomegranate Artbooks, SF.

"I think people squabble more over matters of ranking than of taxon delimitation per se. Our delimitation of species in plants is about as good as our delimitation of "types" of other things, be they rocks, galaxies, cars, or silverware.

Consider the family Silverware and the genus Fork. Are the dinner fork and salad fork separate species, or should they be treated only as varieties of the same species? The pronged "grapefruit" spoon probably belongs in the genus Spoon, although it shares morphological similarity to the genus Fork. Should the Salad-server fork be lumped with the genus Fork, or placed together with the serving-spoon in a separate genus? Note that variation in color, metal type and ornateness can be found in each of these pieces of silverware, but this may be caused by environmental influences."

Michael Chamberland (23274mjc@msu.edu)

CSSA Journal, Nov-Dec 1995, vol.67



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, Inc.
 P.O. Box 33181, San Diego, CA 92163-3181

Espinas y Flores

Editors: Michael and Joyce Buckner - (619) 222-3216
 4822 Santa Monica Ave #103, San Diego, CA 92107

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY, INC.

1996 EXECUTIVE BOARD

OFFICERS

President - Joey Betzler
 569-8510
 Vice President - Tom DeMerritt
 270-5544
 Secretary - Herb Stern
 223-9134
 Treasurer - Beverly Kirkegaard
 670-1035

EX OFFICIO

Immediate Past President -
 Michael Buckner
 222-3216

DIRECTORS

Elizabeth Athy
 469-7647
 Tom Birt
 523-1445
 Kelly Griffin
 942-4866
 Tom Knapik
 462-1805
 Ed Nolan
 486-6195
 Stan Yalof
 743-1560

Standing Committees and Sub-Committees

Conservation:
 Joey Betzler and Kelly Griffin

Education and Exhibits:
 Brag Table - Shirley Berry
 and Kay Quijada
 Del Mar Fair - Tom DeMerritt,
 Marylyn Henderson, Susan
 Hopkins, Herb Stern and John
 Williams
 Plants of the month -
 Beverly Kirkegaard
 and Phyllis Flechsig
 Show - Joey Betzler, Tom Knapik
 and Beverly Kirkegaard

Liaison:
 Balboa Park Desert Garden
 - Susan Hopkins
 CSSA Affiliate Rep.
 - Michael Buckner
 Quail Botanic Gardens
 - Phyllis Flechsig
 San Diego Botanical Garden
 Foundation - George Plaisted
 San Diego Floral Association
 - Elizabeth Glover
 S.D. Wild Animal Park's Baja
 Collections - Frank Thrombley

Library:
 Elizabeth Athy, Amna Cornett
 and Tom Birt

Membership:
 Elizabeth Glover (264-6769)
 and D'erdra Smothers

Plant and Seed Exchange:
 Plants - Sara Schell
 Seeds - Kelly and Sean Griffin

Plant Sales and Supplies:
 Annual Sales, Auction & Holiday Plants
 Elizabeth Athy, Paul Steward,
 George Plaisted, Tom DeMerritt,
 Ed Nolan and Rick Plant
 Monthly Plant Sales - Michael Cullen,
 Marylyn Henderson, Gloria
 and Kenny Graham
 Monthly Supply Sales - George
 and Jerry Plaisted

Publicity: Tom DeMerritt
Programs: Tom Knapik
Reception:
 Laura DeMerritt and Marylyn Henderson

Regalement:
 Monthly Meetings -vacant Chair
 Stefy Mangold and Rudy Lime
 Picnic - Tom and Laura DeMerritt

— Other Committees —
Correspondence: Virginia Innis
Host Society Chair for 1997 CSSA Convention:
 Martin Mooney (427-6796)

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 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 for number.