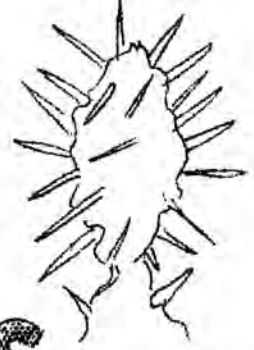




ESPINAS

Y

FLORES



Sept-1969

PUBLICATION OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

WHAT'S THAT?

that?"... "Aeonium arboreum atropurpureum", might have been the candid reply. "What's that?" you ask again - "Aeonium....I think they call it the Sun Rose or something"..... "That's better".

Botanical names aren't really that hard to figure, if you know the rules. Most scientific people, wishing to remain aloof, speak in these terms only to confuse the common gentre...and it makes one feel like he's been invited to a back-room poker game by a questionable stranger. Let's take a loconic look into their world; who knows maybe we'll like the game. Rule #1 the scientific approach to anything is a logical one...remember this...it helps one understand the illogical results. Somewhere in our far distant past someone decided it would be more civilized, if we extend the formality of a "name" to an object, instead of just a grunt and a pointed finger. Thus, from the first serious efforts to "name"(a series of grunts and a pointed finger) people have been trying to find a place for everything, and put everything in a place.

In our western civilization the Greeks and Romans had the most influence, and roots from their culture are found in all of our languages. Latin was chosen as the universal scientific language, that would be understood and accepted in all lands. But many Greek terms are still used, because the earliest works were Grecian. Scientist from all over the world formed a group called the INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS, and set forth the rules for naming plant life. We recognize - Arnold, Scott, Vaughan, Greenwood, Jones, et al as family names; and all the Jims, Johns, Marys and so forth are members of these families. In some cases, there are so many johns in a family that a third name must be given, such as, John Paul Jones to differentiate him from that other John with the big ears.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Saturday Sept. 6th 2pm
Floral Assoc Building
Balboa Park
"Surprise"

Exchange Table

Sale Table

Refreshments

Thus, it is in science..the group name or genus(Latin for kind or sort)..for simplicity's sake we will call it the family name. Then there is the individual name or species(Latin for from or shape), and sometimes the variety or middle name, which when put all together should give one an idea as what the plant is like. Remember when these are listed, they are written like a mailing list..family name first, first name second and middle name last. All names regard-

(con't next page)

WHAT'S THAT ??? (con't)

less of origin should be Latinized, (there are a few exceptions or hold-overs from the old Greek), but in the main they follow a pretty distinct pattern(i.e. when referring to the rain we had this year..one might remark..that it rained like the Heavenly "waterpapus eruptus")

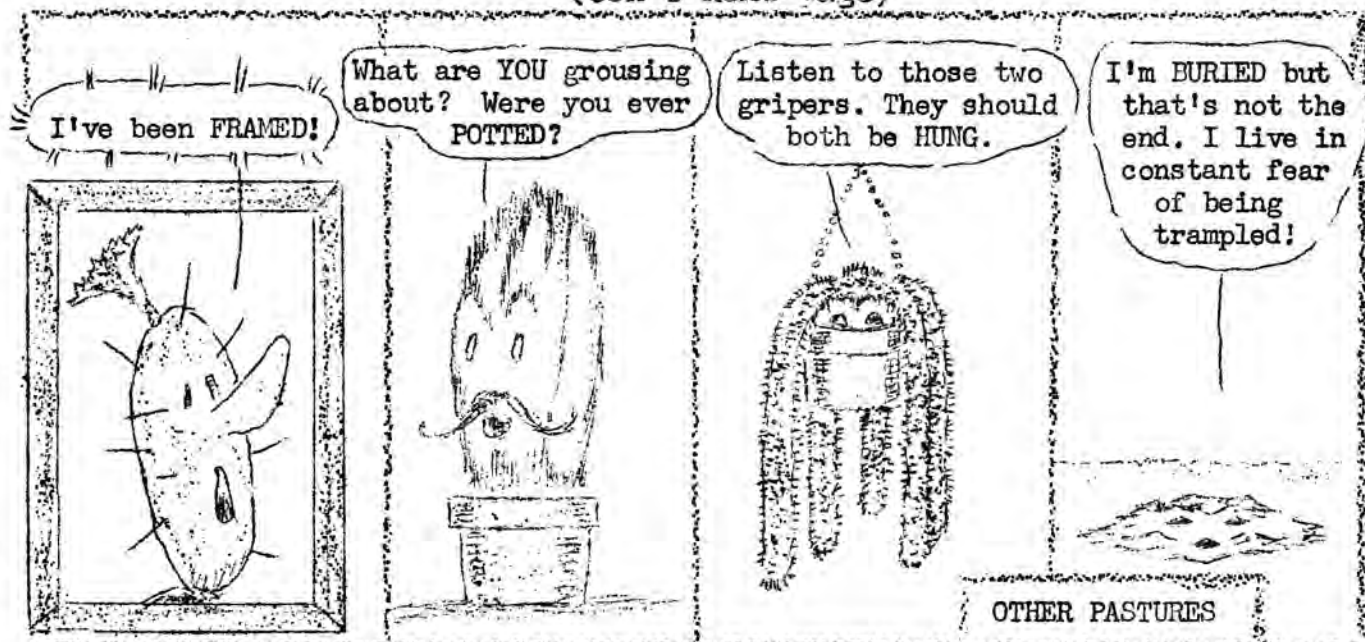
The generic names should end in -us, -a, -um for masculine, feminine, and neuter.(i.e. Cereus, Mammillaria, Pachyphytum) As we mentioned before, there are a few old names that have retained Greek endings of -os, -e, and -on(i.e. Pleiospilos, Kalanchoe, and Cotyledon) When the name is derived from a proper or geographical name the ending -a or -ia is used depending on whether the word ends in a vowel or consonant. (Dudleya - Haworthia) The specific name must agree in gender with the generic (Cereus grandiflorus - Rebutia grandiflora). In many cases the specific name is commemorative for some worthy personage; the correct masculine and feminine endings for names ending with a vowel are -i and -ae(i.e. "Lauren" Lovelacei - "Lena" Riceae), and for consonants -ii and -iae(i.e. "Gramps" Bucknerii - "Mae" McFarlandiae). It is permissible to anglicize the pronunciation of the names and simply tag on an "i" for the names ending in -i or -ii; and "e" for names ending in -ae or -iae, or "i-e" for -iae, also. The suffix -ianus, -iana, or -ianum is also used as a personal ending(i.e. Echinocereus Knippelianus, Mammillaria Hahniana, Gynocalycium Kurtzianum). When the specific name is taken from a geographic location the ending -ensis is often used(i.e. sonorensis, meaning from Sonora). Also -icus and -ica are used for the same purpose. Oh yes, don't forget -oid or -oides, a suffix used for the likes of or in the form of (i.e. when referring to a spheroid shape; stalsonburgioides might suffice). The last rule to remember is that the generic name is always Capitalized, the specific is not, or most often is never not; the variety name is or isn't. Let's look at a few names and see what we can make of them:

Acanthocereus - akantha-greek for spiny and cera- latin for wax torch or candle(hence- spiny candle)

Astrophytum - aster-greek for star and phytos for plant (hence - star like plant)

Aeonium - aeon-latin for everlasting (hence, a perennial or lasting plant)

Ferocactus - ferus-latin for wild or strong and kaktos-greek (con't next page)

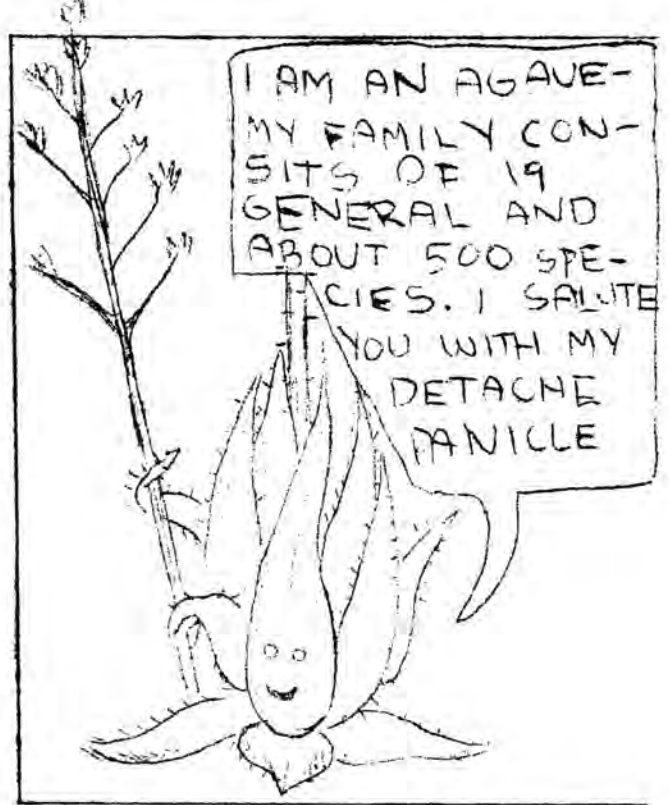


Ferocactus- for a spiny plant
(hence, strongly or wildly spiny plant)
Mammillaria - mamilla-latin for nipple
with reference to the tubercles.
(hence, a plant with with nipples)

SPECIFIC NAMES:

abbreviatus - shortened
aculeata - prickly
alba - white
atro - intense or deep
arborescens - treelike
monstrosus - abnormal
procumbens - prostrate or trailing

So, as you can see, without too much imagination, we find our old friend *Aeonium arborescens atropurpureum* (Sun Rose) is nothing more than a perennial succulent that is deep purple in color and has the growth habit of a tree, complete with trunk and branches, and not something out Jules Verne science fiction thriller.



-- js --

PLANT OF THE MONTH

(a-gay-vi, Webster says; another source pronounces it ag-ah-ve. Commonly, it's still a-gah-ve.)

Agaves are natives of the Americas, but have been naturalized in the Mediterranean countries for so long that artists have been misled into painting them in the background of classical Mediterranean scenes. The 300 known species have been recently classified by some authorities as a family all their own, the Agavaceae, but they are mostly thought of as members of the Amaryllis family.

Undoubtedly, the most well known of the genus is *Americana*, "the Century Plant", and for this plant the name Agave was borrowed from the Greek, meaning noble, illustrious, admirable. Certainly the first sight of *Agave Americana* in a towering glory of bloom is enough to make you catch your breath as you follow the magnificent stem up, up, and up to 25, 30 and even 35 feet of candelabra-like inflorescence.

Our succulent of the month is native to northwest Baja, growing on bluffs along the coast, *Agave Shawii* has also been found in southwest San Diego County near the coastal boundary. At one time it had wandered as far north as Point Loma, but is apparently now extinct there. Collected completely out of existence, one may suppose, for it is a beautiful plant and much coveted. Along the Ensenada highway on our collecting trip last fall, we saw *Shawii* by the seashore and lolling about the landscape, creeping under fences, one offset following another. Possibly this was the very locale where the exploring Mr. Shaw, since lost in the mists of obscurity, first discovered his namesake and brought it to the attention of the horticultural world.

Medium in size, *A. Shawii* is about two feet in diameter, growing taller than it is wide and eventually reclining, with rigid, dark green, glossy, openly concave leaves. Measuring 8 to 20 inches long
(con't next page)

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH (con't) -five or more inches wide, the leaves form dense rosettes.

Garnet red teeth -- variously straight or curved and needlesharp -- graying with age, are connected by a horny border lending a lacy scallop to the edge, narrowing suddenly to a spiny point several inches long. These teeth imprint a shadowy pattern of curious design on the preceding leaves.

Shawii blooms from May to December. The trunk-like stem with buds and bracts of purplish-brown resembles a giant stalk of asparagus, and shoots up almost as rapidly to a height of 10-12 feet. The funnel-shaped chartreuse flowers, each 3 to 4 inches long, bloom in congested panicles. Handsome, three-valved, oblong seed capsules in clusters follow, which are collected by flower arrangers and pod people. The flowering stalk comes from the growing tip, and so dies, completing the life cycle. Perpetuation is ensured by the many offsets, as well as by seed.

Agave Goldmaniana is similar except tht it is larger with more ample inflorescence, few or now offsets, and is found in a more southern and inland location. Agave Sebastiana perhaps evolved from Shawii, according to the information in August Breitung's study of the Agaves. This esoteric handbook is available in our library as National C & S yearbook for 1968, documenting the variations within the species of Shawii with six photographs.

San Diegans have no problems with culture as agaves grow steadily in seemingly impossible conditions of adobe soil with scant rainfall. According to the authorities, however, they enjoy good light, sandy loam, and more water in summer. (Is there more water in summer?)

Agaves are remarkably tough and adapt beautifully to landscaping, in addition to doing well in pots. If you cannot collect your own Shawii from across the border, or force a friend to part with an offset, you may be interested to learn that Henrietta's Nursery carries specimen plants for a mere \$20.00! -- Kibby --

GOODBYE SUMMER, HELLO FALL

No softly blowing sands
No brassy outdoor bands
No charcoaled Sunday cookouts
No drives to scenic lookouts
No chlorine in my nose
No playful garden hose
Summer slips away
Hooray.....



CACTUS OF THE MONTH

Although not considered to be a rare cactus, *COCHEMIA POSELGERI* (kō - kēm - i - a - pō - sēl - gēr - i) is seldom seen in cultivation. It is native to Baja California del Sur. The genus is named after an Indian tribe of the area, and the species is named in honor of Poselger, an early plant collector.

The many stems of this cactus may be up to 6 feet long, and a little over one inch thick. They sprawl or hang over the ground and rocks, which might indicate that they would do well in a hanging basket. They are usually dark green with blue tone, and may blush red in the summer. There is dense white wool in the axils. The conical tubercles are spirally arranged, somewhat warty in appearance, and may be angular. The areoles at the tips of the one-third inch tubercles are woolly when young. They develop 7 to 9 reddish-tipped white radial spines and a one-inch hooked central spine. The central spine is a solid reddish-brown in color. The radials usually fade to gray with age.

This cactus is spectacular when in bloom. The flowers are scarlet, ringing the tip of the stem. The flowers are zygomorphic (irregular) and are borne from the axils. In many respects, the flowers resemble the flowers of the Christmas Cactus.

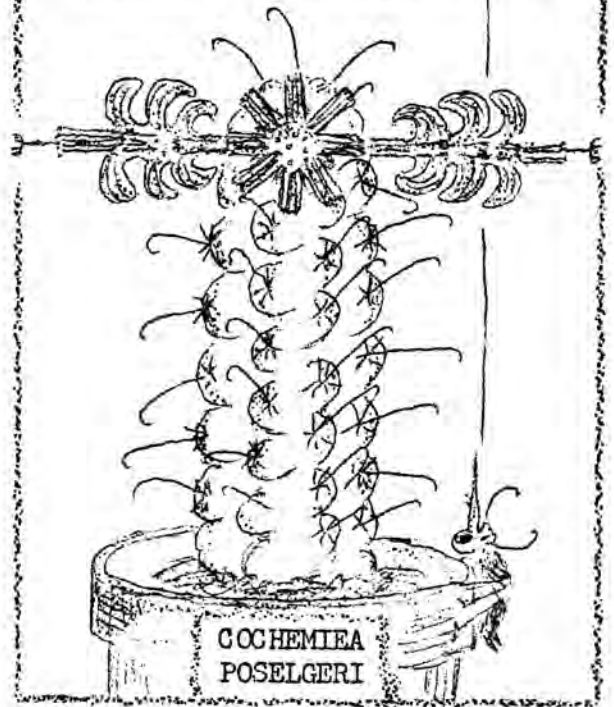
This cactus requires full sun for best growth and flowering. One reference to this plant indicated that it would root along the stem when it touched the ground, but this was not included in any of the descriptions I have read. I have had no personal experience with this plant, so cannot speak from observations.

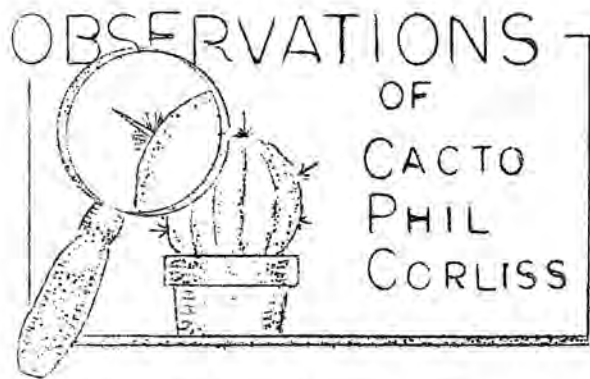
THOUGHT FOR TODAY --

One of the secrets of a happy life is the ability to appreciate the joys and blessings of the present.

While it is wise to plan for the future, we should make the most of each day as we live it, and keep in mind that today was tomorrow, yesterday..... - Ann Landers -

Any resemblance between a *COCHEMIA* and an ear of corn or a "Whirling Dervish" is purely coincidental.





I was walking towards my car which was parked two blocks from the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. It was midnight, and I had just finished playing in the evening game of the Summer Nationals bridge tournament. Less than half a block from my car a young negro in dark clothes came towards me. When he was one yard in front of me, he said, "Give me your wallet," and pointed a long-barrelled revolver at me. Another negro youth came around the corner and joined him. I handed over my wallet, and the one with the gun said, "Have you any big money?" and felt in my pockets. I said, "No." He said, "Turn around and walk back that way," - which I did. In my wallet was \$50.00, five credit cards, several blank checks, my driver's license, and such irreplaceable items as my late wife's photo. The robbers overlooked my prized wrist watch with the red dial (which I purchased at the National Lottery in Mexico City) because I am left-handed and having knocked off the crystal and stem several times, I have recently started wearing it on my right wrist. Fortunately, I belong to the Credicard Registration System, and they promptly took care of the credit card problem, and the bank gave me a new account number. During the week we were in Los Angeles they averaged one murder and several hundred holdups a day!

I leave the day after our September meeting for London, where I will attend the National Cactus Society Show on September 9th, and a meeting and dinner of The Mammillaria Society. On the weekend of September 13th I will attend a cactus show in Worcester and visit the collection of Mrs. Baldry. On the weekend of September 20th I will attend a cactus show in Barnstead and a special meeting of the Mammillaria Society where I will show some slides and visit the collection of the Maddams. Arrangements are being made for me to meet with Mr. L. Donald, the English authority on the South Americans. I hope to report on all of these events at our December meeting.

After last summer's wet and cloudy weather, the British are experiencing a record-breaking summer of heat which delights the cactus growers, but gives them the unexpected chore of having to water their collections.

I am pleased to report that my attempt to control the white fly problem by adding Cygon-2 to the irrigating water has been highly successful. It hasn't slowed down the snails, however. (Pun?) Hasta la vista!

NATIONAL MEET

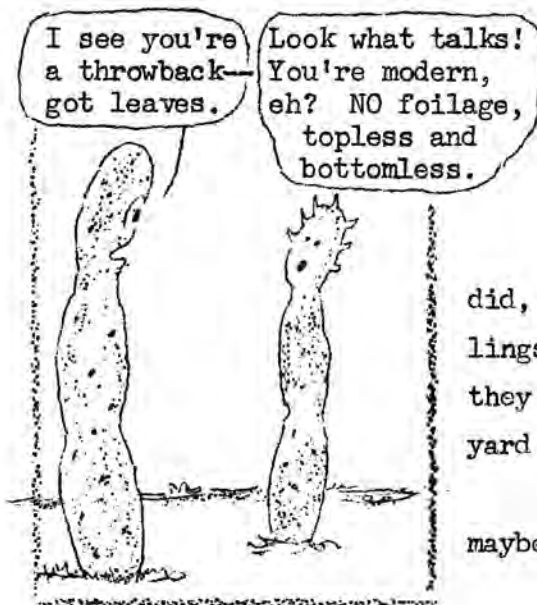
SEVEN VENTURESOME San Diego Club members departed early on Sunday, August 24th to attend the National Society's Annual Meeting at the Arboretum in Arcadia. An outline of the meeting would read: 1) Nomination of officers for 1970; 2) A review of post-convention collecting trips by those who "Tripped", 3) Renewal of friendships and making of new ones; 4) Plant sales; and

Continued next page

5) Plant drawings at intervals throughout the day. The meeting was scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Weather and traffic were most cooperative, a beautiful day, cool and comfortable, no eye irritation, and we could actually see the outline of the mountains at the far end of Baldwin Avenue. You can't do that consistently. One special feature of the day's program was an Atlantic-Richfield 16 mm film titled "GREEN LEAVES" filmed entirely at the Arboretum of activities there year around. (NOTE TO OUR PROGRAM CHAIRMAN: You're remise in your duties if you don't get this film for a showing at one of our Club meetings)

The post-convention trips, with slides, were as varied as the speakers.. They covered lots of territory and they didn't waste time on any highways. Plants collected have since found their way round to the far side of our globe. The plant drawing was 100% successful from the point of view of seven from San Diego. It was unusual in the first instance in two respects, by Mike Buckner's seat position with respect to the plant table, and by his number-call-position: ONE. He knew what he wanted, he had "cased" the table as soon as he arrived at Arcadia; it took him exactly 0.763 seconds to pick up his selection. His luck was followed almost routinely by six others. Eydie was assisted in her selection by Mike, she says they all look alike - they all had stickers. Warren picked out what he thought he could find space for in his back yard aside from Mike's collection. Virginia consulted with Warren and Mike in picking out something that could be compressed.

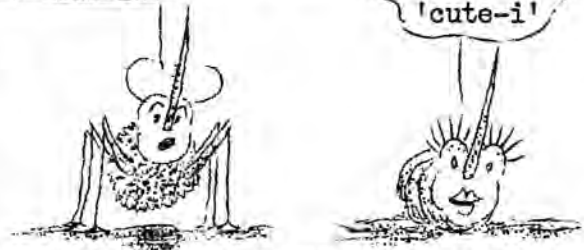


THE INTERNATIONAL RULES OF BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE prescribe that in making specific names the masculine genitive terminates in a single 'i' following a vowel: Lovelacei, Waitei..... and the letter 'r':

Buckneri, Fletcheri..... but in a double 'i' following a consonant: Arnoldii, Greenwoodii

Aphidii...how is that? Sounds dignified, er--- dignifiedii---

Nema? Not a bit masculine. I'll settle for: 'cute-i'



The Old Wagonmaster and Florabunda had an ulterior motive in their selections. COCHEMIA is the cactus of the month for September, so you should see a couple of 'em among the entries at the upcoming meeting. And there's one thing you all should know. Doc Phelps' number didn't pop up right away, BUT when it did, he picked up FIFTEEN IDRIAS, all in one can, all seedlings "born" in Jan., 1969. If they continue to thrive like they have started out, Doc soon will be renaming his backyard scene from Phelps' Promontory to Idria Heights.

The next big event will be the Fall Quarterly Meeting, maybe in October. Watch for the time, place and subject to

(Continued next page)

NATIONAL C & S MEETING - Continued

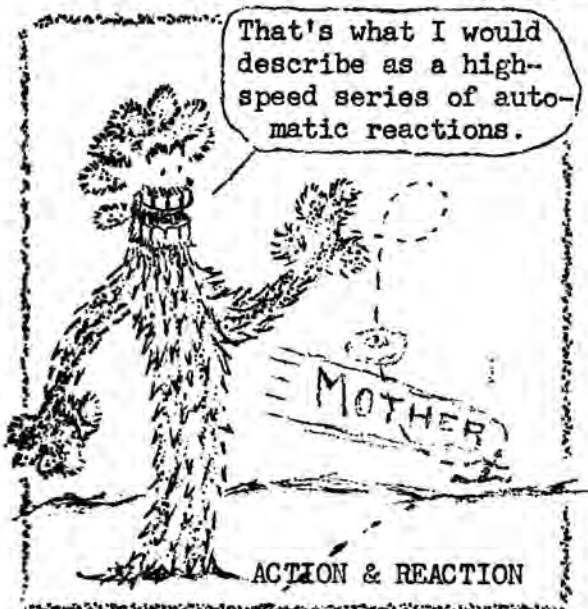
appear in the next issue of the Journal, and of course when our Affiliate Member received the info, it will appear in the pages of Espinas y Flores. How about getting up an Espinas y Flores contingent???

EXCERPTS

If you have grown an *AEONIUM TABULAEFORME* you know the whole plant dies after flowering, and that it is almost impossible to raise new plants from leaf cuttings. In 1966 my A. T. was approaching flowering size, and after flowering I knew it would die, so I decided to produce offsets. I made a cut about two inches long and one inch deep across the growing center. By April '67, one half started to grow a single center and the other half produced three smaller ones. Both halves were attached to the same root, but they were easily separated and potted.



I must disagree with the preceding which states that it is "almost impossible" to raise A.T.'s from leaf cuttings. My experience is that A.T. is one of the easiest species to raise from leaf cuttings. The whole secret lies in WHICH leaves are used. They should not be too old nor too young. If the outer three or four rings of leaves are removed from the rosette the next three or four rings should be suitable for rooting. Care must be taken to detach the leaf as close to the main stem as possible so that the stalk is not broken. The leaves should be laid nearly flat on a suitable rooting medium such as fine peat and sand with the tip just barely beneath the surface. If kept fairly moist and warm, leaves should root within a fortnight, and young plantlets appear from the base of the



leaf in a month or six weeks. Sometimes more than one plantlet will grow from one leaf, and these may be detached after about two months. The plants should become fully grown in a year if kept reasonably warm when the whole process can be repeated. This method will not work if the adult plant has started to produce its flowering stem, as too much nourishment has been withdrawn from the leaves for them to have the strength to produce roots.

SCOTT

-- Excerpts from the National Cactus and Succulent Journal.