

MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

Espinas y Flores

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

Vol. XIII, No. 5

May, 1978.

MAY MEETING DATE: Saturday, May 13th, 1978

PROGRAM:

"HOW TO GET YOUR MAIL ORDER PLANTS ORGANIZED"

The Program this month will consist of a Panel of our more knowledgeable members who will be ready and willing to answer any questions you may have, to the best of their abilities.

Panel programs in the past have always been great fun, and extremely helpful. Bring along all your queries and fire away!

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DEADLINE FOR JUNE ISSUE.....May 23rd. PLEASE

NOTE: We cannot guarantee anything being in the June Issue that is not received by this date as Ye Ed's are planning a very busy Memorial Day Weekend. Please support us!

Cactus-of-the-Month

Lobivia

Dr. Ronald E. Monroe

The genus Lobivia Br. and R. (anagram of Bolivia) is another fantastically beautiful and popular group of South American, Andean cacti that have been defined, confused and generally maltreated systematically. Originally, there was great difficulty in trying to explain the numerous differences that existed in Echinopsis; therefore, the genus Lobivia was proposed and then considered by some as an unfortunate solution and to be regarded as a refuge, in difficulties. Thus, began the splitting of the group: Helianthocereus, Soehrensia, Acantholobivia, Pseudolobivia, Pseudoechinopsis, Boreolobivia, Hymenorebutia, Reicheocactus, Furiolobivia, Chamaecereus, etc. So, originally the genus contained about 20 species (Britton and Rose, 1937), later enlarged to approximately 70 species (Borg, 1959) and now there are approximately 24 species, 21 subspecies and 80 varieties (Rausch, 1975).

These plants are found growing on high mountain slopes (2500-3800 m) from Lima, Peru to La Paz, Bolivia and then south to San Rafael, Argentina. They are globular to cylindrical, single or in clusters, low growing to extremely tall (over 2 m for L. tarijensis), with definite ribs. Flowers are diurnal and large, funnel-shaped, with a short, wide tube and mostly red, yellow or white (some sp. may have four distinct flower colors represented simultaneously on the same plant--so what does flower color really mean systematically, except very little to nothing!).

The group is of extremely easy culture and, therefore, very popular among horticulturists and hobby enthusiasts alike. They root readily from cuttings and they are easily grown from seed. The usual super soil-sand (1:1) is preferred and the plants enjoy lots of water and can withstand considerable winter freezing as well.

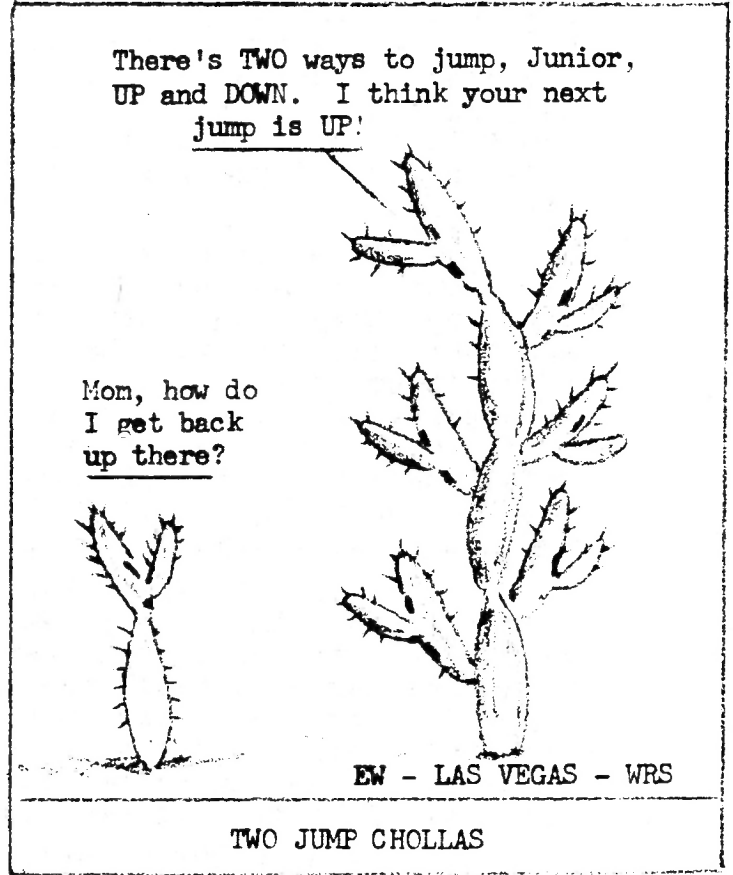
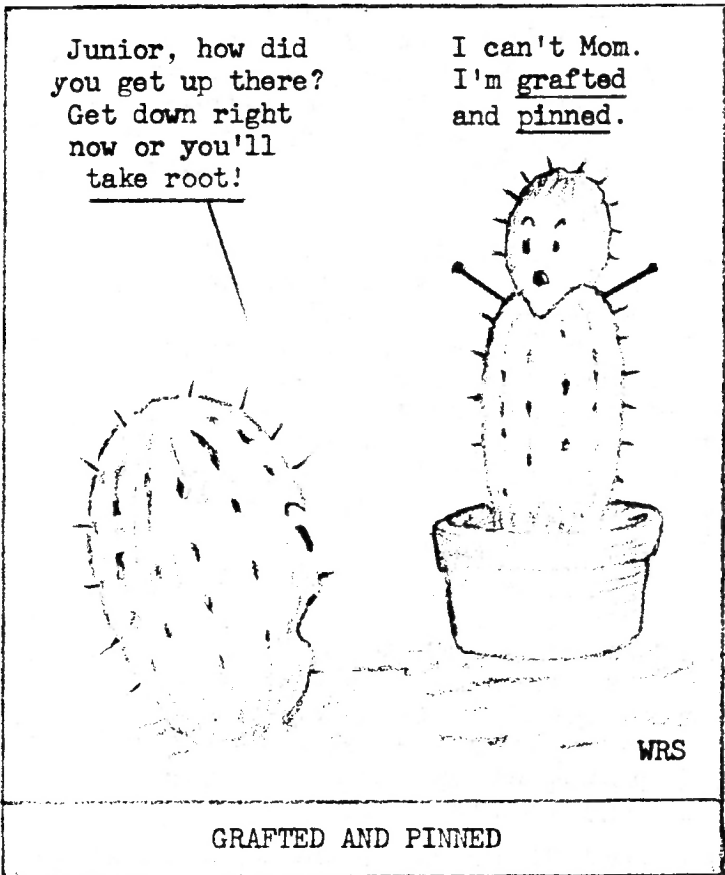
By way of introducing some of the more popular sp. and varieties, one might first mention that nearly 75% of the plants in collections will be misnamed! For example, L. densispina is very common and usually sold as L. famatimensis, L. silvestrii has been sold for years as Chamaecereus silvestrii, Echinopsis arachnacantha is sold as L. arachnacantha, Soehrensia bruchii is really L. bruchii, etc. The most widespread problem concerns L. famatimensis--there is probably no single collector in San Diego County with the "real plant" (except one!). My best advice to an interested student of these plants is to study the works of Walter Rausch in great detail (he has spent over 25 years studying this genus as well as making four separate trips to the Andes, spending months researching these plants in habitat and covering, on foot, over 8000 km in the process!); he is considered to be an expert's expert on the subject.

Too, one cannot dismiss the profusion of hybrids that have been introduced by early horticulturists--the famous Johnson Hybrids are a case in point. Lobivia crosses with Echinopsis (=lobiviopsis of H. Johnson) have produced numerous free-flowering plants that have delighted collectors for years: stars and stripes, harlequin, red meteor, scarlet O'Hara, orange glory, white knight, etc.

The most difficult item to cover is the light requirements of this group. Some require full sun (and will not bloom without it), while others require broken sun (shade via Saran[®]) and others prefer even more shade. By asking those who grow these plants one can obtain a wealth of information and gain valuable insight in individual species-preferences as well. And remember, a bi-monthly feeding program during the growing season will insure healthy, pest-resistant plants.

References Cited

BORG, J. 1959. Cacti, Blanford Press, England; pp. 237-249.
 BRITTON, N. L. and J. N. ROSE, 1937. The cactaceae. Dover Publ., Inc., N.Y.; Vol. III, pp. 49-60.
 RAUSCH, W. 1975. Lobivia. Rudolf Herzig, Austria. Vol. I, II, III, pp. 1-192.



SPRING STRUGGLES ON IN
THE MOUNTAINS!

Audrey Johnson

Up to date, nobody could possibly call this year's weather 'settled', but, at least, recently we have had very welcome spells of sunshine, between the clouds and the drizzles!

I have to admit that all my flowering plants seem to have thrived on this year's moisture, and, in the intermittent sunshine, they are putting on a colourful display. My roses particularly are excelling themselves at the moment of writing. I nearly gave up on them during the past two or three Summers, but now I am beginning to realize their problems: how starved for water they must have been during the drought, despite our constant sprinkling.

Our various types of geraniums, which we have spread around liberally, are presently blooming profusely in a glorious blaze of colour, and some have grown to bush, or small tree, size. It is difficult to realize, at the moment, that, with the intense heat later on, they will shrink down considerably, but it always happens. Meanwhile, (in anticipation) we are taking a great number of cuttings to spread on the lower hillsides, and to give to our friends. It is always nice to spread the wealth, and (should some calamity occur), we can exchange back and forth, which is another nice thought.

LATER: A slight break to take a couple of photographs in my favourite hillside garden. The bright, cherry red, and the glistening, delicate pink varieties of ice plant are in their full splendour in the sunshine. Unfortunately, both these types bloom only in the Springtime, but (as with the beautiful, but all-too-short-lived blossom on the fruit trees) I enjoy their vivid colour at this time of year, and consider the space they cover well worth it.

I am always glad that we planted our large cacti and succulents on the steep slopes above, and alongside, our house. This way, they enjoy the moisture to the extent of growing to enormous size, and yet, having excellent drainage, show no signs of root rot. We should have a great crop of flowers on our cacti this year. We always hope that the heating-up process will be gradual, rather than the sudden, intense heat which we often get. Unfortunately, when it becomes too hot, too suddenly, the flowers open up and are gone all too quickly, which is disappointing. But then again, with this year's weather, who knows?

Our gully-hillside garden has filled up beautifully, and we are hoping that the present thick groundcover will keep it that way. The rain has brought yet another bonus. Just above the steps which meander up through the garden, there is a lovely assortment of wildflowers this year, many more than usual. How I enjoy those morning strolls up the hill, where I can spend a few moments admiring the sunlit valley below, and gazing at my very own wildflowers. I don't even need to make a trip to the desert!

Just below my bird-feeding slab of rock, there is another area which has benefitted greatly from the rainy weather. Some

time ago I planted a long fissure in the rock slab with sedum guatemalensis, and we now have a vivid stripe of red and yellow (it is in flower) running almost to the bottom of the slope. Another rain bonus! Having become well-established, I feel sure my colourful crack will survive the dry, hot weather to come.

THE ANIMALS: My little animal friends seem to be conspicuous by their absence these days. Perhaps the cats, which I am forever chasing away from the bird-feeders, have something to do with it. It is not that we have had so much building going on around here - we really haven't, thank goodness - but it's just that everybody seems to have so many cats! If these little, and big, monsters would only keep away the gophers and the skunks, I wouldn't complain. My other little friends I miss sorely!!

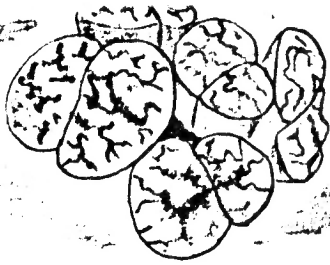
Of course, maybe the almost tropical growth which now surrounds the house hides the smaller animals from sight. It could be, I suppose.... In the meantime, our trees and bushes have expanded to twice their size - in fact, everything is growing furiously, and who could complain about that?

P.S. I almost forgot to mention my bumper crop of SNAILS this Spring, against which I am forever waging warfare. But then again, I don't imagine that I need to remind you of these little beasts, or of the devastation they can produce among your choicest succulents and other favourite plants. Any suggestions for a wholesale slaughter of this pest will be gratefully received by:

Ye Lady Ed.

P.P.S. Having only yesterday finished writing about there not having been many small wild animals around lately, this morning I saw one - and one that I haven't hitherto seen in these parts too! The incident happened at the height of my morning rush to get the menfolk on their way (of course!) so that I was unable to take a photograph, or even see where the stranger ended up.

As I was preparing breakfast this morning, I heard a furious barking coming from our small poodle, Buddy, and took a minute to look out the dining room window, prepared to bang and shout at one of the local marauding cats. To my astonishment, I observed a largish, low-slung, weird-looking creature, slowly waddling along the path, completely oblivious to my bangs and yells. It was light in colour (not too hairy, I think), had a longish snout with a pink tip (ugh!), and fat, overhanging sides. The menfolk lingered in their respective bathrooms, and time was racing by, so I never did see exactly where this new "monster" went to ground. However, you may be sure that I shall carry my camera and go very carefully on my morning stroll today. If I come upon that creature unexpectedly, my screams will be heard all over the valley, that's for sure! I don't think it was a beaver (not enough hair), but could it have been a badger, I wonder? Any ideas, fellow members?



Succulent of the Month

SUCCULENT PORTULACACEAE
(EXCLUDING ANACAMPSEROS)

by Rick Latimer

As last month, we will do several related genera together that can not stand on their own due to some being too rare, unpopular, underrated, or just too few in number. This month's family is the Purslane (English word derived from the Latin through the French version) or Portulacaceae. This family contains about 17 genera all not succulent as are many species of genera with succulent members. This family belongs to the order Centrospermae along with the Cactaceae, Didiereaceae, Mesembryanthemaceae, et. al.

Roughly ten years ago, while looking at my succulent plants, I decided that some of them might be related. Three appeared especially similar. They all had round, green, disc-shaped leaves with a red edge. One had $\frac{1}{2}$ inch leaves, the second 1 inch leaves, and the third 4 inch leaves. Two of them had segmented trunks rather like tootsie rolls. The fact that the third did not bothered me however...I now know the third plant to be the *Cotyledon* everyone has but not the name. The second one is in the same family (but not closely related) and is *Crassula portulaca* (Jade Tree). The third plant, however, is neither in the same family nor the same order (Rosales). Its name-*Portulaca afra*.

P. afra is not considered to be especially choice in Southern California, but instead rather mundane. The plant is native to South Africa where it can reach the height of 20 feet. The plant is called "Spekboom" and is commonly used for fodder. It reportedly blooms plentifully there in small clusters of small, pink flowers. Some people here like Joan Fleer can make their's bloom, but most people here, including myself, never have seen their own plants bloom. The variegated form carries greater esteem and makes a good hanging basket. Helen Hegyi has a larger leafed form which she calls *P. gigantea*. Cacti have been grafted on *P. afra* in Japan as Victor Turacek showed us some time back.

Ceraria is the closest related genus to *Portulacaria*. It too comes from South Africa. I do not believe I have ever seen any of these in the flesh. *C. namaquensis* is described as having a white, papery bark and small grey-green, deciduous leaves. Flowers are white and pink and dioecious! *C. pygmaea* looks like a mesemb or a sedum cluster on top of a woody caudex.

The last genus from Africa is of course *Anacampseros*. We are excluding them here because they can hold their own and we did them last June. (Bring any in bloom though!)

Many species of the genus *Portulaca* are not succulent, but Jacobsen lists over 20 that he considers to be so such as *P. poellnitziana*. Overall, this is a rather obscure genus. Plants come from the Americas, Pacific Islands, Africa, and Australia. One species is well-known and is one of the annuals of this genus and of the succulents in general like the mesemb *Dorotheanthus*. *Portulaca grandiflora* or "Rock Rose" comes from Brazil. To me it looks rather like an etiolated *Anacampseros*, hairs and all. It

comes in single and doubled flowers from pink, magenta, red, orange, peach, yellow, white, and striped.

The next genus Calandrina is far more unknown than Portulaca. I have never heard of it myself nor seen any ever. Jacobsen lists several that come from W. America from Vancouver to Chile and Australia. The only picture is of C. spectabilis which looks somewhat like a Senecio fulgens except having the typical "wild rose" flowers. This annual has purple flowers and is native to Chile. C. speciosa is native to California (where?).

The genus Lewisia is named for Meriwether (not Perlso) Lewis of Lewis and Clark fame. These plants are native to mostly North Western North America. The most famous one is L. rediviva (bitter-root) which is the state flower of Montana. The flowers look like small water lilies and may be pink or white. The fleshy cylindrical leaves are bright orange. Pursh (who named the plant) noted that the roots of the plant that was first described, showed signs of life after being in the herbarium for several years. He planted them and they grew for a year. The event suggested the name rediviva.

Talinum's are native to areas in both hemispheres that are mainly tropical and subtropical. The most interesting one is T. guadalupense from Guadalupe Island (Pacific). This plant can be mistaken for a Cotyledon, but the crepe paper rose-like flowers betray its true identity. T. aurantiacum from Texas and NE Mexico has tuberous roots. The only one I have previously seen at a San Diego meeting is T. paniculatum having been brought in by Ruth Stanton.

REFERENCES:

Bailey, L. H., The Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture, Vol. 5 L_O, 1922, p. 1851.

Jacobsen, Hermann, A Handbook of Succulent Plants, (London:1960), Vol. I: pp. 238-238, 260-261; Vol. II: pp. 672-673, 740-745, 885-888.

Moran, Reid, "Spekboom Blooms", CSSA Journal, Vol. XLV, 1973, pp. 71-73.

FOR SALE

Helen Hegyi

The three volumes of "HANDBOOK OF SUCCULENT PLANTS", by Hermann Jacobsen, are for sale. Price: \$45.00.

These books are in prime condition - Abbey Gardens lists them for: \$67.50, plus tax.

Please contact: Helen Hegyi.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Warren Buckner

Plans for the June 3-4 "Let's be Great in Seventy-Eight" are under way, with many announcements to be made at the May 13th meeting. Bring your pencils to sign up for exhibits, host/hostess, greeters, plant sales, etc. Gerald, Eleanor, and Jim Dice deserve and need a lot of help over the June 3-4 weekend - Sign up and come prepared to be a plant super sales person.

Signs, 12 x 18, will be available, advertising our Open-House at the May 13th. meeting. Please take them to post in your favourite Nursery, Supermarket, Drugstore, Bakery, Community bulletin board, or any gathering point.

The Executive Board decided at the April meeting that "The S.D.C. & S.S. will not exhibit at the 1978 Southern California Exposition (County Fair)". This was a painful, but necessary, decision that had to be made. The decision finally came down to: "Did we have anyone willing to head up this year's Fair effort?". NO!

The Executive Board has decided to make an Annual Award, Plant or Plaque or something, to the person winning the most "Bragging Plant Exhibits" at our monthly meetings. In April, Nellie Kennett was the proud winner, with a beautiful crested *Rebutia minuscula*.

REGALEMENT FOR MAY.

Just a reminder to the following members that you signed up to provide refreshments for the May meeting:

H. Hewitt	Sophie Loyland
Verna Pasek	Pat Elkington
Rose D*Atillio	Marsha Munro
Arnold Burt	Edith Billmyer
Ron Ulman	

GREETINGS: CACTOPHILES:

Did the rain drown many of your SPECIAL plants? Did the bugs attack some? Remember - two months from April 2nd will be the time to bring in your plants for display at our LET'S MAKE IT GREAT IN '78 Open House----- that will be the time to set up your display. Whatever type of plants you display, AND WE WELCOME NEWCOMERS, you will be welcome----- only, remember your Committee will need to know in advance how much room, and if you will share a table, etc. 'Phone numbers to call: Harriet Sopp - 287-7511, and Frances Johnson - 284-3506, early evenings, please. Our able Betty Athey and Ricky Latimer will set up a SPECIAL DISPLAY at the entrance to the hall.....Betty knows of the source for pots as stated in April "EyF"----- 469-7647.

Harriet Sopp
Frances Johnson
Committee: Verna Pasek
Ethel Standish
W.D. Musser
Angela Burdis

OPEN HOUSE

Harriet Sopp & Frances Johnson.

Inasmuch as June 3-4 have been designated as "Open House" for our Society, and we have been asked to be Chairladies, we present the following ideas:

1. New Members: "Open House" welcomes you to set up a table of your favourites, and, if you don't think you can do a whole table, get someone to share one. One gains new friends, more confidence, and a feeling of closeness by displaying your items. This year we are setting up an area for individual plants for your "pride and jey".
2. We need "OLD TIMERS" again, showing your specialties and knowledge.
3. We need those who show plants in interesting containers, and those who have a central theme of planters.
4. We believe we have a party who will do the "Interest" table at the door already picked.

So - start grooming your plants, and again "Let's be Great in Seventy-Eight".

Perpetual Trophies will be awarded as follows:

Ruby Falk Award for: "Best Succulent".
Philip Corliss Award for: "Best Cactus".
Reuben Vaughn Award for: "Best Exhibit".
Hazel and Walter Scott Award for: "Most Artistic Exhibit".
C.S.S.A. plaque for: "Best Educational Exhibit".

Individual Blue Ribbons will be awarded to classes to be announced at the May Meeting.

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OFFICERS

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The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing Cacti, other Succulents, and Exotic Plants.

Dues are \$6.00 annually. Single copies of Espinas y Flores \$0.50.

Meetings are the second Saturday of each month, 1.30 p.m. in Room 101 of Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. (Exceptions noted in Espinas y Flores.)

Executive Board Meeting after the General Meeting.