

Espinas y Flores

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

Vol. XV, No. 5.

May, 1980

May Meeting

Saturday, May 10th, 1980

1:30 pm

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

Show Panel Discussion

Since our Show categories have been completely changed, we will devote our May meeting to our upcoming June 7 - 8 Cactus and Succulent Open House. The Blue Ribbon Panel will consist of the various Show Chairmen, who may make any last minute clarification to new or usual Show policies. Too, Lee Phelps will give a short presentation on grooming and judging of plants brought in by different board members. If time permits, club members may ask questions about general cactus and succulent culture as well.

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Cactus-of-the-Month

Arrojadoa Britton & Rose

Frank C. Thrombley

Arrojadoa (ár-rō-zhā-dō-á)

Group: Cephalocerei Backbg.

The May cactus-of-the-month was named in honor of Dr. Miguel Arrojadoa Lisboa of Brazil. Dr. Arrojado Lisboa did extensive botanical explorations of the semiarid regions in Brazil in the early 1900's. The distribution of this species of cactus is in Central and Northern Brazil in the states of Bahia, Piahy, Pernambuco and Minas Gerais.

Arrojadoa is a slender stemmed species, moderately long, or in part, a decumbent or creeping plant. The columnar stems are off-setting from the base with a tendency to become shrubby. They have low narrow ribs which are thickly studded with minute aeroles. The flowers are reddish and arise near the tip of the stem from amidst a cephalium-like ring of bristles. The berry-like fruits are spherical and bear floral remains.

This genus was first described in 1908 for two new species in which flowers and fruit arise from a dense apical tuft of bristles. The pseudocephalium is formed at the top of the previous years growth and consists of a mass of wool up to 2cm. long with many reddish brown flexible bristles up to 3cm. long. The pseudocephalium is most characteristic, for instead of remaining as a permanent crown of the plant, it forms a lateral collar for the new joint which is projected through its center.

The two new species were named Arrojadoa Rhodantha, which was selected as the type, and Arrojadoa Penicillata. Rhodantha and Penicillata translates to Rose-Flowered and Brush-Like, respectively.

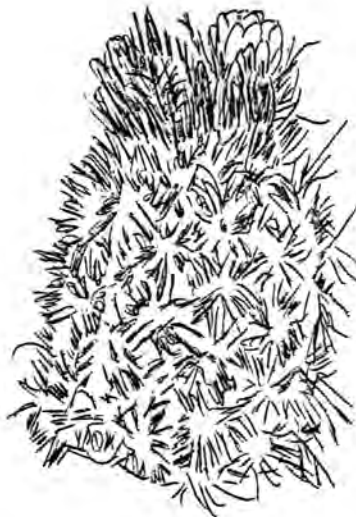
Britton and Rose evidently disagreed with placing these in the Cereus group by declaring that this is a peculiar genus with no close allies. Taxonomically, the structure, origin and shape of the flower and fruit are quite different. Curt Backeberg placed them in the Cephalocerei group under subgroup Eucephalocerei. The key to the subgroup Eucephalocerei is the Cephalia of different types, lateral, zoned, in part from a furrow or as described above. Backeberg, with an update by Walther Haage, describes seven species of this genus in his Cactus Lexicon. The most recent discovery, Arrojadoa Dinae, was found in 1972 by Buining and Horst.

It is not clear to me what recommendations can be made for cultivation of this genus. Graham Charles, a collector in England, wrote an article on an "uncommon cereus", Arrojadoa Dinae. The article was published in the September 1979 issue of the National Cactus and Succulent Journal. His plant was an imported cutting grafted on a hylocereus stock. It was grown in a

heated greenhouse. Wilhelm Barthlott, a German plantsman and botanist, recommends grafting cuttings onto a hylocereus, opuntia or trichocereus stock and keep the plants warm in winter with plenty of light. The late Professor J. Borg, from Malta, in his publication "Cacti" describes only two types Arrojadoa Rhodantha and Arrojadoa Pencillatus. However, he said they thrive well on their own roots in half shade, in a gritty soil mixed with leaf mold. Finally, Madaline Lee, of this society, showed me a mature Arrojadoa Rhodantha planted outside in a garden of Grigsby Cactus Gardens, Vista, California. The Grigsby Nursery was selling rooted cuttings from this stock plant. I purchased one of these fascinating plants in hopes of learning more about its culture.

References used:

- Backeberg, Curt. 1977 Cactus Lexicon. Blandford Press, England
- Barthlott, Wilhelm. 1979. Cacti. Stanly Thornes, England
- Borg, J. 1976. Cacti. Blandford Press, England
- Britton and Rose. 1937. The Cactaceae. Dover Publications, New York City
- The National Cactus and Succulent Journal, Volume 34, September 1979 Issue
Page 56, Arrojadoa Dinae by
Graham Charles



Flowers Arising From The Cepalium-Like Bristles

Succulent-of-the-Month

PACHYPODIUM & ADENIUM

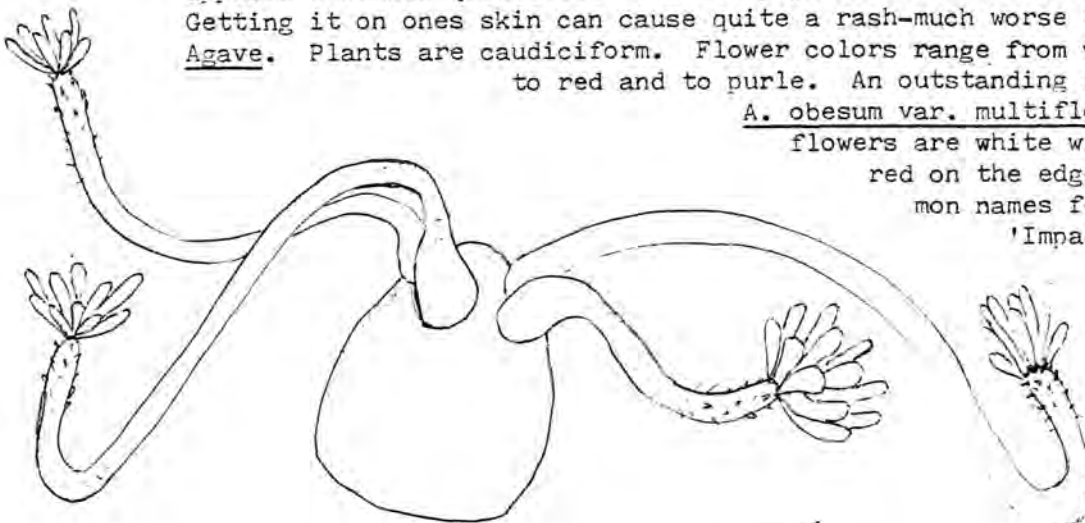
by Rick Latimer

The Apocynaceae (Dogbane or Periwinkle family) is closely related to the Asclepiadaceae (Milkweed or Silkweed family). The fruits ("double-horned"), seeds (dispersed by the wind with use of silken parachutes), flowers (five petaled), and saps (milky) are similar. So, the Pachypodiums are "cousins" to the Stapelias, although there are, of course, intervening nonsucculent genera. The Apocynaceae includes such genera as Carissa (Natal Plum), Nerium (Oleander), Vinca (Periwinkle), and Frangipani (Plumeria-lei flowers). A number of the species of this family are quite poisonous

The genus Pachypodium is confined to S. Angola, Namibia, Namaqualand, and Cape Province on the African continent and to the island of Madagascar. In the African species, the spines are mostly longer, thinner, and have an inflated, swollen base. The spines of the Madagascan species are shorter, thicker, and some species are nearly spineless. The growth forms are very similar in both series. There are the arborescent species such as P. namaquanum (A) and P. geayi (M-up to ten meters high) and there are the shrubby species with large irregularly shaped tubers or caudexes topped by a crown of thinner branches such as P. succulentum(A) and P. rosulatum var. gracilius(M). An intriguing species is P. brevicaule which has only very stubby branches. This Madagascan species may look like a queen termite or like some animal by-product. Pachypodium leaves are rather oleander-like, being shorter and rounder (P. horombense) or longer and thinner (P. lamerei). P. namaquanum's leaves are special in that they are crinkled. Flowers are white (P. lealii-(A)), yellow (P. brevicaule-(M)), orange (P. densiflorum(M)), red (P. baroni var. windsori (M)), purple and lavender (P. bispinosum-(A)), or yellow-green with a maroon interior (P. namaquanum-(A)).

The genus Adenium has a more wide-spread habitat-from Arabia, Socotra, Kenya, Tanzania, and down to Namibia. This genus is closely related to Pachypodium. It is distinguished by the absence of thorns, by the peculiar tailed anthers in the flowers, and the conspicuous glands (Aden is Greek for gland) in each leaf axil. After bruising a plant, there appears enormous quantities of a milky juice which is extremely poisonous. Getting it on ones skin can cause quite a rash-much worse than from an Agave. Plants are caudiciform. Flower colors range from white to pink to red and to purple. An outstanding species is

A. obesum var. multiflorum, whose flowers are white with an intense red on the edges. The common names for this plant are 'Impala Lily' or 'Kudu Lily'.



P. rosulatum var. gracilius

REFERENCES:

Hermann Jacobsen, A Handbook of Succulent Plants.

George H. M. Lawrence, Taxonomy of Vascular Plants.

Werner Rauh, "The Genus Pachypodium", CSSA Journal, (44:1), p. 7-31.

Hortus III.

Annual Parade of Pulchritudinous Plants

The forthcoming show on June 7 and 8 will put on parade a spectacle of rare and beautiful specimens of our favorite groups of plants. Look around your collection and spruce up those beauties you've been enjoying yourself all year! Some plants, even when negligently cared for, still remain lovely to behold. However, when shown in competition, these plants could miss achieving awards by lacking certain aspects for show which the judges' eyes deem important.

Let us start with the plant itself. Go over it carefully, removing any dead or decayed matter, webs, and even dust. This can be done with tweezers, a soft brush and/or water. If there are branches which protrude like maverick growth and interrupt the all-over harmony of form, clip them and give the ends a chance to heal before show time. The previous year's flower stalks, now dead, such as on caudiciform Cotyledons, should be left on, if not broken. The plants needless to say should look healthy and free of pests or fungus.

As for pots, you can clean them up without repotting if you so desire by scrubbing the outside of the clay pot with a vinegar solution and some steel wool or a rough plastic scrubber. This should remove the whitish lime deposits. If the pot still has a whitish cast you can use a mineral oil over the outside of the pot to restore its neat, clean appearance. The pot should have a pleasing relationship in height and width to the plant it is to contain. The pot should look big enough to support the plant, but not so big as to dwarf it.

Topping or surface coverings not only give a neater appearance to a potted specimen but they prevent water from splashing up. The topping should be scaled in proportion to the plant..... large crushed rocks not being generally suitable to a small specimen unless the attempt is to show plant mimicry as in nature. Above all, the surface covering should not detract from the plant itself by its size, color, or extreme variegation.

There are 55 classifications so do enter many of them and help make this the finest cactus and succulent show San Diego has ever hosted!

Shirley Berry

Member Interviews: Walter Scott

by Marcia Monroe



Originally from Trinidad, Colorado, Walter Scott is a graduate (Class of 1927) of Hastings College, Nebraska. While on summer vacation from Hastings College, he was employed at the Burlington Railroad. Receiving a 'leave of absence' from the railroad, Walter attended the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts, Chicago, Illinois.

Later, after leaving Hastings College, Walter had the urge to go West. The Great Depression was not being felt as severely in San Diego as in most cities and he felt that it might be a good place to seek a home and fortune as he was looking more for the 'good life and a career'. He passed a civil service examination to become a Prohibition Agent in Hawaii but the 18th Amendment was repealed in 1933; shortly there-

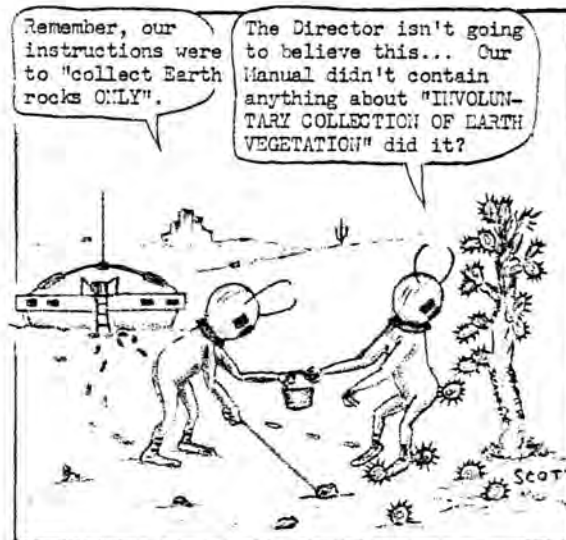
after, the Hawaii trip was suddenly cancelled.

Walter began working with the San Diego Police Department in the early 1930's, and later, he took very 'concentrated instruction' at the FBI Police Academy at the Department of Justice Building in Washington, D.C., and at Quantico, Virginia. Too, he attended the Eastman Kodak School of Photography, Rochester, N.Y., studying the whole field of photography and there was a course on Police Photographic Procedure with a special emphasis on criminal photography. In San Diego he was in charge of the Police Laboratory and he set up a Police Academy for the training of recruits and experienced officers in 1941, preparing them for promotional examinations; during WWII, he also trained aircraft factory security officers.

While in charge of the Police Laboratory, Walter worked on murder and extortion cases. He was also in charge of setting up an Educational exhibit of marijuana plants for his Training Division and to use in talks before civic clubs and, on one occasion, the display disappeared. Walter is an expert witness in the identification of handwriting and fingerprints and he has authored the book Fingerprint Mechanics, and the book Scott's Fingerprint Mechanics, a revised edition, has been published.

After retiring from the San Diego Police Department in 1952, Walter made Breath Testing Instruments to test drunken drivers; currently, he is retired. His wife, Hazel, worked for the San Diego City Civil Service.

Since his full time retirement, Walter has collected cacti and he joined our Club when it first started in 1961. He was the Editor of Espinas y Flores for three years, and he is a life member of our Society. Presently, he is a member of

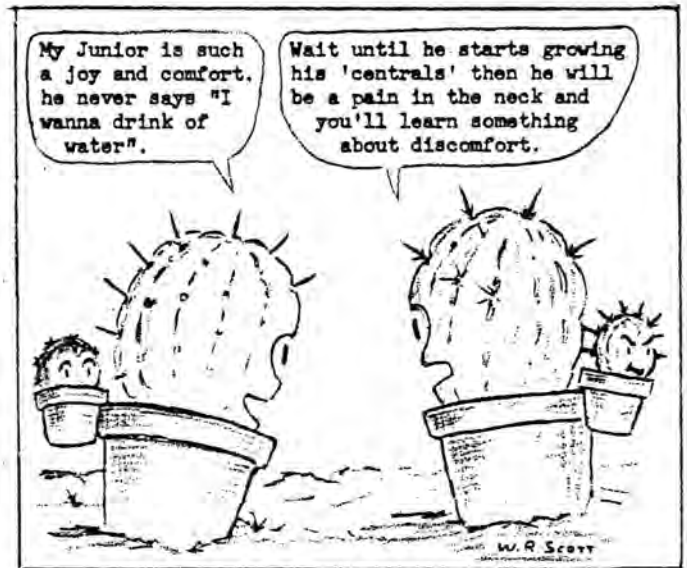


CSSA and is past Member of the Board.

He has taken several extensive collecting trips into Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and California. At one time, he had a wide selection of plants and the golden barrel (Echinocactus grusonii) is one of his favorite cacti. Showing his cacti at the Del Mar Fair, he has won numerous ribbons. The Walter and Hazel Scott Plaque for the "Most Artistic Display" is awarded each year in the Scotts' honor at the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society's Annual Show.

After drawing cactus cartoons over the years for Espinas y Flores and the CSSA Journal, Walter has become well-known for his cactus humor and in the future he plans to publish a cactus coloring book for all of us to enjoy.

Walter has made numerous color slides of what he considers to be "the most photogenic plant family in the world - - the family Cactaceae".



Special Announcements

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO 1980 BOTANICAL MEMBER NIGHTS at the Wild Animal Park

May 14

Spring Botanical Tour by Jim Gibbons

GREEN THUMB SHOWS - - - - - at the San Diego Wild Animal Park:

May 3 - 4

San Diego Epiphyllum Society

May 17 - 18

San Diego Bromeliad Society

May 24 - 25

Palm Society

May 31 - June 1

San Diego Fuchsia & Shade Plant Club

"THE FUN & FUNDS FESTIVAL" at the Ecke Family Building, Quail Botanical Gardens Drive, Encinitas, Ca., May 4th, 1980, from 10 am to 4 pm.

DESMOND COLE will be hosted by the San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society and CSSA at the Los Angeles County Arboretum on May 29 at 7:30. The featured program will be "Lithops in Habitat".

Pests of Succulent Plants

Part XIV. Weeds

Dr. Ronald E. Monroe

It is rather common knowledge that in habitat, succulent plants commonly grow with other plant species, and as a matter of fact, without these companion plants giving protection and shade to a seedling after germination, it is safe to say that the seedling's chance of survival could be less than zero. However, succulent plants grown in containers pose a completely different situation, and weeds growing with them are offensive to view and potentially a problem to the well-being of the succulent plant(s) desired.

Systematics -- Weeds are simply plants out of place and what is one man's weed is another's collectible. Such plants belong to numerous families, and they may be plants accidentally introduced from abroad (and of special interest and a tenacious problem because they have few natural enemies) or they may be common weed plants found in home gardens that take advantage of pot-culture. Some of the most common weeds found growing with succulent plants are:

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| Green algae (from using white plastic pots)..... | <u>Chloroplia</u> sp: Paraarchegoniophytera |
| Spurge..... | <u>Euphorbia setiloba</u> |
| Dandelion..... | <u>Taraxacum officinali</u> |
| Red-seeded dandelion..... | <u>T. laevigatum</u> |
| Bur-clover..... | <u>Medicago hispida</u> |
| Sweet clover..... | <u>Melilotus indicus</u> |
| Red clover..... | <u>Trifolium pratense</u> |
| Alsike clover..... | <u>T. hybridum</u> |
| Filaree..... | <u>Erodium obtusifoliatum</u> |
| Filaree..... | <u>E. botrys</u> |
| Filaree..... | <u>E. cicutarium</u> |
| Mouse-ear chickweed..... | <u>Cerastium vulgatum</u> |
| Common chickweed..... | <u>Stellaria media</u> |
| Chickweed..... | <u>S. graminea</u> |
| Bindweed..... | <u>Convolvulus arvensis</u> |
| Morning glory..... | <u>Convolvulus</u> sp. |
| Oxalis..... | <u>Oxalis corniculata</u> |
| Bermuda buttercup..... | <u>O. pes-caprae</u> |
| Bermuda grass..... | <u>Cynodon dactylon</u> |
| Crab grass..... | <u>Digitaria sanguinalis</u> |

Plant damage -- Mainly, weeds are a direct nuisance and distract from the staged beauty of potted plants. Succulents in habitat or those grown under field conditions will necessarily have to compete with weeds for nutrients and moisture, but this is of minor consequence in most cases because such soils are usually rich in nutrients and rain water normally percolates downward with dissolved minerals, etc., more than satisfying the food requirements of the succulents on the downward side

of hills or mountains. However, pot culture is a different situation. Water continually leaches out nutrients and carries them out of the pot thereby creating a problem when weeds are also present. Competition for nutrients and moisture or lack of space from crowding could cause stunted growth, reduce or stop flowering and even induce disease by weakening the plant to the point that it is easily attacked by a pathogen or by maintaining too high a humidity at the base of the plant so that fungi will proliferate. Too, weeds also hide foraging insects, snails and slugs from view until considerable damage has been done.

Biology -- The biology of any of the so-called weeds are so widely variable and different that it is not wise nor necessary to consider them in this regard. What is important, however, is to realize that most weeds are similar to succulent plants in being dicotyledinous; only the grasses mentioned above are monocotyledinous. Thus, most weeds are anatomically and physiologically similar enough to the succulents that a chemical control is impossible.

Control -- As one might expect, it is necessary to remove weeds from pot-grown succulent plants and that such removal must be by "hand picking" because chemical herbicides used to control weeds would also kill the succulent(s). Fortunately, in most cases, it is necessary only to remove weeds in the spring of the year, leaving the major portion of the year with weed-free, healthy plants.

References

Munz, Philip A. 1973. A California Flora. University of California Press, Los Angeles. 1681 pp.; combined edition with supplement, 224 pp.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

A Revision of the Genus Crassula in Southern Africa by H. R. Tolken. Published by the Bolus Herbarium, University of Cape Town, 1977. In two volumes, 595 pages, a few black and white line drawings. To date, the most complete study of this genera available.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Harriet Sopp who recently lost her husband, Harold, in March.

Recent Cacti Additions to the U.S.
List of Endangered and Threatened Species

Part III

Dr. Ronald E. Monroe

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently acted to protect some of the world's rarest plant species by adding thirty native and two foreign plants to the U.S. List of Endangered and Threatened Species. Twenty-one of these plants are cacti (Endanger. Sp. Tech. Bull. IV: 1, 5-8; 1979).

The cacti listed, the Federal Register publication date, their habitat location, their listed status and the reason(s) for their listing is as follows for Part III:

Pediocactus bradyi. F.R. 10/26/79; on twenty km² of one Arizona county; endangered because of highway and powerline construction, collecting and ORV use.

Pediocactus knowltonii. F.R. 10/29/79; in one location of northeastern New Mexico; endangered because of collecting.

Pediocactus peeblesianus v. peeblesianus. F.R. 10/26/79; from Navajo County in northern Arizona; endangered because of collecting, road construction and pit gravel operations.

Pediocactus sileri. F.R. 10/26/79; from the Utah-Arizona border; endangered because of gypsum mining, collecting and ORV use.

Sclerocactus glaucus. F.R. 10/11/79; from mesas of the Colorado Plateau of far western Colorado and eastern Utah; threatened because of collecting and future mineral and oil exploration and recreation use.

Sclerocactus mesae-verdae. F.R. 10/30/79; from southwestern Colorado and northwestern New Mexico (mainly the Navajo Indian Reservation); threatened because of collecting, highway construction and ORV activity.

Sclerocactus wrightiae. F.R. 10/11/79; in the Navajoan Desert on two Utah counties; endangered because of collecting, mineral exploration, potential industrial use and ORV use.

News of Interest

Those members who wish to put in a display at the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society's Annual Show, contact Warren Buckner at the May 10th meeting.

Warren still needs volunteers to assist him at the Open House.

It is suggested that members showing plants at the Annual Show should obtain their entry tags from Martin Mooney at the next meeting. Your tags should be filled out when plants are brought in at these setup times (June 6, 1 pm - 8 pm) and (June 7, 7 am - 10 am).

We welcome this month the following new members: Earl Conway, Solana Beach; Arden Bercovitz, San Diego; Phyllis Flechsig, Encinitas; George Jennings, San Diego; Donabelle La France, Spring Valley; Naomi Ray Lange, San Diego; Lee MacLagan, Escondido; Barrett A. Shaw, San Diego and Margaret Daigle of Spring Valley.

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

Shirley Berry, Tom Hamecher, Larry Lovell, Marianne Thrombley, Bob Taylors, William Lows, Ethel Standish, Helen Brinkley, Lee MacLagan, Katherine MacDonald, Eileen Smith and Marcia Monroe.

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

- 1st: Madelyn Lee - Euphorbia cao-saintemariensis
- 2nd: Joan Johnson - Mammillaria humboltii
- 3rd: Catherine Engel - Calibanus hookeri

For those members who were not present at the last meeting, we had a delightful and unexpected visit from Sophie Kabiesz of Catowice, Poland. She gave a short presentation on cactus and succulent culture in her native country and with the use of slides introduced some of the people involved in that avocation.

A special thanks to Paul and Joan Johnson for their donation of the perpetual trophy "Best Mexican Cactus in Show" in Sr. Dudley Gold's honor to the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society.

Dr. Ronald E. Monroe was nominated as a member of I.O.S. (International Organization for the Study of Succulent Plants); XVI Congress, Mexico City, March 23 - 29, 1980.

The April V.I.P. Table featured an excellent display of succulents (the different forms they take throughout the world) in the Crassulaceae family by Mony Monroe. A few of the plants on display were: Crassula streyi, Graptopetalum macdougallii, Sedum multiceps and Aeonium tabuliforme.

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----- Deadline for the June issue is May 30 -----

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Officers

| | |
|---|----------|
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Elizabeth Athy, Shirley Berry, Dr. Ronald Monroe, Martin Mooney,
John Pasek, Dr. Leroy Phelps

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Open House: Martin Mooney
Plant Exchange Table: Doris Rake and John Roth
Plants & Supplies Table: Carl McLeod
Programs: Richard Latimer
Publication: Marcia Monroe (ph. 461-8444)
Reception: Rose D'Attilio and Veryl Snowhill
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Balboa Park Desert Garden - John Pasek
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S.D. Botanical Garden Foundation -
S.D. Floral Association - Verna Pasek

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¢.

Marcia Monroe
5635 Severin Drive
La Mesa, CA 92041

Address Correction Requested

FIRST CLASS