

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. 9

September, 1980

September Meeting

Saturday, September 13th, 1980
1:30 pm
Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

The Small, Globular Andean Cacti of Bolivia and Argentina:
Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Weingartia

by Ron Monroe

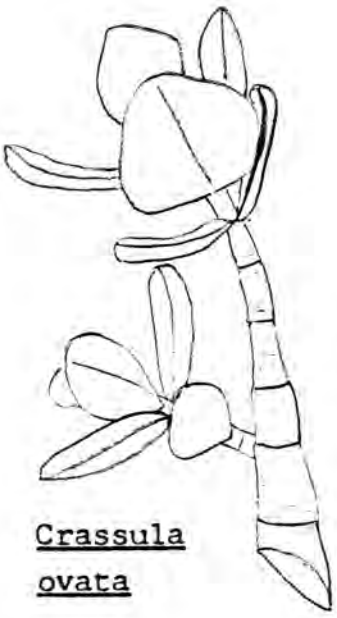
The featured program for this month is a presentation, with slides, by Dr. Monroe on "The Small, Globular Andean Cacti of Bolivia and Argentina". He is currently Professor of Zoology at San Diego State University. Ron is a member of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society (Member of the Board and Committee on Education and is Chairman of the Conservation Committee). He is also a member of the Board of Directors of CSSA (CSSA Conservation Committee and several other ad hoc committees. Too, he is a member of IOS. His special interest is the study of Rebutia, Sulcorebutia and Weingartia.

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Succulent-of-the-Month

CRASSULA

by Rick Latimer



The Crassula family was once thought to be (more or less) closely allied to the Rose family. This is still thought to be true, but the feeling now is that the Crassulaceae has a greater affinity to the Saxifragaceae (with such members as Hydrangea macrophylla and Saxifraga paniculata). The Crassula family consists of plants that are annual, biennial, or perennial herbs or subshrubs, usually more or less succulent. Leaves are arranged in an opposite, alternate, or whorled manner and are often densely rosulate. Flowers may have either the same number of stamens as petals or twice as many. Two unusual family members are Sedum coeruleum-an annual with pale sky blue flowers (a unique color in this family as is the flower of Dioscorea (Pseudorhizalis) panamensis in the Cactus family) and Sedum rosea-the roseroot, has dioecious flowers! In this family, some species' leaves taste bad in the morning due to an accumulation of acid over the night.

Crassula
ovata

The subfamily Crassuloideae differs from the other subfamilies in that there are as many petals as stamens - all the others have twice as many stamens as petals. The flowers of the genus Crassula usually have five petals, but C. multiclava's flowers have four petals and C. septas (a nonsucculent annual with cyclamen like tubers) has flowers with seven petals. When C. (portulacae, argentea) ovata is in full bloom at Christmas time, one may observe one or more six-petaled flowers in the bunch. Most Crassula flowers are white, but there are other colors such as pink (C. 'Morgan's Beauty') or red (C. (falcata) perfoliata var. falcata). A few species are fragrant and a few of these go overboard, being sickly sweet and attracting flies (e. g. C. turgid).

The choicest species are the miniature (and sometimes mimicry) Crassulas. Some of these favorites are C. barbata, pyramidalis, alstoni, barklyi (teres), namaquensis (comptonii), schmidtii, hemisphaerica, and mesembrianthemopsis (not to be confused with mesembryanthoides!)). I have a soft spot for some of the larger species such as the blue C. arborescens, known as the "Silver Dollar", or the "Jade Tree" C. ovata which most of us consider as merely common. This underrated species has some special forms and cultivars. The variegated form has beautiful leaves with three colors-white, light green and inbetween- and a pink edge. The bark is as papery as Anacampseros alstoni or some of the deciduous Cotyledons. The beautiful C. "Sunset" also has tricolor leaves only they are red, gold, and green. There is a small leafed form and another form with cylindrical leaves! Some interesting Crassula hybrids are: C. 'Capitol', 'Camp Fire'(?), 'Buddha's Temple' and 'Ivory Pagoda'.

REFERENCES:

- Ed Doak, "What's in a Name", CSSA Journal, V. 51, p. 78-79.
David Grigsby, "Crassula Odyssey", CSSA Journal, V. 51, p. 133.
Vera Higgins, Crassulas in Cultivation.
Gordon Rowley, The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Succulents.
H. R. Toelkin, A Revision of the Genus Crassula in Southern Africa.
Eric Walther, Echeveria.

Annual Election of San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Officers

The term of office for all officers shall be for two years and they (President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer) shall be elected in even-numbered calendar years.

A Nominating Committee (Betty Athy, Shirley Berry, Ron Monroe and Martin Mooney, Chairperson) shall meet earlier than the September meeting, and it is suggested members shall present their nominations for any of the above mentioned offices to one of the Nominating Committee or to Martin Mooney, Chairperson (427-6797) before the next assemblage. The Chairperson shall report candidates for office to the Society at the regular November meeting.

Nominations from the floor shall be solicited, providing the nominee is present, and agrees or has given prior written approval, to the nomination.

The election will be held at the regular December meeting of the Society.

Special Announcement

John Lavranos (well-known author, lecturer and collector of Arabian and Somalian succulents) will present a program at the October 4, 1980, meeting (an early meeting) on his "Succulent Trips to Arabia".

Cactus-of-the-Month

Eulychnia Philippi

Frank C. Thrombley

Eulychnia (ū-lik-ni-ā)
Cereus Group

A South American Columnar Cacti mostly tree-like Cerei, freely branching with fairly erect branches. The name of September's Cactus-of-the-Month is derived from the Greek and means "a good lamp stand" or "candlestick".

The distribution of Eulychnia is in the north coastal regions of Chile. They grow on the dry slopes or bluffs of the coastal hills facing the sea. They are not found on the plains or pampas, which extend east of the coastal hills to the Andes. They are the dominant feature in the vegetation.

With the exception of Eulychnia procumbens Backeberg, these plants are usually 3 to 7 meters high, with a definite trunk 1 meter long and then branching to form a more or less rounded top. Some of the branches will become procumbent or ascending. Eulychnia procumbens Backeberg is a semi-prostrate, low growing plant. The dead branches of Eulychnia are harvested for fire wood. One specie, Eulychnia acida Philippi, is used for hedge fences. The flowers are white or pink, or both. The flowers open day or night, the fruits are all fleshy and somewhat acid. The seeds are small and dull black or brown in color.

The genus Eulychnia was first established by Rudolph Philippi in 1860. He based this genus on a single species, Eulychnia breviflora. In 1864 he described two more species, E. acida and E. castanea.

Prior to the established genus Eulychnia, Otto described a plant he discovered and named it Cereus spinibarbis. This plant was later placed in the genus Eulychnia.

Britton and Rose, in their study of the cactus family for their published works, The Cactaceae, established the type species for this genus as Eulychnia breviflora Philippi. However, they recognized that Cereus spinibarbis Otto was indeed the same plant as E. breviflora. In keeping within the established rules they named the type species Eulychnia spinibarbis (Otto). Therefore, in keeping within the international rules for botanical nomenclature, the name becomes Eulychnia spinibarbis (Otto) Britton and Rose (T). The (T) means the type species for the genus. Hence, Philippi is not even mentioned.

Cultivation of these plants are not difficult. They require a gritty soil mixture that is rich in loam, humus and sand or pumice. Water well in pot culture, but never let the root ball sit in water or puddles as a result of watering.

References used:

- Backeberg, Curt. 1977. Cactus Lexicon. Blandford Press, England
- Britton and Rose. 1937. The Cactaceae. Dover Publications,
New York City
- Monroe, R. E. August 1980. Issue Espinas Y Flores, SDC & SS,
San Diego

PELARGONIUM LOBATUM

by Wilna Johnson

Pelargonium lobatum has to be my favorite species in this genus, that is a hard decision to make for most of them are all favorites. Not only is it rare, it has peculiar growing habits. I haven't seen this plant exhibited or know of anyone that has it in their collection.

P. lobatum is a large irregularly shaped tuber enclosed with scaly bark. The leaves and inflorescens sprout from a very short stem. That is the way it should be growing but at times the umbels will be on a twelve inch stem. The three-lobed leaves are very large and as the plant ages it will have four or five very large leaves, and more flowers. Most of the leaves are divided and sometimes given to separate leaflets. This takes place once a year in the spring and lasts a couple of months.

The flower has a very delicious smell of cinnamon in the late afternoon and night. They are almost black in color with a yellow-green margin. Six of the ten filaments bear anthers.

This species is confined to the South Western and Southern Cape, occurring from Piketberg to the district of George, growing against hillsides and in sandy flats.

Small tubers are supposed to appear on the original tuber but in four years I've not seen one yet. The seed pods never seem to mature.

P. lobatum is one of the parents of P. x ardens that was exhibited in the last show and open house.

Reference:

Van der Walt, J. J. A.. Pelargoniums of Southern Africa.

Member Interviews: Shirley Berry

by Marcia Monroe

Shirley Berry was born in New York city, had her early schooling there, but became part of the national exodus to California during the Second World War. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from U.C.L.A. as an art major in 1948 and received her Masters of Arts degree from Long Beach State College. She was



a drawing and painting teacher as well as head of the art department at Newport Harbor High School, Newport Beach, for thirty years before retiring in 1978. She and her husband, Jim, have five children who are all grown. They have been members of this Club since 1973.

Jim and Shirley live on what they call "the wild side" of Rancho Santa Fe, a place they share with their two cats, a dog, and many wild animals and birds. She has been on only one collecting trip, that to the western coast of Mexico, from Kino Bay to Alamos. However, Jim and Shirley have visited collections in England and Spain, including Brian Lamb's "Exotic Collection" and Riviere de Carault's collection on his beautiful estate outside of Barcelona "Mar y Muertra", on the shore of the Mediterranean.

Jim shares Shirley's love for the great beauty of succulent plants, and proves it by toting the heavy loads of plants to and from each meeting. Although Jim buys plants and "lets Shirley grow them for him", he will give cultural advice to anyone who will listen.

Shirley estimates the size of her collection at 800 different species which are grown mostly in pots placed on benches around the perimeter of the house and in the greenhouse. To grow plants well she feels you need to look at them every day and be a "do-it-now" person. Reading about them is essential to her enjoyment of them. She waters all of her plants with a small spouted water can for greater cultural control. She cautions against buying more plants than you have time to observe and enjoy, and to share the ones which are no longer important to you with someone who would value them more.

Shirley's Pyrrhocactus cachtensis was judged "Best Cactus in Show" at the last SDCSS Annual Show. Photography of plants and animals is another one of her hobbies. You may remember two slide programs she gave for our club which was part of her collection of over two thousand slides of plants in all stages of development.

She feels very grateful for the friendships and educational enrichment the San Diego Club has given her. She says, "It has increased my interest and enthusiasm far beyond that which I would acquire on my own. This would be a good time for me to express my thanks to the many members who give so much of their time and effort to make the SDCSS such a first rate Club!"

NOTES ON DUDLEY GOLD

by Paul and Joan Johnson

We met the longtime friend to all cactophile visitors to Mexico, Dudley Gold, one fine spring day in 1963 on my first trip to Mexico City and the Interior of the country. He and his wife picked us up at the hotel, chauffeured us enthusiastically to some of the high spots of the city, took us to the then quite new Botanical Gardens of the Autonomous University of Mexico, where we met Dr. Helia Bravo H. and admired the marvelous botanical specimens there. Dudley took us home then to see his collection on the roof and to enjoy dinner with the family, and Señora Gold helped me with my Spanish. His hospitality has always been so enthusiastic and generous that we have stayed with him and taken trips with him on almost every one of our visits to the Interior, and they've been generally

the best collecting trips we've made. His memory of habitat locations and his great knowledge of succulent plants, especially cacti, is truly incredible. And so is his energy and his indefatigable endurance.



Dudley was born in Butte, Montana in January, 1897, and he later lived in Seattle and Riverside, California, where he finished school. He first went to Sonora to work for Phelps-Dodge at Nacozari, then for Anaconda at Cananea. In 1948 Anaconda sent him to Mexico City as representative in the copper refinery there. In 1966 he retired and he and the family moved to Cuernavaca.

In 1952 Dr. Helia Bravo, Dr. Jorge Meyran, Hernando Sanchez-Mejorada, Dr. Juan Balme, Carlos Chavez and Dudley founded La Sociedad Mexicana de Cactología. Three years later their magazine 'Cactaceas y Suculentas mexicanas' was begun, and it has never missed an issue. Dudley has been the longtime treasurer of this organization.

To quote Dudley, "I have always been interested in nature but only as an amateur. Circumstances led me to study cacti more seriously just before coming to Mexico City. At present I have a fair number of cacti and other wild plants in my garden which, as it is intended to be as natural as possible, will never be neat. Any visitor who will accept it as such will be more than welcome."

He has led us to such diversified areas as northern Guerrero and Zopilote Canyon and Chilpancingo on the Acapulco Road, Central Hidalgo around Tequisquiapan, Cadereyta and Bernal, Cuautla and Amayuca in Morelos and the incomparable Barranca de Metztitlan, north of Pachuca. We're looking forward to the Valley of Tehuacan the next time. Watching Dudley running up hills and mountain slopes like a mountain goat is really something!

We have valued Dudley's friendship and his great knowledge for a long time. It has been a great pleasure for us to know him. By the way, the best source for Mexican plants is Dudley's garden!

Quiz Corner

Ariocarpus fissuratus

- Questions:
1. This cactus species is a "False Peyote". What is a "False Peyote"?
 2. The Tarahumare Indians used this plant in their cult-rituals. How did they use it?
 3. What name (common) did the natives (Tarahumares) call this species?
 4. What was the plant suppose to do?
 5. Was it more powerful than peyote?
 6. Is this cactus on the endangered species list?
 7. What did the colonist call this plant?
 8. Is this plant perfectly smooth?
 9. Where can this plant be found in habitat?
 10. Who first described this plant?
 11. What is the color of the flower?
 12. How big can this plant become?
 13. Should this plant be watered during the winter months?

Tubercles
of
Ariocarpus fissuratus



- Answers:
1. Cactus species other than Lophophora williamsii that were used by the Huichol and Tarahumare from northern Mexico.
 2. They ate them.
 3. Peyote cimarron or hikuli sunami.
 4. The Tarahumare thought the robbers were powerless to steal when the cactus summon soldiers to help them.
 5. Yes, it was thought to be.
 6. No.
 7. "living rock".
 8. No. The central furrow is woolly at its base; the surface is fissured, and it has a waxy coating.
 9. Southwest Texas bordering parts of Mexico (locality of the Rio Grande, Coahuila).
 10. In 1856 by a physician, George Engelmann.
 11. Whitish-pink to light purplish-red.
 12. 1 to 4 cm. tall; 10 to 15 cm. wide.
 13. No.

References:

- Barthlott, W.. Cacti. 1979. England. Page 160.
Borg, J..Cacti. 1976. Dorset. Page 261.
Schultes, R. E.. Hallucinogenic Plants. Golden Press, New York. Page 124.

News of Interest

We need a member to come forth and write Succulent-of-the-Month articles for Espinas y Flores. Rick Latimer will be leaving that position after the November meeting. Please contact Rick, President Tom Hamecher or one of the Board of Directors as soon as possible to see about filling this challenging position.

Raffle tickets for free plants at the Annual Christmas Party will not be handed out until a member shows his or her membership card at the reception table at the beginning of the December meeting. If they have not done so, we strongly recommend that members obtain their cards from Joan Johnson, Treasurer.

Calendars (approx. 15 by 20 inches) printed in Japan, with a stunning color picture of a cactus or succulent on each page, will be offered for sale by our Club for \$3 - 4.00. Interested persons should contact Betty Athy (469-7647).

Members are reminded that our Logo Contest announced in April will be over in September. Contact Shirley Berry at the next meeting if you have any suggestions.

We welcome this month the following new members:

Paul H. Egan, Jamul
Nick & Helen Sepell, El Cajon

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

Jan Miller, Marianne Thrombley, Ethel Standish, Judy Hannula, Roselyn Bracken and Marcia Monroe.

We ran a little short of volunteers to bring in cookies or cakes. Any extra donations by other members would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Nancy Roth (Ph 425-1963).

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

1st: Marianne Thrombley - Crassula justii-corderoyi
2nd: Wilna Johnson - Hoodia kaupensis
3rd: Mike Burkhardt - Euphorbia primulifolia

The August V.I.P. Table featured an outstanding collection of the tribe Ceropegieae in the Asclepiadaceae family by John Pasek. A few of the plants on display were: Ceropegia fusca, C. rupicola, C. rendallii, C. arnandii and C. woodii.

-----Deadline for the next issue is September 19-----

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Officers:

<u>President</u> - Tom Hamecher 996 Terrace Crest, El Cajon, Ca. 92020	440-6245
<u>1st V. Pres.</u> - Richard Latimer 5990 Lake Murray Blvd., La Mesa, Ca. 92041	463-1655
<u>2nd V. Pres.</u> - Carl McLeod 3516 Mt. Everest, San Diego, Ca. 92111	279-2817
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<u>Immediate Past Pres.</u> - H. Warren Buckner 1744 Englewood Dr., Lemon Grove, Ca. 92045	469-1391

Board of Directors

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

Committees

Activities: H. Warren Buckner

Audit: James Berry

Conservation: Dr. Ronald Monroe

Education:

Cacti - Frank Thrombley and Dr. Ronald Monroe

Succulents - Richard Latimer and Dr. Leroy Phelps

Exhibits:

Bragging Table - Shirley Berry

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

Historian: Richard Latimer

Library: Elizabeth Athy, Ruth Nelson and Caroline Miller

Membership: Joan Johnson

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

Regalement: Nancy Roth

Representatives:

Balboa Park Desert Garden - John Pasek

Quail Botanical Gardens - Audrey Johnson

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¢.

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