

ESPINAS Y FLORES



The Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Inc.
Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

Volume 39 Number 2
Winter Show & Sale

Setup 8:00 AM, Show Opens 10:00 AM

Saturday February 14th 2004

Room 101 Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park



Presidents Message

January 17, 2004

Hello! I hope you all enjoyed the different format of the January meeting, I certainly did.

We enjoyed four different slide shows, showing the amazing country of Chile from different perspectives. Kay Quijada gave a beautiful presentation (ably assisted by Joe) of their trip to Northern Chile. Kay's broad interests were reflected in her slides of the land, animals, and variety of native flora. Great critter shots! After the break Kelly Griffin, Tom Knapik and Woody Minnich each in turn, presented a program of a trip they made to Chile together. It was fun to see each of their different points of view of the same areas, mostly very different, and occasionally exactly the same! THANKS to all of you for your fun presentations. We are lucky to have such a range of talented photographers in our society.

Speaking of the break... everyone seemed to enjoy the special CHILE COOK OFF - at least it seemed that way by the amount of chile that disappeared rather quickly. There were seven different kinds of chile, including three vegetarian varieties. It was difficult to choose which were best as they were all different and EXCELLENT! Thanks to all who made the effort. Thanks also to all who brought cornbread and other goodies to go with the chile - what a great idea, and made for a wonderful break. Look recipes for two of the winning chiles in this issue... This special

meeting was the brainstorm of Kelly and I felt was a fun change of pace. If any of you have ideas for special meeting formats or themes, please let me or of any of the Board members know, we are always looking for ways to keep things interesting.

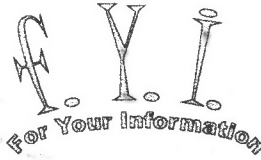
DON'T FORGET OUR WINTER SHOW AND SALE - Valentine's Day...

We moved this event to February to give people more time to recover from the Holiday season, so we are expecting you all to be ready to come, volunteer, and show your plants! We will be setting up between 8:00 and 8:30 on the 14th in room 101. Look over your collections for those winter growing plants which are looking so good this time of year. Also look over the cactus for those putting on their early blooms, and bring them in. As Elibet likes to remind us - the plants love to show off and deserve to be seen when they look so good! We will need volunteers all day to talk with people, security, cashiers assistance, and kitchen help so come and help out where you can. I will be bringing chile for all, so if you want to bring something to go with it (can't have too much cornbread!) please do... PLEASE PARTICIPATE!

See you on the 14th of February.

Pam Badger

pambadge@earthlink.net



JANUARY BRAG PLANT WINNERS

Cactus

- 1st Rimacactus laui - Jurgen Menzel
- 2nd Turninacarpus panarottoi - Jurgen Menzel
- 3rd Neobesseya cubensis - Jurgen Menzel

Succulents

- 1st Othonna queriefolia - Phil Bunch
- 2nd Aloe herroensis - Phyllis Fleschig
- 2nd ? (yikes! didn't catch this one)
- 3rd Boweia volubilis - Rudy Lime
- 3rd Pelargonium klinghardtense - Don Patterson

CHILE COOK OFF WINNERS

SDC&SS VEGETARIAN CHILE Pam Badger

1 lb dry black beans, soak overnight, cover with water, bring to a boil and simmer

In separate pot:

Sauté in 1/4 cup olive oil, 2 medium yellow onions, chopped, 1 head of garlic, chopped, 4 very red fresh bell peppers, chopped, 3 fresh jalapeno chiles-seeds removed, chopped

When soft add:

1 28 oz can of chopped tomatoes, 1 bag dried chiles (I like the dark 'pasillas) seeds removed, 1 tablespoon cumin, 1 tablespoon dried oregano, 2 small cans chopped green chiles, 1/2 bottle XX beer (reserve rest to add as needed, or drink and open another if needed), 1 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon ground black pepper

Add this pot to beans and continue to simmer until beans are tender

TEXAS CHILE Janet Wanerka

Brown together:

4 lbs chuck roast, cut into big chunks, 3 onions chopped to 1/2 in chunks
3 teaspoons oil

Add:

1 16 oz can chopped tomatoes, 6 garlic cloves, mashed, 2 tablespoons cumin, 1 teaspoon sugar, salt and pepper to taste, 2 packages chile seasoning, 1 tablespoon chile powder, 6 oz beer, 4 tablespoons mole sauce Tabasco sauce to taste, 3-4 cups water, 3 jalapenos, seed removed
Simmer together for 2 1/2 hours, add 2/3 cup Masa flour - make runny paste and add to chile - stir as adding - cook 30 min more.

Agua Verde - Punta Machudo

Expedition of 2003

Summary



continued

DAY FOUR

Saturday, November 8, 2003

Ensenada Blanca to Los Dolores, Baja California

All Aboard the Pez Sapo

Unloading the pangas at Los Dolores base-camp. It was long day! Our challenge today was to travel 60 miles to the south by boat along the Baja California coastline. Destination Los Dolores: a remote valley, inaccessible by car, and site of our first base-camp. Plain and simple, traveling by boat with 35 people and their gear is a tiring exercise. We woke up before sunrise to pack our gear, loaded the pangas by 7:30am, and shuttled people and equipment to the Pez Sapo. While she still floats, the Pez Sapo doesn't motor like she used to. Our trip south started smoothly, albeit slowly.

Trouble arose when a north wind started blowing and the sea became choppy. Landing on a north-

facing beach would be troublesome if the seas became too rough. Three hours into the trip and only 30 miles completed, the Pez Sapo and her crew had had enough and turned towards Santa Marta for refuge and decision making. The crew wanted to put us ashore at Santa Marta and shuttle us to Los Dolores over the course of the week in smaller pangas. This put us in the difficult position of having to establish two base-camps when we had only planned for one. After some quick negotiating and a little persistence, the crew of the Pez Sapo was convinced to motor onward; Los Dolores it would be.



Pez Sapo at Ensenada Blanca

Another three hours and finally our journey was complete. Excitement came across the expedition as Los Dolores came into view and the dolphins guided us in. The expedition could at last begin. Los Dolores is a wide arroyo facing eastward from the Sierra de La Giganta. The north wind made landing on the beach troublesome only because the crew dropped us off in a quiet cove two miles from the area we wanted to use for base-camp. We hiked the rest of the way in, while the gear was shuttled in through the rougher surf.



Team Botany in action

Base camp was set up within three hours and our cook started to make the first hot meal from a fully functional kitchen. Shade tarps, screen-tents, bathrooms, and showers were put together, specimen prepping gear was sorted and moved to individual tents where tables were erected. We had made it after two hours of packing in the morning, six hours in the boat, one hour unloading the boats, and three hours setting up the camp. It's time to go to work!

*Bradford Hollingsworth
Expedition Coordinator
From camp at 10:30pm*



Unloading the pangas at Los Dolores base-camp

DAY FIVE

Sunday, November 9, 2003

Los Dolores Base-camp, Baja California

Biodiversity Abounds

Various teams of natural history scientists had their first opportunity to survey in earnest today. Now that base-camp is set up and the little crises solved, the research has begun. Los Dolores is a large arroyo that faces eastward towards the Gulf of California. The mouth of the arroyo is a wide coastal plain that was once used for agriculture dating back to the days of the mission. The abandoned ruins of the mission are located four kilometers up the arroyo where ground water surfaces in the more narrow canyons. The arroyo is bordered in the west by thousand foot cliff faces and explains the reason why no permanent roads were ever built.

Before the expedition, Drs. Jon Rebman and José Luis León de la Luz, with the help of the SD Herbarium staff, compiled a list of all of the vascu-

lar plant taxa documented by recent and historical collections from the Agua Verde/Cerro Mechudo Corridor that have been deposited at either the SD Herbarium at the San Diego Natural History Museum or the HCIB Herbarium at the Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas del Noroeste in La Paz.

This preliminary checklist contains a total of 364 plant taxa (347 species), of which 129 taxa are endemic to Baja California Sur. With a rate of endemism close to 40 percent, the rich flora of the Agua Verde/Cerro Mechudo Corridor is indeed very special and quite unique. However, there is no doubt that many species have not yet been documented from this area so the botanical quest for the binational expedition will be to survey and collect more plants from each locality in an attempt to better assess and understand the flora of the region.

Team Botany (Drs. Jon Reberman, José Delgadillo and Mike White along with Jan Emming and Nancy Nenow) made 45 different plant collections in Arroyo Los Dolores. Most



Rare species, *Eucnide tenella*
Photo: Reid Moran

of these collections were first time records of plant species for this region of Baja California Sur. The most significant discovery of the day was a population of *Eucnide tenella* that was located on a travertine boulder near a spring west of the old mission ruins. This rare species is only known from a couple of populations in the Sierra de la Giganta, one of which is the type locality in a box canyon just behind the village of Agua Verde. *Eucnide tenella*, which is in the *Loasaceae*, is an annual plant with small white flowers and palmately-lobed leaves that grows mostly on steep rocky cliffs. The reproductive behavior of the species is quite interesting because after the flowers are fertilized, the pedicels (stalks) of the fruits curve back towards the vertical rock wall and elongate greatly pushing the fruits and seeds into the substrate from which the parent plant is rooted. In a sense, this species plants its own seeds back into the ground (sheer rock wall) near the parent plant which may provide the young seedlings a better chance of survival in a preferred habitat. The botany team also rediscovered the type locality of another rare plant called *Euphorbia chersonesa* in the spurge family (*Euphorbiaceae*). This species was described in the 1980's and has only been found in a few scattered populations in the southern part of the Sierra de la Giganta.

The other scientists have been hard at work as well. Insect diversity is high and amphibians and reptiles are active. I'll have to give the details of their activities in a future log because I'm needed in the

specimen preparation tent.

Bradford Hollingsworth
Expedition Coordinator
And *Jon Rebman*
Team Botany Update
From camp at 10:30pm

DAY SIX
Monday, November 10, 2003
Los Dolores Base-camp, Baja California

Scientists Work To Understand Biodiversity

Baja California Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus zosteromus*) Over the last two days, scientists have been out surveying Los Dolores and it has been difficult to keep track of all the activities. I haven't been able to keep up! Life in base-camp is good. Carolina Espinoza has kept everyone fed with a variety of delicious meals. We have tents scattered across the beach and people coming and going into and out of the arroyo constantly. It is a four kilometer walk to just the mission, so days are long and nights are used to organize, prep specimens, and recover.

Since I'm a part of Team Herp (includes myself, Dr. Oscar Flores, Dustin Wood, Anny Peralta, Cynthia Jauregui, Jorge Villaviencio, Maura Maher, and Tom Myers), I haven't had the chance report on our own activities. Before I do, I would like to take a moment to say hello to everyone back at the museum, San Diego, my volunteers, and my students. The expedition is already highly productive and we are approaching a week in the field. Everyone is being well taken care of, we've



Speckled rattlesnake (*Crotalus mitchellii*) collected near the old mission. Photo by Jorge Valdez Villaviencio

had no medical emergencies, and the mosquitos are not too dense (no Dengue fever yet, just some heat exhaustion).

Team Herp (reptiles and amphibians) has been active in the day and at night. We have hiked into the canyons where water flows and surveyed the surrounding desert flats nearer to the coast. Activity is high considering it is November. We have been pleased with the number of animals seen in the course of the day considering that amphibians and reptiles are mostly active in the Spring. Our biggest find thus far is the abundance in which the Baja California Nightsnake (*Eridiphas slevini*) occurs. This rare species is known from only two dozen specimens and we have seen five within two days. These will surely add to our knowledge of this animal.

Both the Pacific Treefrog (*Hyla regilla*) and Red-spotted Toad (*Bufo punctatus*) are common in the canyons where there is flowing water. Both

have recently breed and there are both tadpoles and froglets in and around the water. These species are opportunistic breeders and the Fall reproductive activity is certainly a response to last September's hurricanes.

Other interesting finds include a Striped Racer (*Masticophis lateralis*). This species is common in the coastal habitats of San Diego County. However, in southern Baja California this species is considered rare. Being able to study the specimen in detail will add to our understanding of why it is not commonly seen. In addition, we have encountered two Speckled Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus mitchellii*). One was caught in front of the KPBS film crew, who followed the action as it was captured from beneath a rocky ledge. I'm also sending some photos along of a Baja California Gophersnake (*Pituophis vertebralis*) and a Baja California Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus zosteromus*), which represents just a small proportion of the diversity seen thus far.

Tomorrow we plan to scale the southern cliff wall with the help of two guides. Our goal is to reach the large freshwater lakes at the top of the mountains. It should be a grueling day since the temperatures have been reaching into the mid to upper 90s.

Bradford Hollingsworth
Expedition Coordinator
From camp at 11:55pm

Photos by Bradford Hollingsworth unless otherwise noted



Voracious cactus moth could cause problems for Southwest

Contributed by Carol Jean Wolcott

Arizona Daily Sun
www.azdailysun.com

GULF BREEZE, Fla. (AP) -

State agriculture inspector Laura Ooms knew at first glance something was seriously wrong with a couple of prickly pear cactus plants in the garden section of a Wal-Mart store in this Pensacola suburb.

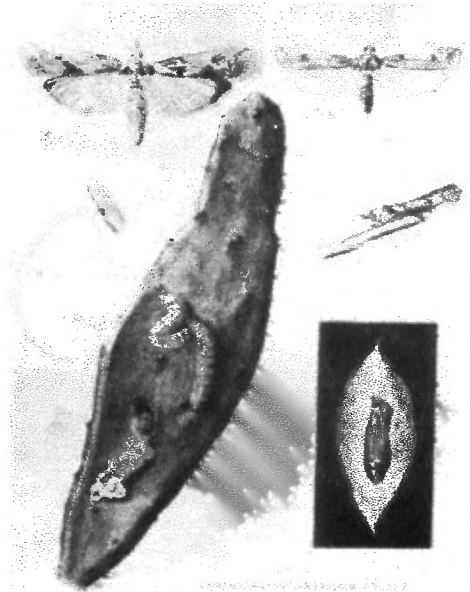
"They were quite ridden with worm holes," Ooms recalled. "It wasn't one little worm hole. There were several holes in them. They were oozing." She cut one cactus open and inside saw red-orange caterpillars with black spots, the larvae of *Cactoblastis cactorum*, commonly known as the cactus moth.

Native to South America, the gray-brown moth is a minor pest in the Southeast, dining on ornamentals and a few native species. But it could cause economic and environmental havoc in the American Southwest and in Mexico, which is where it is headed. And infestations discovered across the Florida Panhandle show that it is gaining speed.

The invasion began 14 years ago in the Florida Keys. Since then, the moth has eaten its way up the eastern seaboard to Charleston, S.C., and along the Gulf Coast to within four miles of the Florida-Alabama state line, said Ken Bloem, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist in Tallahassee.

The moth's rapid advance is particularly worrisome in Mexico, where prickly pear cactus is a cultural icon - its image is on the Mexican flag and coins - and an economic mainstay. Cactus is a \$50 million to \$100 million a year industry in Mexico, which has 56 prickly pear species. Many people also rely on it for subsistence, Soberon said. Prickly pear fruit can be made into jam and syrup while the plant itself is commonly boiled or pickled.

In the Southwest, prickly pear is an important horticultural plant. Arizona nurseries alone maintain inventories with a retail value of close to \$10 million, according to a survey by horticulturist Mary Irish.





Bursera fagaroides

CACTUS and SUCCULENT
SHOW and SALE

SAT. & SUN. APRIL 10 & 11, 2004, 9am to 4pm

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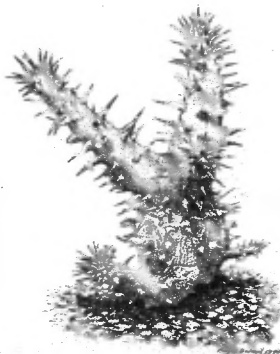
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DIRECTIONS: From I 10, take 405 south to Crenshaw, go south on Crenshaw take 110 south to Pacific Coast Hwy., go west to Crenshaw and turn left.

**A SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
PRESENTATION**



Pachypodium densiflorum v. densiflorum

Upcoming Events

2004

January 17: CSSA Board Meeting at Huntington Botanical Gardens (Ahmanson Classroom)

January 25 (Sunday) Great Rosarians of the World Annual Lecture Series, Number IV, at the Huntington Library, San Marino CA. Plant collectors, Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix will be there. More details from Clair Martin, Curator of Rose and Perennial Gardens, HBG. Tel: 626-405-3507 or e-mail: cmartin@huntington.org This is announced in case some spouses prefer roses to cacti!

February 14: SDC&SS Winter Show and Sale - Feb. 14, 2004 -- 10 am-4pm -- Casa del Prado, room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego.

March 27 - 29 Colorado C&SS Show and Sale, Denver Botanic Gardens, 1005 York Street. Contact Helen Norton, 970-353-9581 or e-mail at Ripsmom@aol.com

April 10 & 11, 9am to 4pm, South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale. South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd. Palos Verdes Peninsula. For more information contact Dick Hulett at 310-832-2262 (E-mail petplants@sbcglobal.net); Carol Causey at 310-675-5843; Jim Hanna at 562-920-3046 or aloecats1@aol.com.

April 9 - 12: Australasian Cactus Convention, Quality Hotel, Steeple Conference Centre, Fitzherbert Ave, Palmerston North, New Zealand. Hosted by Manawatu and Taranaki Branches. This event will incorporate the AGM of the C&SS of NZ. Air New Zealand, Origin Pacific or Freedom Air can fly you into Milson Airport. Registrants who make prior arrangements can be met on arrival. Keynote speakers included Paul Forster (paulforster@uq.net.au) on Succulents of South Africa Cape Provinces and Haworthia; Rudolf Schultz (copiapoa@iaccess.com.au) on some of his South American experiences in "Out of Brazil" and about "Succulents of the Canary Islands;" and Attila Kapitany (gecko@connexus.net.au) will present his research on "Succulents in the Garden" and will talk about his experiences in Argentina. More info from Frances Verrity at verrity@actrix.gen.nz Updated info at: www.cactus2004.freesevers.com/

April 17: CSSA Board Meeting 9am at Scottsdale Plaza Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona (site of 2005 Convention)

May 1 - 2: Houston C&SS Spring Sale at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway Dr, Houston TX Open from 10am to 5pm each day. Rare and unusual Cacti and Succulents for sale. Contact Hank Andresen for more details. Tel: 713-436-1734 or e-mail Hank at hand1609@hotmail.com

May 3 - 5: Sonoran V Conference at Inn Suites Hotel (formerly the Ramada Inn) Theme will be BAJA. Speakers and workshops. Tentative plans include Friday night pre-conference dinner, speaker and opening of the plant sales area for all members and conference participants. Conference opening will be on Saturday morning for registrants. Show and Sale open to public. Silent auction, raffle and a special dinner on Saturday night featuring recipes utilizing cacti, succulents and other desert plants. Contact Dick Wiedhopf at wiedhopf@pharmacy.arizona.edu

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