

# SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Number 2

February, 2005

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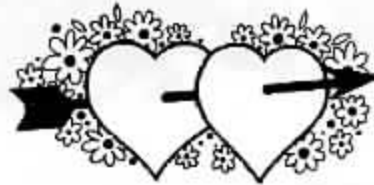
**NEWSLETTER**

Barbara Thaxton  
(60) 564-3285

**GENERAL MEETING:** Sunday, February 13, 1:30 P.M., in the South Coast Botanical Gardens classroom. JOHN BLECK, a professor at U.C. Santa Barbara, will talk about his trip to South Africa. The presentation--THE CAPE AREA ENVIRONS--covers the area southeast of Cape Town and the Cape Peninsula. John is coming from the Santa Barbara area in order to be with us, so plan to come and BRING A FRIEND!! We want to give him a big welcome!

**MEMBERSHIP: SEEDS FOR PLANTING PARTY:** By the end of March, Gary Duke will be ordering seed for the June planting party. If there are particular seeds that you want to plant, let him know soon so he can be sure to include them in his order! (714)377-0064 or dukebb@earthlink.net.

**GOOD WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY:** go to DICK HULETT who underwent cancer surgery early in January. Dick will appreciate hearing from you and we all wish him well! DICK HULETT 737 N. Leland St. San Pedro, 90732 (310) 832-2262 or airobatic@aol.com



**DUES:** Are your dues paid yet? In case you have forgotten, fill in the form below, make out a check (\$10 for one; an additional \$2 for each extra family member), and send it to MARSHA HUEBNER, 1043 E. Joel, Carson, 90743. Make the check payable to SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP                      NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

*Set up tables on Thursday -*

PLANT OF THE MONTH TOTALS--2005

<u>CACTUS</u> <u>ADVANCED</u>	<u>JAN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>CACTUS</u> <u>NOVICE</u>	<u>JAN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Duke	13	13	Capaldo	6	6
Fletcher	4	4	Crowley	4	4

<u>SUCCULENTS</u> <u>ADVANCED</u>	<u>JAN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>SUCCULENTS</u> <u>NOVICE</u>	<u>JAN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Duke	8	8	Crowley	10	10
Fletcher	4	4			
Gardner	3	3			
Hanna	6	6			



**Other local attractions with Cacti and Succulents:**

**LA Zoo - This is also a Botanical Gardens:** On a recent trip, we found cacti and succulents planted in small groups around many exhibits; Some slightly larger plantings had crested columnar cacti, large yuccas and a very old huge pony tail palm (Beaucamea); Up by the reptile house, was a large planting; We didn't have a chance to visit the entire zoo as it started raining mid afternoon. Many tropical plants also present, including inside the aviaries. Graptopetalums, echeverias, others sprinkled around the place. <http://lazoo.org/>

**El Dorado Nature Center, Long Beach:** Just off the 605 near the 405, this park is the wild section of El Dorado Park. While huge picnic grounds, lawns, trees and lakes fill the north half, the south side is a series of woodland trails, mixed with native plantings, bird watching platform, streams & lakes. We found some Opuntias in places, and some Yuccas plus wildflowers; A ranger was on hand with a butterfly exhibit while we were there. There are turtles and ducks in the lakes. 102 acres  
<http://cms.longbeach.gov/park/facilities/El%20DoradoNatureCenter.htm>

**Golden West College Native Plant Garden:** with many native low water shrubs, including the flannelbush, now covered with masses of yellow flowers; and quite a variety of other plants; this is the ideal time to visit this small, free garden. Off Goldenwest street mid-campus by automotive technology building, the garden is always open. There are native Shaw's agaves, chollas, and Dudleyas also; Many are about to bloom including Dudleyas; Later in spring there will be huge masses of wildflowers at the garden.

**UCLA Botanical Garden:** I admit, I had never visited this garden. Our first time recently we found it amazing. If you love tropicals, bromeliads, water features and stone lined hilly paths covered by exotic tropical trees you'll like this place. Free, it is on east side of the UCLA medical center. Parking can be hard to find. We parked on residential streets nearby. You can walk around Westwood's shops and boutiques nearby. see <http://www.botgard.ucla.edu/bg-home.htm> for hours, directions. 7 acres, 5000 species.

*Orange County CSS*

*CACTUS AND SUCCULENT  
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS  
FOR 2005*

- FEB. 12<sup>TH</sup> SAN DIEGO WINTER SHOW AND SALE  
RM. 101 CASA DEL PRADO, BALBOA PARK, SAN DIEGO
- APR. 9 & 10 SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW &  
SALE AT SO. COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS  
26300 CRENSHAW BL., PALOS VERDES, CA # 310-832-2262
- APR. 24 SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLIUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE  
SAME ADDRESS AS ABOVE Info. CALL 310-831-1209
- APR 23 & 24 GREEN SCENE PLANT SALE—AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM
- Apr 30 SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE  
May 1 VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM  
4117 OVERLAND AVE. CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. #310-822-1783
- MAY 15 HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 TO 5 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL  
GARDEN 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA 626-405-2160
- MAY 16 EPIPHYLLIUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM, ARCADIA, CA 310-831-1209
- MAY 21 & 22 GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 29th SHOW AND  
SALE—SAT. 9 TO 4 SUN. 9 TO 4 —SAT. SHOW STARTS AT 1 PM  
JURUPA MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTER, 7621 GRANITE HILL DRIVE  
GLEN AVON, CA INFO. 909-360-8802
- JUNE 4 & 5 SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY —SHOW AND SALE  
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO.—#619-477-4779
- JULY 1,2,3 CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE —HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL  
GARDENS AT 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA  
626-405-2160 or 2277 PLANTS SALES ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> THRU THE 3<sup>RD</sup>  
THE SHOW OPENS ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TO THE PUBLIC
- AUG. 20 & 21 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE-LA COUNTY ARBORETUM  
301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA. INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH  
AT 626-798-2430 or GENE OSTER AT 818-998-9306
- SEPT. 25 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM  
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT. 25 LONG BEACH CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION AT DOMINGUEZ ADOBE  
18127 SO. ALAMEDA ST. COMPTON (DOMINGUEZ HILLS) CA.
- OCT. 15 & 16 SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
SHOW AND SALE— LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.

## Speakers

### Cactus Lectures

**Graham Charles** of the UK, co-author of the forthcoming *New Cactus Lexicon: Cacti of Chile and Cacti of Brazil*.

**W. A. and Betty Fitz-Maurice**, noted *Mammillaria* experts:  
*Mammillaria* series *Stylothelae* and *Mexico desconocido (Unknown Mexico)*.

**Leo Martin**, CSSA Director, Convention Program Chair:  
**The Valley of the Rio Huaura, Lima Province, Peru.**

**Raul Puente**, Curator of Living Collections, Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix:  
**Cacti in Mexico.**

**Kathy Rice**, Curator of the Herbarium, Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix:  
**Cacti of Sonora and Cacti of Chihuahua.**

**Teresa Terrazas**, Mexico: **Cacti of the Mexican West Coast.**

### Succulent Lectures

**Jerry Barad**, CSSA Fellow, CSSA Director:  
**New Findings, New Techniques in Stapeliad Pollination.**

**Sheila Collenette**, of the UK, noted botanical explorer and a favorite at previous conventions, will offer two travelogues.

**Chuck Hanson**, proprietor of Arid Lands Greenhouses:  
**Difficult Succulents from Seed and Succulent Orchids You Can Grow.**

**Wendy Hodgson**, Seed Curator, Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix:  
**Occurrence of Pre-Columbian *Agave* Cultivars in Arizona.**

**John Lavranos**, CSSA Fellow, will offer two travelogues.

**Dan Mahr**, CSSA Fellow, CSSA Vice President, will lead an **Open Forum for All Members**.

**Mark Muradian** of Los Angeles: **Socotra, its People and Plants.**

**Len Newton**, CSSA Fellow, Professor of Botany at Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya:  
**Succulent plant habitats in Africa and Kenya's succulent plants.**

**Guy Wrinkle**, proprietor of Guy Wrinkle Rare Exotics:  
**Plants in Habitat: What Climate and Ecological Niches Teach Us About Growing.**

CSSA 2005 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

AUGUST 5 ~ AUGUST 10, 2005

Held at CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCULCANT SOCIETY



Scottsdale Plaza Resort

7200 North Scottsdale Road

Scottsdale, Arizona, 85253

www.scottsdaleplaza.com

Guest Reservations: 800-832-2025

Guest Facsimile: 480-998-5971

To Contact Guests: 480-948-5000

Mention the CSSA Convention when you reserve.

www.cssainc.org/convent.html

Make reservations before July 1, 2005, to receive the discounted Convention rate of \$89 per night. You must be a CSSA member to attend. This form may be used for new CSSA membership.

This form, version of November 15, 2004, supersedes all previous versions.

Name (Last, First, M. I.) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Companion name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip, Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone, E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Local CSSA affiliate club (one only) \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliate Representative Yes No (Circle one)

New CSSA Membership	Number	Cost	Subtotal
CSSA membership - USA.....		@ \$35.00.....	\$
CSSA membership - non USA.....		@ \$45.00.....	\$
CSSA membership - non USA, Airmail.....		@ \$85.00.....	\$
CSSA Associate membership (spouse, partner) .		@ \$10.00.....	\$
Total this side.....			\$

Fill out and mail this form (both sides), and your check (payable to CSSA) or credit card information to: Mindy Fusaro, CSSA Convention Registrar, POB 2615, Pahrump, NV 89041-2615. Credit card (MC/VISA only) users may FAX completed forms to (775) 751-1357. \$50 cancellation fee on all refunds.

Last Name.....First Name.....M. I.....

From first side.....\$

**Convention Registration (CSSA Members Only - See previous page for new membership.)**

Event	Number	\$	Subtotal
<b>Weekly</b> including Friday social & Saturday banquet.....	@	\$165.....\$	
<b>Daily: Saturday</b> including Friday social & Saturday banquet.....	@	\$100.....\$	
<b>Daily: Sunday</b> .....	@	\$50.....\$	
<b>Daily: Monday</b> (Price includes 1 field trip; select below.).....	@	\$50.....\$	
<b>Daily: Tuesday</b> .....	@	\$50.....\$	
<b>Daily: Wednesday</b> .....	@	\$50.....\$	
Closing Banquet Wednesday August 10, 2005	@	\$55.....\$	
<b>Late Fee Per Person Received After July 1, 2005</b> .....	+	\$50.....\$	

**Monday Tours, August 8** (One per registrant. Cost additional to weekly registration. For Monday only, see above.)

Tour 1. Desert Botanical Garden and Boyce Thompson Arboretum	@	\$45.....\$
Tour 2. Tour of CACSS Members' Gardens (88 guests maximum)..	@	\$45.....\$
Tour 3. Phoenix Art Museum and Heard Museum.....	@	\$45.....\$
Tour 4. Desert Habitats (Hat, sunglasses, sturdy shoes <b>required</b> .)	@	\$45.....\$
Tour 5. Arizona Sonora Desert Museum.....	@	\$45.....\$

**Workshops.** One per registrant per day. Maximum number of slots in parentheses, will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Rank order your choices each day in space (1, 2, 3, etc. or 0 if not desired.). Money returned if requested workshops are full.

**Monday**..... @ \$35.....\$

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A. Chad Davis: Native Americans, <i>Agave</i> (35)..... | B. Mark Dimmitt: <i>Adenium</i> Cultivation (20)..... |
| C. Mary Parisi: <i>Haworthia</i> Cultivation (35).....  | D. Hammer/Wagner: Succulents from Seed (20)....       |

**Tuesday**..... @ \$35.....\$

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| E. Miles Anderson: Grafting Cacti (25).....      | F. Mark Dimmitt: Cactus Pollination (20)..... |
| G. M&G-Irish: <i>Agave</i> Cultivation (30)..... |   |

**Grand Total**.....\$

I agree to accept the above charges to my credit card account:

Visa MC (circle one) Number.....

Expiration (MM/YYYY)..... Signature.....

## PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH RULES

At the November meeting the following rules were adopted for the 1999 Plant-of-the-Month (POM) competition:

- A maximum of three plants may be entered in each category (cactus and succulent).
- There will be three classes for entrants: advanced, intermediate and novice.
- Advanced and intermediate entrants must have had the plant in their possession for at least six months, beginners for three months.
- Entrants will receive 6 points for first place, 4 points for second place, 2 points for third place and 1 point for showing a plant that does not place.
- At the discretion of the judges there may be up to three third places in a category. If plants are not deemed to be of sufficient quality, no third place will be awarded.
- For an entrant to receive points, the entry tags must be collected by the person in charge of record keeping for POM.
- At the annual Christmas party, award plants will be presented to the ten highest cumulative point holders regardless of class.

### PLANTS OF THE MONTH FOR 2005

#### CACTI

#### SUCCULENTS

Jan.     Astrophytum  
 Feb,     Nannukkarua  
 Mar.     Parodia/Notocactus

Dudleya  
 Gasteria  
 Aeonium

-----SHOW TIME-----

May     Gymnocalcium  
 June     Coryphantha  
 July     Favorite Cacti (3)  
 Aug.     Opuntioideae

Bromeliaceae  
 Mesembryan  
 Thenaceae  
 (ex conos & Lithops)  
 Favorite Succulents (3)  
 Sansevieria

Sept.    Neoporteria/Neochicenia

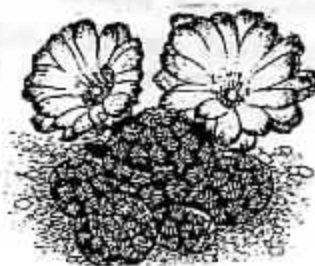
Pachypodium

-----NO MEETING-----

Nov.     Miniatures (3 in. max)

Miniatures (3 in. max)

-----CHRISTMAS-----



## Mammillarias

From the evolutionary point of view, Mammillarias are seen as the most highly evolved group of true spherical cacti. It is the largest of all the genera with a distribution range from the southern USA through Mexico into the extreme north of South America (Columbia and Venezuela). Mexico is the center of their development and diversity. It would be safe to say, that undiscovered species still await the persistent collector.

Several of the miniature Mammillarias are extremely easy to propagate by offsets, almost too easy. *M. gracilis*, *prolifera* and *yaquensis* are almost impossible to replot without half the plant ending up in separate pieces.

*M. gracilis* has two varieties, the main difference being that one is somewhat larger and has chalky white spines. Undisturbed clumps are a beautiful sight.

*M. prolifera* has several varieties and forms. There is much variation in spine color, white, yellow and brown being the most common.

*M. yaquensis* with its hooked spines is worthwhile for the large pink flowers. I am almost convinced that if one looks at it too hard, the offsets fall off!

*M. elongata* is so variable that some 50 forms are recognized. Stem thickness is one of the diagnostic classes as well as spine color. The clusters of fingerlike stems range from barely one-half inch to about an inch and a half in diameter, including the spines. The spine color is even more variable, varying from an off-white, through pale yellow, golden yellow, to yellow tipped red-brown, or dark chocolate with many colors in between. Radial spines, usually 15 to 20, vary in their design, sometimes recurved and sometimes erect. The flowers also vary with the different forms, but generally are a pale yellow to deeper yellow and occasionally striped slightly pink, about one-half inch wide and long.

Additional miniatures include *M. humboldtii*, which is one of the desirable types being completely covered in snow white spines which hide the plant body. Those who can grow this beauty and manage to keep the white spines and wool from becoming yellow, have indeed earned a special place in Mammillaria Heaven. In its native habitat, limestone is a component of the soil, which may help to maintain the white color of the spines.

*M. pectinifera* (formerly a *Solisia*) is solitary, globular and will attain a diameter of one and one-half inches to two inches in cultivation. The white short spines are arranged like a comb and hide the entire plant body.

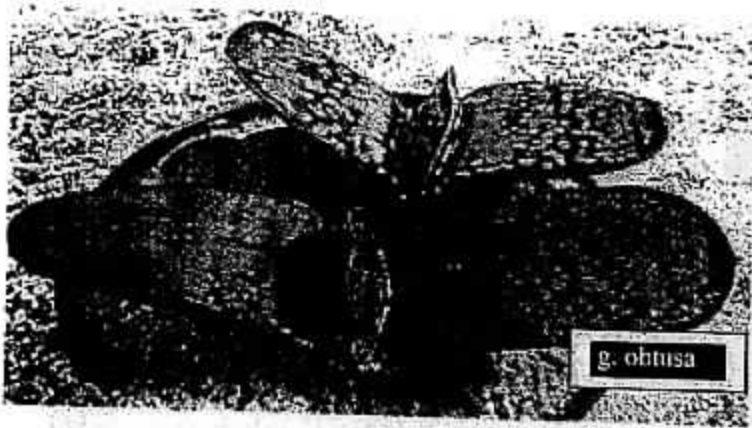
*M. carmenae* clusters easily, each stem being about two inches or less in diameter. Radial spines, more than 100, are white or pale yellow, which in combination with the axillary wool and bristles completely cover the body of the plant. Flowers are a white tinged pink with yellow stigma-lobes. It is a vigorous grower and will form show quality plants in a year or two.

Not to be forgotten, is the group consisting of *M. saboae*, *haudeana*, *goldii* and *theresae*, all now classified under *M. saboae*. D. Hunt of England proposes only that *M. haudeana* be reduced to a variety of *saboae* and possibly *M. goldii* be also reduced. Nevertheless, all four species/varieties are distinguished members of the miniature Mammillarias. The flower sizes are very large in relation to the plant stems. All members of the *saboae* group are easily propagated from offsets. Plants are also not difficult from seed. The difficulty lies in getting the seed from the plant. When the seed has formed and the fruit has ripened, the fruit remains embedded in the plant body. Some careful work is required in order to extract the seed without damaging the plant.

Literature Cited: *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, Vol XXXIX, pg 237, 1967; Vol XL, pg 149, 1968; *Mammillaria, A Collectors Guide*, J. Pilbeam, 1980.

Edited by: Fred Hutflesz,





## Succulent of the Month **GASTERIA**

By Chris Miller

Gasteria are endemic to South Africa, with the main centers of distribution in the dry karroid and savanna regions of the south-eastern Cape. They are a drought resistant, shade loving, shallow root succulent. Gasterias are slow growing plants that range in height from 20 mm to 600 mm. They adapt well to indoor conditions and have been widely cultivated.

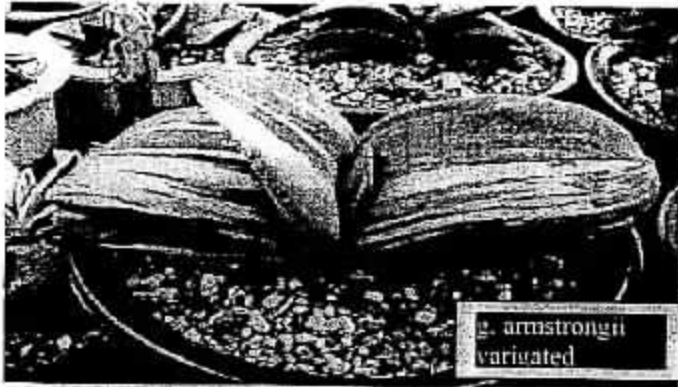
While similar to other members of the Alooideae sub-family of Asphodelaceae, Gasterias differ in both flower and leaf features. Some Gasteria flower stalks grow out from the plant and arc gracefully. The flowers stay pendulous until they are fertilized. The flowers themselves are shaped like a stomach, hence the name of the plant. Flowers are usually tri-colored green, white and a range of pale pink to red.

Most Gasterias can be identified by their green, brittle, mottled, textured, tapering succulent leaves. These plants are commonly known as Ox Tongue, Cow Tongue Cactus and Lawyers Tongue because of the shape of the leaves. The leaves are either distichous (arranged in opposite rows), spirally distichous or in a rosette pattern. The leather textured leaves can be flat or triangular with distinct raised patterns. The leaf width is usually 2 to 6 times wider than the depth. Leaf edges are notched or scalloped, with the edge pattern merging towards the tip of the leaf.

The typical habitat of Gasterias consists of dry rocky hillsides, inhabited by herbs, with taller emergent shrubs, under which the Gasteria grow. They also grow in rock fissures and in the shade of rocks. Occasionally they will be found in the open. Some forms have been reduced in their natural habitat due to farming, but most are still in large numbers in the wild due to their tendency to grow on rocky outcrops and cliffs.

Gasterias have been in cultivation for over 300 years, with plants being shipped to Europe almost as soon as colonization started in South Africa. They have proven to be hardy plants that are easy to grow if you keep the following information in mind.

- 1) Gasteria propagate readily from leaf cuttings, division or seeds
- 2) They should be planted in well drained sandy soil to which plenty of compost or leaf mould has been added
- 3) Most of the species prefer bright shade and should be protected from direct sun and severe frost
- 4) An inorganic pebble mulch around plants will suppress weeds
- 5) They transplant easily, but beware of moving them rapidly from protected shade areas
- 6) The plant needs to be firmly down in the soil
- 7) Organic material in the form of compost or mulch and ample bonemeal should be applied at the start of the growing season
- 8) Fertilize throughout growing season
- 9) Most Gasteria need water year round, but it should be applied sparingly
- 10) Re-pot every 3 to 4 years



When growing Gasteria in pots, clay provides better aeration and drainage, but other types of pots work equally well. Some recommendations for soil mixtures include: 2 parts sand, 1 part mulch, 1 part loam (good garden soil) or ½ peat and ½ perlite. Gasteria tend to grow more quickly in the second mixture, but remember to fertilize frequently with a liquid fertilizer.

Classification of Gasteria did not have a sound base and is complicated further by the ease with which it interbreeds. Below is a list of Gasteria, some are hybrids of others on the list.

***g. armstrongii***: Distichous rosette, up to 10 cm in diameter. Red flowers.

***g. bastensia***: Distichous turning to rosette in maturity, 80 to 300 mm in diameter. Leaves dark green with white spots arranged in transverse bands. Light pink flowers from October through December.

***g. baylissiana***: Distichous leaf pattern, up to 10 cm in diameter. Reddish pink flowers from September through October.

***g. brachyphylla***: Distichous leaf pattern, up to 25 cm in diameter. Smooth dark green leaves with dense white spots arranged in obscure transverse bands, wavy leaf margin. Pink flowers from September through October.

***g. carinata***: Most variable of species. Distichous at first, may transition to any form in adulthood. Forms dense groups 150-600 mm in diameter. Pink flowers July to November.

***g. croucheri***: Rosette, up to 600 mm in diameter. Pink flowers from November through February. Zulu warriors prized this Gasteria for its magical properties. It was believed to render the user partly invisible.

***g. excelsa***: Distichous leaf pattern, up to 25 cm in diameter. Dark green with indistinct white spots. Pale pink to white flowers from November to February.

***g. nitida***: Distichous leaf pattern (may become a rosette), up to 25 cm in diameter. Smooth, shiny leaves, dark green with faint to dense white spots arranged in irregular transverse bands. Bright reddish flowers from December to February.

***g. pillansii***: Distichous leaf pattern, up to 400 mm in diameter. Pink flowers from November to April.

***g. rawlinsonii***: Distichous leaf pattern, up to 15 cm in diameter. Leaves green with faint white spots. Pink flowers from August to October and occasionally at other times of the year.

***g. verrucosa***: Distichous leaf pattern, 30 cm in diameter. Red Flowers.



**REFERENCE:** Gasterias of South Africa, E Jvan Jaarsveld, 1994

Some Internet sites to visit for more information on Gasterias:

<http://www.botany.com/gasteria>

<http://www.com/~amdigest/gasteria>

<http://www.indoorsun.com/pages/gasteria>

<http://www.desert-tropicals.com/Asphodelaceae>