

# SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 2006.

Sunday, September 10—South Coast Botanical Gardens

1:30 P.M.—Victor Turecek, "Argentina--100 Years Ago"

Note: There will be no newsletter or meeting in October. Don't forget!

Earlier this year, Woody Minnich introduced us to the country and plant life of Argentina and this month Victor Turecek continues to develop our understanding by presenting ARGENTINA--100 YEARS AGO. Victor has traveled extensively in Argentina and is a highly knowledgeable, enthusiastic speaker. You won't want to miss this program so COME and BRING A FRIEND!!



## THE CACTOPHILE'S LAMENT: IT'S 120! WILL MY CACTUS AND SUCCULENTS SURVIVE?

When contemplating the purchase of a new-to-me plant, cactus/succulent, or otherwise; I generally ask how it will adjust to life in the low desert as that is where I live. Often the response is noncommittal and, when pressed, sounds something like 'filtered light'. No doubt that would be ideal, but ideals seldom exist in reality and in the desert, light tends to be of two varieties: full sun or full shade. This summer has been one of the hottest in history--31 days straight of 100 or more with a high of 122 in Indio (119.2 at my home in LaQuinta). Living in such a situation is a matter of survival for all plant and animal life--no matter what you may have heard about 'dry heat' and cool desert nights.

Even in the best of conditions, succulents can tolerate only late afternoon summer sun. With temperatures over 100, the best thing to do is to put succulents in full shade and cross your fingers as even with NO direct sun, the heat can kill them. Fortunately, if the roots have adequate but not excessive moisture, new growth will sometimes occur even if the basic plant has turned black. Fleshy stapelia sometimes turn to jello-like consistency. Take the most normal-looking portion of the plant and let it dry out. Then put it back in the pot and water lightly.

Opuntia and mammalaria cactus thrive in full sun during even the most extreme heat. In fact, they look better now than they did in the cooler months. Lobivia, two varieties of mammalaria, and several other cacti bloomed even on the hottest days.

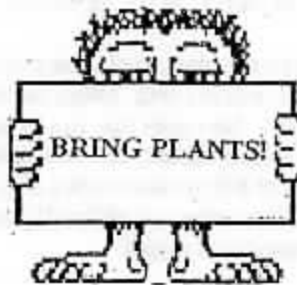
Survival in extreme heat is very stressful and sometimes a person begins to wonder if anything will survive, but life is a very determined force. As long as air conditioning and the ability to pay the electricity bill continue, people will continue to move to the desert and if the 120 temperatures are the exception rather than the norm, MOST plants will survive--even the angel wing begonia that had turned black and dropped all its leaves. Vera Thaxton

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*CACTUS AND SUCCULENT  
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS  
FOR 2006*

- SEPT. 2            HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM  
                         ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT. 24           LONG BEACH CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION AT DOMINGUEZ ADOBE  
                         18127 SO. ALAMEDA ST. COMPTON (DOMINGUEZ HILLS) CA.
- OCT. 14 & 15      SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
                         SHOW AND SALE— LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.

MEMBERSHIP: Do you have a cactus or succulent currently blooming? Do you have a plant whose name is "anonymous"? or do you need advice about a problem plant? If your answer to any of the questions above is "yes", BRING THE PLANT TO THE MEETING!! Specifically, bring it to the BRAG TABLE. This will give all of us opportunity to learn more about cacti and succulents.



SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
PLANTS OF THE MONTH—2006



September	Cacti of Argentina	Adenium & Plumeria
October	-----Break-----	
November	Miniatures (3 inch max)	Miniatures (3 inch max)
December	-----Christmas Party-----	

## PLANT OF THE MONTH RULES

- \* A maximum of three plants may be entered in each category (cactus and succulent).
- \* There will be two classes of entrants: novice and advanced.
- \* 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 third showing a plant that does not place.
- \* There may be up to three third places in a category. If plants are not deemed to be of sufficient quality, no place will be awarded.
- \* Entry tags must be collected by the person in charge of recordkeeping
- \* At the annual Christmas party, award plants will be presented to the ten highest cumulative point holders, regardless of class.



## PLANT OF THE MONTH TOTALS -- 2006

CACTUS ADVANCED	AUGUST TOTALS		CACTUS NOVICE	AUGUST TOTALS	
Duke	12	53	Capaldo	11	35
Fletcher		32	Ponce	10	17
LaForest		4	Danny'	3	3

SUCCULENTS ADVANCED	AUGUST		SUCCULENTS NOVICE	AUGUST	
Duke	2	9	Capaldo		24
Fletcher		39	Hulett		20
Gardner		5	la Forest		12
Hanna	12	39	Ponce	12	24
LaForest	3	4	Ross		5
kohlschreiber	1	1			

Cacti of the Month

*Cacti of Argentina*



Argentina is the home to about 34 genera of cacti, with at least two genera endemic to the country. The land area of Argentina is about 30% that of the United States. Argentina is roughly 2000 miles long, but only 700 miles wide at its widest point. The climate changes from high plains near Bolivia, to subtropical humid areas near Brazil, to the grasslands of Patagonia. The Western Border is the high elevations of the Andes. The altitude runs from sea level to 22,000 feet. As might be expected, with this kind of geographical variation, the natural growing conditions vary considerably.

The best known, and the genus most associated with Argentina is *Gymnocalycium*. Although the genus stretches into all of the adjacent countries except Chile, Argentina has the lion's share of the most collectable and best species.

The highlands of the North are also home to many wonderful *Rebutia* and *Lobivia*.

Somewhat ignored is a wealth of under reported *opuntias* that stretch the full length of the country.

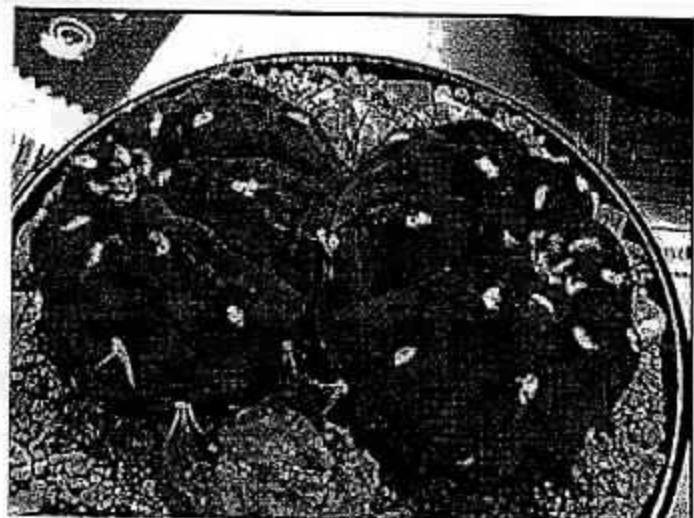


Figure 1 *Gymnocalycium pflanzii* (photo T. Nomer from the 1999 Winter Show)

References

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Tom Glavich July 2000

A very incomplete list of the Cacti of Argentina

<b>Acanthocalycium</b>	<b>Gymnocalycium</b>	jajoiana	pencillata	<b>Setiechinopsis</b>
all	ambatoense	marsoneri	piltziorum	<b>Stetsonia</b>
<b>Austrocactus</b>	andreae	saltensis	pluricentralis	<b>Trichocereus</b>
<b>Blossfeldia</b>	baldianum	sanguiniflora	rigida	angelesii
liluptana	bayrianum	silvestrii	riojensis	bruchii
<b>Cereus</b>	bicolor	<b>Notocactus</b>	rauschii	candicans
aethiops	bodenbenderianum	corynodes	sanguiniflora	grandiflorus
argentiniensis	bozsingianum	erinaceus	setosa	poco
azureus	bruchii	ottonis	spgazziniana	purpureopilosus
chalybaeus	calochorum	sessiliflorus	lebe; ammoama	schickendantzii
forbesii	capillaense	<b>Opuntia</b>	<b>Pfeiffera</b>	spachianus
<b>Cleistocactus</b>	castellanosii	argentina	ianthothele	tercheckii
baumannii	erinaceum	armata	<b>Pterocactus</b>	<b>Weingartia</b>
jujuyensis	gibbosum	clavarioides	all	neumanniana
smaragdiflorus	horridispinum	erectoclada	<b>Pyrrhocactus</b>	<b>Tephrocactus</b>
<b>Denmoza</b>	hybopleurum	schickendantzii	andreaeanus	articulata
erythrocephala	leanum	spgazzini	bulbocalyx	geometricus
rhodacantha	mostii	sulphurea	megliolii	glomerata
<b>Echinopsis</b>	nidulans	<b>Oreocereus</b>	straussianus	molinensis
aurea	occultum	celsianus	umadaeve	
candicans	pflanzii	trollii	<b>Rebutia</b>	
eyriesii	platense	<b>Parodia</b>	aureiflora	
hamatacantha	quehlianum	aureispina	costata	
leucantha	ragonesii	campestrae	deminuta	
<b>Eriocereus</b>	riojense	catamarcensis	einsteinii	
marinii	saglionis	chrysacanthion	fabrisii	
jusbertii	schickendantzii	faustiana	grandiflora	
tortuosus	spgazzini	fehseri	haagii	
<b>Frailea</b>	stellatum	herzogii	krainziana	
pumilla	triacanthum	horrida	marsoneri	
pygmaea	<b>Lobivia</b>	hummelliana	minuscula	
schlinzkyana	chrysantha	malyana	senilis	
	densispina	mammulosa	spgazziniana	
	ferox	microsperma	spinossimia	
	famatimensis	mutabilis		
	haematantha	nivosa		

The genera *Adenium* and *Plumeria*; like *Pachypodium*, are in the *Apocynaceae* family. (See the June 1992 plant of the month write up). All of these genera contain popular plants because of their unusual shapes and beautiful flowers. An important difference is that in the *Plumeria & Adenium*, the stipules at the base of the leaves are very small or absent. Members of the genus *Pachypodium* have stipules that form spines.

Most of us associate plants in the genus *Plumeria* with Hawaii because of the colorful and fragrant leis that are made from their flowers. However, these plants are natives of Tropical America! We don't see them too often in the succulent shows. The plants themselves are not as interesting as those found in *Adenium* or *Pachypodium*. *Plumeria* plants have fleshy stems that branch after blooming. They can make quite nice small trees but are sensitive to frost and should be protected in the winter.

*Plumeria acuminata*, which has white flowers with yellow on the inside, and *P. rubra*, which has a red flower and yellow throat, are both from Mexico. *Plumeria alba*, with white flowers, is from the West Indies. *Plumeria purpurea*, from Peru, has a red and yellow, hairy flower. There have been many hybrids made over the years with incredible flowers. I have actually seen many of these offered at the Orchid shows in Santa Barbara and a lesser selection at local Nurseries such as Armstrongs.

According to some authors, the genus *Adenium* contains as many as fourteen species. Others list only one species and six subspecies. The latter view is based on field observations of *A. obesum*. The many forms found in habitat do not have sharply defined differences and these authors do not feel specific species status is warranted. As a hobbyist, I am going to list the plants as individual species. The different plants can be easily recognized from each other and most nurseries list the plants this way. Following the name of each species will be the 'alternate' name.

These plants are tender and require protection in the winter. Before we acquired a greenhouse we put the plants in the garage for about two months during the winter. Obviously, we didn't water them and they would lose their leaves but would otherwise survive the cold. In a greenhouse, most species will continue to grow (slowly) over the winter and have a very brief dormant period. Propagation for most plants is by seed. Some hybrids are propagated from cuttings.

Species:

*A. obesum* (*A. obesum* v. *obesum*) - This is the 'type' plant of the genus. It is widespread and variable in its distribution. Plants in habitat form large caudexes, but in cultivation, mature specimens seem to lack a distinct one. However, they do get a swollen base. The plants are shrubby and upright. The flowers are pink to deep red on the petal margins and always fade to near white toward the white throat.

*A. swazicum* (*A. obesum* v. *swazicum*) - This species tends to be more shrubby, lower

growing, and more spreading than *A. obesum*. Most clones have weak stems that lay down on the surface of the soil or fall over the edge of the pot. They have a poorly developed caudex which is mostly underground. The leaves are narrow, slightly hairy, and often folded. The broad petaled flowers are of uniform color, usually pink to purple, and the throat is darker in color. Some hybrids have more upright stems and darker flowers (*A. swazicum* 'Perpetual Pink' and *A. swazicum* 'Boyce Thompson')

*A. boehmianum* (*A. obesum* v. *boehmianum*) - This plant tends to be upright and freely branching. The leaves are the largest in the genus and are widest near the tip. The sap is bitter and used on arrow tips as poison by the Bushman. The growing season tends to be short and the flowers, which are similar to those of *A. swazicum* in shape, are usually much smaller. Because of the short flowering season and small flowers it is not grown as commonly in collections.

*A. multiflorum*, (*A. obesum* v. *multiflorum*) - Plants of this variety can reach very large size. Doreen Court (author of Succulent Flora of Southern Africa) found one in habitat measuring 7 meters around the base. The showy flowers are pale pink with a darker pink margin. The petals are more pointed than in *A. obesum* v. *obesum*, and the color difference between the darker petal edge and the white center is distinct. This species has a longer winter dormancy than *A. obesum* and takes longer to mature. Many of the plants labelled *A. multiflorum* are actually *A. obesum*.

*A. oleifolium* (*A. obesum* v. *oleifolium*) - This slow growing species forms a subterranean caudex. The leaves are very long, narrow, and fuzzy. The small flowers (less than 1 inch) have pink petals with a white or gold tube. It is only occasionally available. In my collection it seems to attract red spider mite.

*A. somalense* (*A. obesum* v. *somalense*) - This species has narrow leaves with wavy margins and is sometimes offered as *A. somalense* v. *crispum*. The flowers vary in color but are similar to *A. multiflorum* in that their petals are pointed and not rounded.

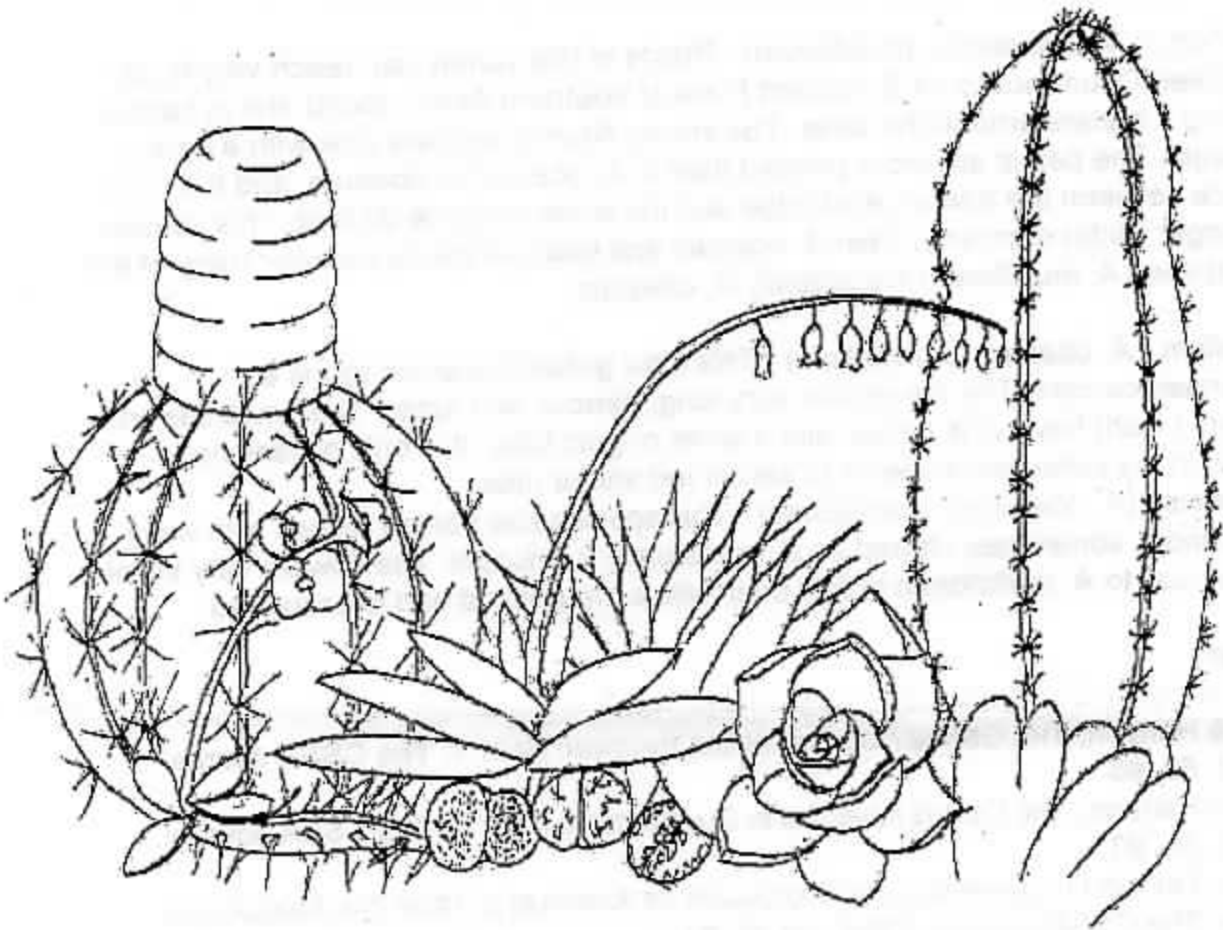
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 Lavranos, ON THE OCCURRENCE AND TAXONOMY OF ADENIUM IN TROPICAL ARABIA AND SOQOTRA; The CSSA Journal, 1966, vol 38, #1  
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**San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale**

Sat. and Sun. October 14 & 15, 2006 9 to 5

Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanic Garden  
301 N. Baldwin Ave. Arcadia, CA



Information, Please contact Tom Glavich 626-798-2430  
Jim Hanna 562-920-3046

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