



SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 2007

GENERAL MEETING: Sunday, September 9, 1:30 P.M., South Coast Botanical Gardens Classroom

PROGRAM: Do you dream of creating the exotic beauty of a tropical jungle in the garden at your home? If so, this program will be of great interest to you! One of our own members, DR. DICK KOHLSCHREIBER, will present a talk on EPIPHYTIC CACTUS which is based on the article he wrote for the Nov/Dec '06 issue of C&S Journal (Vol. 78, #6) in which he states that "there are few succulent plants more suited to hanging basket culture than epiphytic cacti". Dick may bring a few easy-to-grow epiphytic cacti to sell. You won't want to miss this program so plan to come; And BRING A FRIEND!!!

MEMBERSHIP: Welcome to our newest members who are:

Denice Bartels
600 Moulton Ave, # 401
Los Angeles 90031

(323)222-5606
DENICE@DENICEBARTELS.COM

Sigrid Nikora
15623 Gerkin Ave.
Lawndale 90260

(310)973-8839

REFRESHMENTS: The following members have volunteered to bring September refreshments:

Ed Curlee Shirley Schwazaren Laurel Woodley

Additional contributions will be welcomed as we all enjoy tasty treats with our conversation during break. Cakes, cookies, candies, etc. are always appreciated, but other possibilities include fruit, veggies such as carrots, celery, and radishes; chips, cheese—the choice is yours!

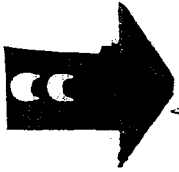


SCC&SS OFFICERS: President, Dale La Forest (310)618-9881; 1st V. Pres., Hank Warzybok, (562)429-7110; 2nd V. Pres., Gary Duke, (714)377-0064; Treas., Marsha Huebner, (310)834-0263; Sec., Phillip Ross, (310)378-5748; Show Chr., Harry Fletcher, (310)538-4078; Sunshine Chr., Irma Rennie, (310)375-3790; Refreshments, Carol Causey, (310)675-5843; and Newsletter Ed., Vera Thaxton, (760)564-3285.

SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
2007 PLANTS OF THE MONTH

CACTI

SUCCULENTS



Sept Gymnocalycium

Agavaceae family

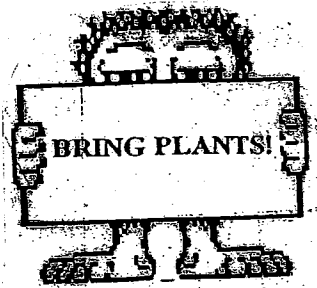
Oct Clustering mammelaria

Pachycormia, ficus
Burseras and
Fouqueria

Nov Miniature (under 3 inches)

Miniatures (under 3
Inches

Dec Christmas Party



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.

***CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2007***

**NOV. 10&11 SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SHOW AND SALE— LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.**

**DEC. 1 & 2 ORANGE COUNTY SHOW AND SALE AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM
1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA 92831
SHOW AND SALE OPEN FROM 10AM TO 4PM
FOR INFORMATION CALL 714-870-4887**

PLANT OF THE MONTH RULES

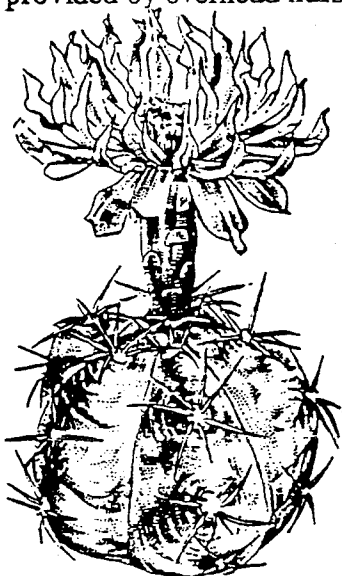
- * A maximum of three plants may be entered in each category (cactus and succulent).
- * There will be two classes of entrants: novice and advanced.
- * Intermediate entrants must have had the plant in their possession for at least six months; beginners, for three months.
- * Entrants will receive 6 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

CACTUS ADVANCE CACTUS		TOTALS	CACTUS NOVICE CACTUS		TOTALS
Causey	August 3	18	Capaldo	August 5	43
Duke	1	51	Caplan	7	11
Warzybok	2	30	Hemingway	3	4
Gardner		11	Hulett		1
Hanna	12	12	Ohlinder	8	15
La Forest	1	1	Harrison Pearson	6	3
Woodley	3	3	Ponce		1
SUCCULENTS ADVANCED			Thompson		6
causey	August 2	24	Capaldo	August	27
Duke	8	26	Caplan		15
Gardner		23	Hemingway		11
Hanna		57	Hulett		20
LaForest		16	Pearson		7
Warzybok	7	33	Ponce		12
woodley		7	Thompson		8

Plant of the month
GYMNOCALYCIUM

The genus name *Gymnocalycium* refers to the naked calyx (no spines, only scales) of the floral tube. This genus is thought to be closely allied to that of *Weingartia*, *Neowerdermannia* and *Sulcorebutia* because of its flower form and placement. Gymnos are mostly found in Argentina but many species come from the bordering countries of Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay and Brazil. Their habitats vary, from low to fairly high altitudes, in silty to rocky soils, from Andean areas of moderate rainfall to extremely arid valleys and from full sun to partial shade which is generally provided by overhead nurse plants.



The cultivation of this genus, as a rule, is fairly easy. Most of the species will take reasonably cool winter conditions and fairly hot summers, they love the heat! Watering should be primarily during the warmer spring months and on through the summer. Watering is best reduced in the fall and should only occasionally given during the winter, as weather permits. Our club expert, Victor Turecek, suggests that we should grow these plants very hard to thus maintain their natural "cow-pie" look and color. Many species are happy to and do respond to our lavish care where often they result in green, overgrown balloon shaped spineless blobs. Victor has traveled throughout much of the habitat of this genus and his observations and advise regarding their culture should be well taken. Ask him at the meeting!

There is a great deal of similarity of opinion as to the classification of *Gymnocalyciums*. In the previous years of study Putnam, Dr. Schutz and Dr. Buxbaum all independently working from the input of Fric and Kreuzinger's opinions have developed a classification based on seed groups. There are five basic subgenera; *Gymnocalycium*, *Ovatisemineum*, *Microsemineum*, *Trichosemineum* and *Muscosemineum*. The subgenus *Gymnocalycium* is characterized by having large (1mm to 3mm) black seeds and fruit green, example : *G. denudatum* and *G fleischerianum*. The *Ovatisemineum* is representative of plants with small (1mm or less) black seeds and fruit greyish to bluish, examples: *G. baldianum* and *G. bruchii*. The *Microsemineum* group is typified by having very small black or brown seeds (0.1mm to 0.5mm) and fruit green, grey or blue, examples: *G. saglione* and *G. pflanzii*. The *Trichosemineum* subgenus is unique in having shiny brown seeds that are distinctly shell shaped up to 1mm. and the fruit is blue-grey, examples: *G. quehlianum* and *G. stellatum*. The last subgenus is *Muscosemineum* where the seeds are light brown up to 1mm and are spherical shaped and the fruit is red when ripe, examples: *G. anisitsii* and *G. damesii*. It shall prove to be very interesting to see just what John Pilbeam will use as his criteria for classifying this genus when his new monograph is made available.

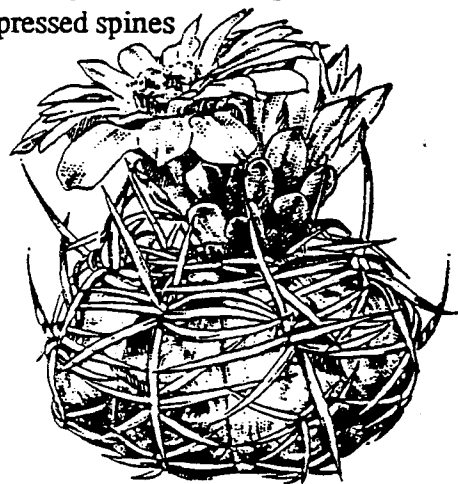
The fruit of this genus is a real pleasure to work with, no spines, and the seeds are generally

very easy to collect and grow. Pollination of the flowers is also very easy. Simply stick a small paint brush down deep into the throat of the flower thus extracting copious amounts of pollen and repeat the process with another plant of the same species, unless you want hybrids, they can be neat! Most members of this genus are self sterile thus requiring a separate plant to achieve fertile seed.

The flowers of this genus are nothing to write home about! The flower shape is usually slender and opens wide with a drab colored throat. They are generally creamy, yellowish or white and in occasion can be bright pink to deep red color. Their outer perianth is smooth with round scales and sometimes delicate patterns. Often, the fruit with their unique colors and patterns are as attractive and interesting as are the flowers .

Most Gymnos are plants of moderate size, lending themselves well to greenhouse cultivation. Some of the best or most unique and commonly cultivated species include:

- G. baldianum* a smallish dark green bodied plant with a most attractive deep red flower
- G. cardenasianum* a globular plant with heavy and long incredible curving spines
- G. denudatum* a glossy green clustering round bodied plant with tightly appressed spines
- G. mihanovichii* a clustering, beautifully red patterned body complimented with tan spines
- G. pungens* a semi-columnar plant with long upturned tan spines and a deep green body
- G. ragonessii* a beautiful dwarf brown bodied plant with delicately appressed tan spines
- G. saglione* a heavily armed interlacing spined globular, once known as *Brachycalycium*
- G. schickendantzii* a globular blue-green bodied plant with long erect needle-like spines
- G. spagazzinii* a medium sized blue-grey globular with wonderful long down-turned spines
- G. vatteri* a flat small brownish bodied plant with a few short appressed spines



There are many other great Gymnos in this genus all of which command investigation of anyone who finds just a few of these examples exciting. This is a good genus for the novice and advanced collector alike and offers a never-ending selection of species and forms for the hobbieist to search from. A good reference in which to view or study this genus is the book Cacti, the Illustrated Dictionary by Rod & Ken Preston-Mafham. Other books include: Gymnocalyciums by Ginns and Gymnocalyciums by Putnam. Soon to be available should be Pilbeam's new monograph on Gymnos.

Gymnos are also great plants for staging in decorative pots. Their dark bodies and often contrasting spines, give the owner an opportunity to compliment the colors of the pot or top-dressing. Frequently this makes for a stunning presentation. Keep your eyes open at the shows for Jim Hanna's *G. friedrichii*, Bill Hagblom's *G. pflanzii*, Woody Minnich's *G. pungens*, and Dave Tufenkian's *G. vatteri*, all specimens extraordinaire !

Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

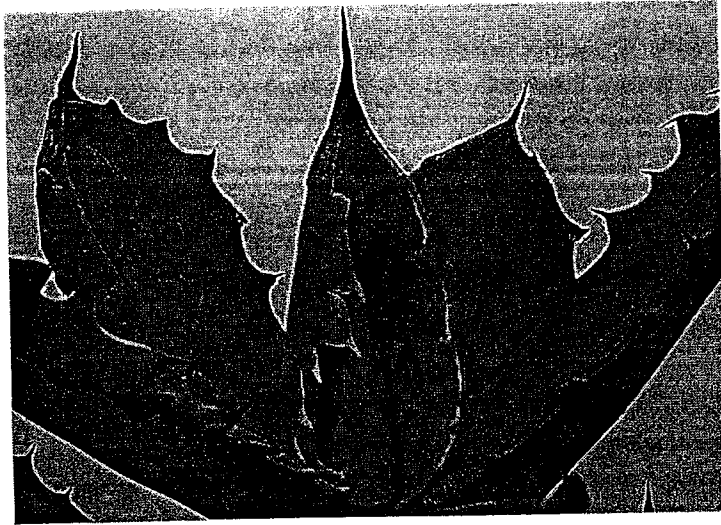


Figure 1 *Agave colorata*

The *Agavaceae* Family is a small family, recognized in 1934.

For our purposes the accepted family members are *Agave*, *Beaucarnea*, *Nolina*, *Calibanus*, *Yucca*, *Dasyilirion* and *Hesperaloe*. The *Agave* family, like the *Cactaceae* family is entirely new world in origin, although many members have been naturalized around the world.

All the members of the *Agavaceae* family are easily grown from seed. Although many of members of this family grow very large with age, they are particularly good looking as seedlings, and can be kept small for several years in pots. All described below are easily grown in Southern California. They can remain unprotected in pots or the ground year-round. They thrive with regular feeding with any general purpose fertilizer. Their appearance is best when they are cleaned regularly, with debris removed from the leaves, and old dead leaves removed to prevent insects from making homes. Many of the *Agave* offset freely, and these offsets can be removed and repotted, giving a steady supply of small seedling plants.

All the members of the *Agavaceae* family are easily grown

Agaves are native to Southern North America, Mexico, Central America, Northern Southern America and the West Indies. There are dwarf forms just a few inches across, but most species are larger, stretching to 10 feet or more across.

Some of the smaller growing species include:

Agave colorata, from Sonora and Sinaloa will grow in the ground to 3 feet across, but will stay smaller in pots. This is a beautiful, glaucous to light gray species, with red zones and occasional cross banding. It's rare in habitat, and was known as "mescal ceniza".

Agave titanota from Sierra Mixteca Mexico is shown below. Full grown at only 8 inches across, it has spectacular brown teeth and spines.

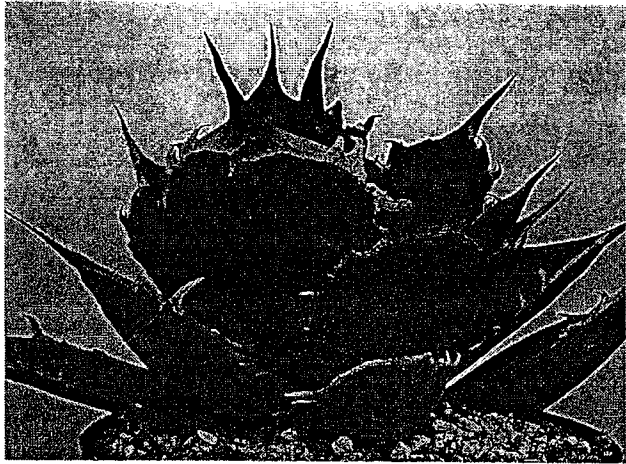


Figure 2 Agave titanota

Agave utahensis and its varieties grow to 10 to 20 inches across. The narrow tooth leaves have long sharp ends. *var. nevadensis* is particularly beautiful when well grown.

Beaucarnia is native to Texas and Mexico. It is often seen for sale under its common name of "Pony Tail Palm". *Beaucarnia recurvata* is the species most often seen. It is easily grown, hardy in Southern California and needing little care. It does well in pots or in the ground.

Calibanus is a monotypic genus, consisting of *C. hookeri* from central Mexico. *C. hookeri* has a hemispherical caudex covered with a gray to dark brown thick bark. The leaves are grass-like, and are produced in tufts. Readily available, and hardy in Southern California, this plant will grow quickly if placed in the ground for a few years. It's worthwhile growing a few because the caudices vary in shape, pattern and texture.

Dasyilirion is a small genus with about 10 species, all of which get very large. Most look like fountains of very narrow leaves, with small sharp spines. They are very pretty, but are best viewed from a distance.

Hesperaloe is a genus from Mexico and Texas. Most species have long leathery leaves, fibrous at the edges. The flowers resemble Aloe flowers. It is more a landscape plant than a pot plant, and can be found in many gardens in Southern California.

Nolina, native to California Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Mexico is a genus of long leafed shrubs that do well in local gardens.

Yucca species grow throughout the United States and Northern Mexico.

Yucca brevifolia, the Joshua tree is native to the Mojave desert. It blooms in the spring, and requires good drainage, particularly when grown on the coastal side of the mountains.

Yucca filamentosa comes from the Southeastern United States. It grows in clumps, with no visible stem.

References

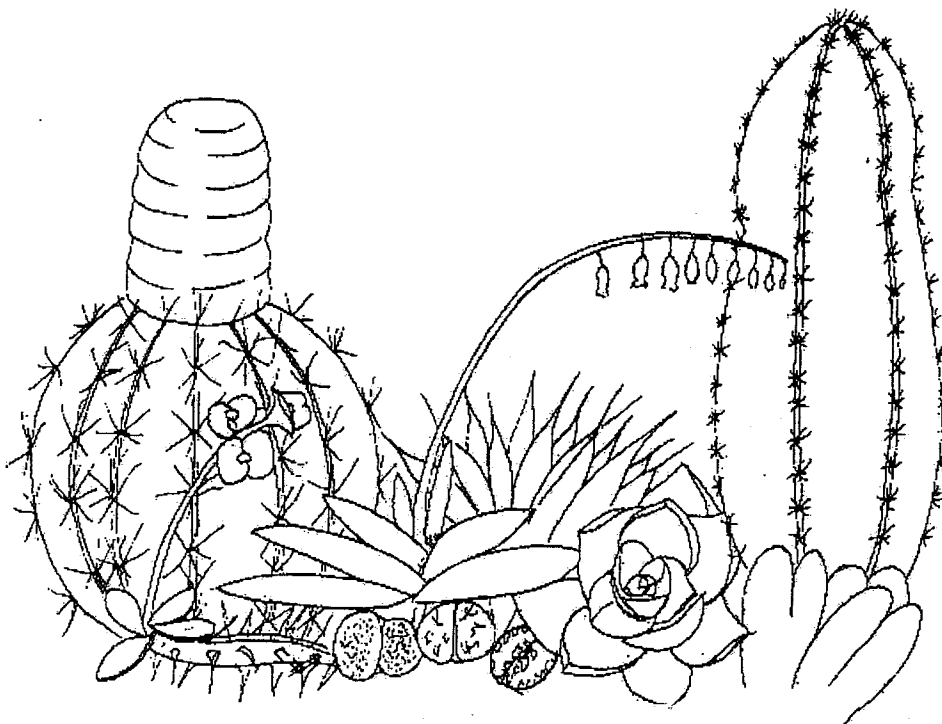
H. Gentry, **The Agave Family in Sonora**

M. Sajeve and M. Costanzo, **Succulents, The Illustrated Dictionary**

Tom Glavich September 2000

San Gabriel Valley
Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale
Sat. and Sun. November 10 & 11, 2007 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, Manny Rivera 626-793-6917

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