SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Number 9 September, 2004

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GENERAL MEETING: Sunday, 12, 1:30 P.M., South Coast Botanical Gardens Classroom. TOM GLAVICH, from the San Gabriel Society, will present a lecture with slides on "SUCCULENT BROMELIADS". This should be a very interesting topic!! Tom is an excellent grower and will bring a few plants to sell.

REMEMBER THAT THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN OCTOBER

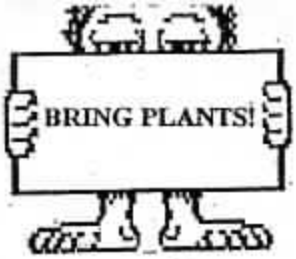
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2004

Oct. 3 Long Beach Club Annual Auction at Domingeuz Adobe, 18127 S. Alameda St. Compton

Oct. 16 & 17 San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale--L.A. County Arboretum

PLANTS OF THE MONTH FOR 2004

	CACTI	SUCCULENTS
September	Turbinicarpus	Dwarf Aloes
October	- - - - - - NO MEETING - - - - - - - - - -	
November	Miniature (3) under 3 inches	Miniature (3) under 3 inches
Decenber	- - - - - - - CHRISTMAS PARTY - - - - - - -	



PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH RULES

- A maximum of three plants may be entered in each category (cactus and succulent).
- Advanced entrants must have had the plant in their possession for at least six months, novices for three months.
- Advanced entrants will receive 6 points for first place, 5 points for second place, 4 points for third place and 2 points for showing a plant that does not place.
- Novice entrants will receive 4 points for first place, 3 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 four highest cumulative point holders in both the advanced and novice classes.

PLANT OF THE MONTH TOTALS

CACTUS ADVANCED	AUG	TOTAL
Duke	9	46
Fletcher	9	41
Hulett	11	17

CACTUS NOVICE	AUG	TOTAL
Capaldo	8	14
Crowley		6
LaForest	3	13
Lam		6
Ponce	11	17

SUCCULENTS ADVANCED	AUG	TOTAL
Duke	3	11
Fletcher	9	35
Gardner		5
Hanna		26
Hulett		6

SUCCULENTS NOVICE	AUG	TOTAL
Capaldo	7	18
Crowley		7
Gardner	16	43
Hemingway		8
Honore		3
Hutchison		8
LaForest	12	33
Lam		3
Ponce	1	14

Turbinicarpus

(L. "Top or turnip-shaped",Gr. "fruit")

GENUS. Turbinicarpus is a diminutive globular cactus included in group loosely labelled the "living rock" cacti due to their rather rough, fissured, rock-like bodies amd their slow growth habit. Native to Mexico, Turbinicarpus inhabits the rocky slopes at higher elevations and is well adapted to an arid lifestyle. Most of its body consists of a turnip-like base which shrivels up in the dry season; the plant's volume then is reduced and it is retracted under the soil. After the rains begin, it absorbs water, gains in volume, and its green crown then reappears above ground. Its flowers appear in the spring. Relatively few species are known. T. schmiedickeanus (Boed.) Buxb. & Backeb., originally known as Echinocactus schiedickeanus Boed., is the type species. It has many tubercles, long, thick spines, and pale pink flowers. Other species, such as T. polaskii, T. pseudomacrochele, T. schwarzii, T. lophophoroides, and T. laui, are dwarf specimens, extremely slow growing, with large pale pink to white flowers. T. krainzianus has yellow flowers. Other species include T. macrochele, T. klinkerianus, and T. flaviflorus. All members of this genus are relatively rare and thus collector's items.

DESCRIPTION. I could not find the official description of the genus. All the plants are small, tuberculate, with brownish or blue-green turnip-shaped stems and papery to hair-like spines. The crowns are covered with thick, white to tan felt. Color of the body is generally gray-green. Sizes range in height from 2 to 8 cm. The flower grows from the areole itself.

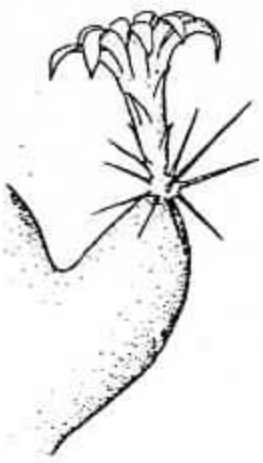
RELATED GENERA. Turbinicarpus is assigned to the subtribe Echinocactanae and is most closely related to the other "living rock" cacti--Ariocarpus, Obregonia, Strombocactus, Aztekium, Pelecyphora, and Normanbokea.

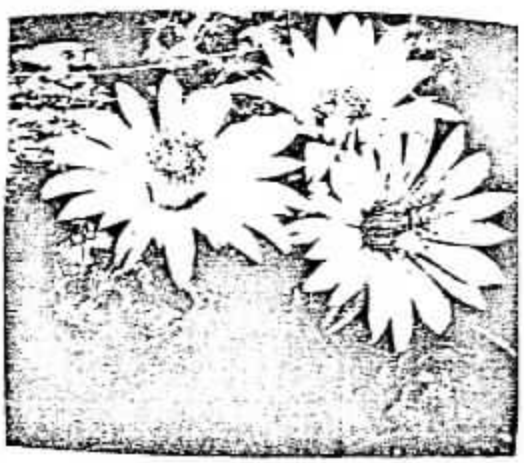
CULTIVATION. A well-drained potting mix is essential for these hard-to-grow cacti. All the species in cultivation are extremely sensitive to water; they require longer dry periods in the summer, and should be watered only when very warm. In winter, Turbinicarpus tolerates temperatures below 10° C and should be watered very, very sparingly. These plants grow very well from seed and within 2-3 years will reach 1 cm. in height. Turbinicarpus is often grown grafted onto stock such as hybrid Echinopsis. A sunny, warm location is necessary but an excess of direct sun may burn the plants.

PATHOLOGY. Rot from overwatering is the No. 1 menace. Treat mealybugs and other pests as usual. Since Turbinicarpus is less spiny than some other cacti, our local snails can get at its body and do quite a lot of damage.

CLASSIFICATION.

KINGDOM:	Plantae
DIVISION:	Anthophyta
CLASS:	Dicotyledonae
SUBCLASS:	Caryophyllidae
ORDER:	Caryophyllales
FAMILY:	Cactaceae
TRIBE:	Cereeae
SUBTRIBE:	Echinocactanae
GENUS:	Turbinicarpus





SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: DWARF ALOES
by Phyllis Flechsig

Aloes, in the lily family, are among the most popular plants grown by collectors of succulents. All aloes are native to Africa, Madagascar, or the Arabian peninsula, and range in size from tiny tufts to large trees. The larger species are fine landscape plants, but many of us have no space for them. The solution? Grow only the permanently dwarf kinds, which are plentiful and varied. In fact, many of the dwarf kinds do better in containers than in the landscape in our climate, as they may get too hot out in the sun in summer and too cold or wet in winter. Many species produce multiple rosettes like a cushion; when one of these gets too crowded in its pot, the outer rosettes are easily removed if the grower wants to keep the plant in the same size pot.

Among the small aloes are the so-called "grass aloes," whose foliage is thin and grasslike. An example of this type is Aloe myriacantha from the eastern Cape region of South Africa. A size up from this are such species as A. howmanii, A. ballii, and A. inyangensis, all of Zimbabwe. They have very narrow leaves and relatively short inflorescences.

The choicest of the small aloes are all native to Madagascar. Some with tiny rosettes and small but pretty flowers are: A. calcairophila, with white flowers (it is rather difficult in cultivation, unfortunately); A. descoingsii, possibly the smallest of all aloes, and relatively easy to grow; and A. haworthioides, a charming little plant that does indeed resemble some haworthias, as the name implies; it has tiny orange flowers that are pleasantly fragrant.

More Madagascar natives are such plants as A. bellatula, with dark green narrow leaves and orange flowers, and A. albiflora, similar looking but with white bell-shaped flowers. A. rauhii is a pretty little plant that has a decorative form called 'Snowflake'; John Trager of the Huntington Gardens has produced several named hybrids of A. rauhii that have handsome markings on the leaves. One of these has the alluring name of 'Lizard Lips.' Another pretty little aloe, not so easy to grow but worth some effort, is the pinkish-grey A. parvula. Aloe bakeri has small, spidery rosettes, and unlike most of these others, prefers a sunny situation. Its flowers are orange, and it will exist happily in a six-inch pot for a long time. A. jucunda has very small, shiny, dark green rosettes that multiply fast, but it never gets more than a few inches high.

Most of these plants are easy to grow, needing light shade, protection from frost, and average water. (The exception is A. haworthioides, which needs a lot less than average watering.) Propagation is generally done by separating rosettes, a very satisfying process that should result in instant new plants.

LITERATURE CONSULTED

Reynolds, G. W. 1966. The Aloes of Tropical Africa and Madagascar. The Aloes Book Fund: Swaziland.