



# SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 6

June, 2005

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### NEWSLETTER

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**GENERAL MEETING:** Sunday, June 12, 1:30 P.M. in the South Coast Botanical Gardens classroom. GARY DUKE will lead a seed-planting party. This will be a hands-on seed planting demonstration. Seeds that Gary ordered from Germany were confiscated by Customs for lack of a Phytosanitary Certificate, so be sure to bring any seed you have collected this year to trade with your friends for that is all we will probably have. We had quite a few contributed seeds last year. Gary will also furnish (same as last year):

2"x2" square black pots (4 pots per member or you can bring your own)  
cactus potting mix from Home Depot (You are also welcome to bring your own sterilized mix if you wish.  
10"x12"x2" aluminum trays for putting soil in  
plastic sandwich bags  
sand blasting grit for topping

Also, bring the seedlings you planted last year (or bring an older plant you have grown from seed) so we can discuss successes and failures.

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

- 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.

## 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 succulents).
- 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.

### PLANT OF THE MONTH TOTALS---2005

<u>CACTUS</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>CACTUS</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>ADVANCED</u>			<u>NOVICE</u>		
Duke	9	32	Capaldo	4	18
Fletcher	6	22	Crowley	11	31
Hulett		10	Ponce		11
LaForest		1			
<u>SUCCULENTS</u>			<u>SUCCULENTS</u>		
<u>ADVANCED</u>			<u>NOVICE</u>		
Duke	2	16	Capaldo	8	18
Fletcher	3	17	Crowley	8	39
Gardner		13	Ponce		2
Hanna	12	34			
LaForest		7			

### PLANTS OF THE MONTH FOR 2005

June	Coryphantha	Mesembryan Thenaceae (ex conos & Lithops)
July	Favorite Cacti (3)	Favorite Succulents (3)
Aug.	Opuntioideae	Sansevieria
Sept.	Neoporteria/Neochicenia	Pachypodium
-----NO MEETING-----		
Nov.	Miniatures (3 in. max)	Miniatures (3 in. max)
-----CHRISTMAS-----		

THINK YOU KNOW YOUR ALOES?

Pictured below are nine aloes; see if you can match them with these names: a) *A. aristata*; b) *A. ausana*; c) *A. bakeri*; d) *A. brevifolia*; e) *A. dichotomia*; f) *A. gariensis*; g) *A. haworthioides*; h) *A. marlothii*; i) *A. variegata*.



Aloe quiz answers: a) 1; b) 5; c) 8; d) 9; e) 2; f) 4; g) 6; h) 3; i) 7.

*Coryphantha* is a medium sized genus of mostly globular plants from Mexico and the Southwestern United States. There are about 50 to 80 species depending on the reference chosen, and the accepted extent of the genus. They are grown for their beautiful spination and large, colorful flowers. They are one of several genera that are similar to *Mammillaria* in appearance, with tubercles arranged in spirals. In spite of their often beautiful appearance, they are rarely seen in shows. They are one of several interesting, but often neglected species.

Cultivation of *Coryphantha* is similar to *Mammillaria*, except that they are more sensitive to over watering, and in general, somewhat more prone to rot. They start growing a little later in the year than *Mammillaria*, and stay in active growth later into the summer. Too much water, before there is active growth, can lead to their demise. Overall, cultivation is not difficult, and well within the capabilities of all growers. Since many come from the Southwestern United States and higher elevations in Mexico they are tolerant of cold, when dry, and should pose no difficult environmental problems in Southern California.

The range of *Coryphantha* overlaps that of *Thelocactus*, stretching through Texas into Oklahoma in the North, and continuing into Arizona, and California to San Bernadino. In the South, the genus stretches to Oaxaca. The center of the range is the central states of Mexico, San Luis Potosi, Zacatecas, and Nuevo Leon.

*Coryphantha* is very closely related to *Escobaria*, and some species have gone back and forth between the two genera. Some authors place all *Escobaria* as a subspecies of *Coryphantha*. We may be seeing evolution in process, with *Escobaria*, containing most of the more Northern species (reaching into Southern Canada) beginning to separate from *Coryphantha*, which has the more Southern species. Both *Coryphantha* and *Escobaria* have furrowed tubercles (*Mammillaria* do not), and most *Coryphantha* have extra floral nectararies (glands that produce nectar located in the skin of the plant), while *Escobaria* do not. The furrow is a groove that goes from the tip to the base of the tubercle. It is sometimes obvious, and sometimes so faint that it is hard to see. There are also floral differences, with *Escobaria* tending towards fringed petals while *Coryphantha* flowers have simple petals.

#### Particularly Interesting Species

*Coryphantha durangensis* is an extremely woolly, with the wool being so dense that it covers the areoles and spreads to entirely hide the body.

*Coryphantha elephantidens* is another of the woollier species, this time with red to reddish-brown spines. It has large tubercles, and offsets at the base.

*Coryphantha recurvata* is a large, often single headed species with dense interlaced yellow spines on a green body. Given time, it offsets from the body. The top of the plant is often so densely spined that it appears completely yellow, particularly when it is in full growth. As the plant matures, the lower spines turn a light tan, and then a reddish-brown giving larger plants an impressive shading. It can grow quite large, to eight inches or more tall, and semi-cylindrical rather than globular.

*Coryphantha scheeri* and v. *robusta* have large tubercles, and a very obvious and deep furrow. The furrow is also wool covered, and with v. *robusta* has a line of spines running the its length as well. It offsets from the base.

*Coryphantha sulcata* offsets quickly to form large clumps. It has white spines, and a yellow flower.

#### References

- I. Lawrie, *Coryphantha and Associated Genera*
- Cullman, Gotz and Groner, *The Encyclopedia of Cacti*
- J. Pilbeam, *Cacti for the Connoisseur*

**Succulent Plants of the Month: The Mesembryanthemaceae Family (excluding *Conophytum* & *Lithops*)**

This month's succulent topic features not just a single genus, but an entire 'family' or group of plants which are commonly referred to as *Mesembs*. With over 140 genera, *Mesembs* rank second to the largest wholly succulent Family, the *Cactaceae*.

In earlier classifications, the *Mesembs* were grouped into a single genus, *Mesembryanthemum*. But due to extensive field work and exploration, the need to expand and split the single genus became apparent. Due to the researches of N.E. Brown from England and G. Schwantes from Germany, the genus was split into several genera which are still accepted and in use today.

The greatest concentration of the *Mesembs* can be found in the southern part of South Africa, up the west coast through Namaqualand, the Richtersvelt, Bushmanland, into the Namib, Namaland, and the central part of South West Africa/Namibia. In these regions, the native people call the plants 'vygies'.

The flowers of the *Mesembs* come in nearly every color, with the exception of blue, and have a large number of linear petals and stamens unlike the flowers of other succulents. The fruit of the *Mesembs* are also unlike that of any other plant. The most common type of fruit is the 'hygroscopic capsule' that opens star-like when wetted and closes again on drying out. The mechanism of the seed capsule allows for germination to take place during the relatively brief and sporadic instances of rainfall.

To be successful in the cultivation of the *Mesembs*, respecting the annual cycle of the plant in question must be determined. Factors which trigger the beginning and ending of the growth cycle include day-length, temperature, and moisture. To find out more about a specific genus, refer to Steven Hammer's article, "*Mastering the Art of Growing Mesembs*" in the *Cactus and Succulent Journal* (U.S.), Vol. 67 (1995). All genera of the *Mesembs* are covered along with general cultivation notes.

Checklist of the genera of the *Mesembryanthemaceae*:

*Acrodon, Acrosanthes, Aethephyllum, Aizoanthemum, Aloinopsis, Amphibolia, Antigibbaeum, Antimema, Apatesia, Aptenia, Arenifera, Argyroderma, Aspazoma, Astridia, Bergeranthus, Berrisfordia, Bijlia, Braunsia, Brownanthus, Carpanthea, Carpobrotus, Carruanthus, Caryotophora, Cephalophyllum, Cerochlamys, Chasmatophyllum, Cheiridopsis, Circandra, Cleretum, Conicosia, Conophytum, Corpuscularia, Cydrophyllum, Cypselea, Dactyloopsis, Delosperma, Dicrocaulon, Didymaotus, Dinteranthus, Diplosoma, Disphyma, Dorotheanthus, Dracophilus, Drosantheropsis, Drosantherum, Eberlanzia, Ebracteola, Enarganthe, Erepisia, Esterhuysenia, Faucaria, Fenestraria, Frithia, Galenia, Gibbaeum, Glottiphyllum, Gunniopsis, Hallianthus, Hereroa, Herreanthus, Hymenogyne, Imitaria, Jacobsenia, Jensenobotrya,*

So as you can see, we have a wide variety of plants for this month's mini-competition.

**REFERENCES:**

Hammer, Steven. "*Mastering the Art of Growing Mesembs*" *Cactus and Succulent Journal* (U.S.), Vol. 67 (1995).

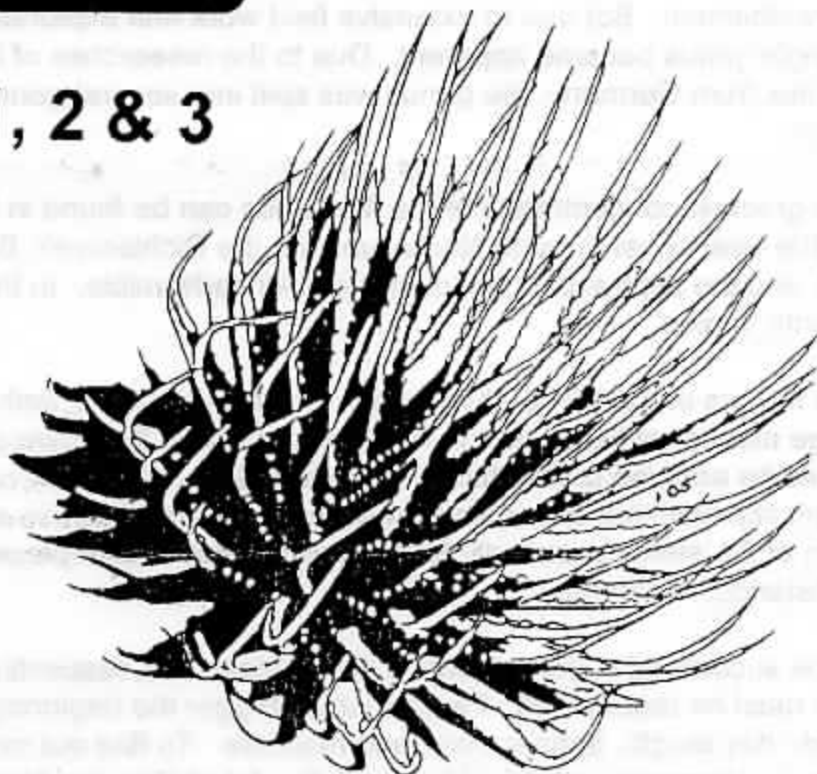
Storms, Ed. 1986. *The New Growing the Mesembs*.

Vince Basta May, 1997

**The Cactus and Succulent Society of America**

**Cactus and Succulent  
SHOW & SALE**

**JULY 1, 2 & 3**



**SALE: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10:30 am**  
**SHOW: Saturday & Sunday 10:30am**

**Free Admission to Show & Sale**

**Huntington Botanical Gardens**

1151 Oxford Rd. San Marino  
For Information Call – (626) 405-2100

