

# COMMUNIQUE

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc.  
Meetings are held at **7:30 PM** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month  
in the Lecture Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia  
**September 2004 Volume 37 Number 9**

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**Monthly Meeting:** Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. The program for September will be presented by Phil Favel. Phil has traveled to Yemen several times, in search of the local succulents, and he'll tell us all about them.

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**Plants of the Month:** (see the attached write ups)

**CACTUS – *Ariocarpus***

**SUCCULENTS – African *Pachypodium***

Bring your specimens in for our monthly mini-show. It will help you prepare for the real shows and give you an additional opportunity to show others your pride & joy.

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**Study Group:** Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, at 7:30 pm. in the Grapevine room, San Gabriel Adult Center, 324 South Mission Drive. These exciting events feature expert group leaders and mentors, free giveaways (some of the best plants you'll ever get!), and lively discussion. Join us on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> when the topic will be the *Bromeliaceae*.

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**The Presidents Corner:** There will be a short board meeting at approximately 7:15, before our regular monthly meeting. We will choose the nominating committee for our upcoming election. All SGVCSS members are welcome to attend.

Tim Jackson

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### Personnel Notices:

The SCGCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest members C.F. Chin, Mathew Strong, and Michael and Emma Barry. Carefully review the **COMMUNIQUE** and the **Roster** in order to learn about all the many benefits of membership in our warm and friendly club!

The winners of the drawing for free passes to the Huntington Succulent Symposium were Carol Maker and Jeanette Elser. We expect a brief report on the symposium from them at the September meeting.

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**Report on the Intercity Show:** The Intercity Show was held August 14 and 15, and was a great success. We had over 70 exhibitors, nearly 1600 plants, many of them very large and never before exhibited. We had more tables of plants in the show than at any time in the past five years. The Novice class as always was outstanding with many first-time entrants, and we had a three-way tie for High Points Novice Cactus. This has never happened before. The Sales were great, and the Saturday Night Auction was amazing, with extraordinary plants being auctioned. The entire show committee would like to thank everyone for all of the hard work it took to make this such a great event. It has become one of the premier gardening events in all of Southern California.

Tom Glavich

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## The Club Winter Cactus Show and Sale:

Our ELEVENTH ANNUAL WINTER SHOW is just a few weeks away and our September meeting will be the last before the show. Please note the show is being held a week earlier than usual, on October 9th & 10th. Be sure to pick up your show entry tags at the next meeting or at the Study Group on September 15th and keep your newsletter because it contains the show schedule (see below). Those who can not make the meeting can give Vince Basta a call at (714) 738-1422 and have him send the entry tags to you. A volunteer sign up sheet will be at the next meeting for clerks or you can give Vince a call and he will add you to the list. Also, be sure and promote the show by passing out flyers (available at the meeting and Study Group) and telling friends and neighbors about our upcoming show!

Set-up: We will need plenty of helpers on Thursday morning (8:30 am) October 7th to set-up tables, decorate and get the show & sales area ready by noon! Show and sale plants can then start coming in on Thursday from noon till 9:00 pm. Remember...all show plants must be in by Friday October 8th at 4:00 pm. Also, Clerks and helpers will be needed Friday during judging. This is a great opportunity to hear what the judges are saying and to learn more about the show. If you would like to be part of the judging process, be sure and sign up at the next meeting!

2003 Trophy Winners... reminder, if you won a trophy at last years show, please be sure and have your name engraved on it before the show.

Vince Basta, Show Chairman

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**Refreshments:** As no one signed up to bring in refreshments this month, your help is needed! We continue to seek volunteers for coming months, so don't forget to sign up on the sheet located at the refreshment table. Our thanks go to everyone who brought things for the August meeting.

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**10 years ago:** Bill Hagblom gave a talk on **Pachypodium**.

**20 years ago:** The club birthday was celebrated with a pot-luck and program by Victor Turecek on "The Things I love around the World."

**30 years ago:** "The Genus **Lithops**" was presented by Virginia F. Martin.

(Thanks go to Tom Glavich for providing this interesting feature)

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**Online:** If you would be content to view the **COMMUNIQUE** on-line and not receive a copy by regular mail, thus saving the Club treasury about one dollar per copy, send the information via E-mail to [sgv\\_css@verizon.net](mailto:sgv_css@verizon.net). <http://www.desertsong.com/sgvcss/> is the Club's web site. If you or someone you know has internet access be sure to have a look. The pages were authored and are maintained by Gunnar Eisel who has done a great job in creating an informative and classy site. You can also download a version of the **COMMUNIQUE** complete with color photos. Look for the **COMMUNIQUE** link at the site's main page.

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## Calendar of Events - 2004

**September 4<sup>th</sup>** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.

- October 3<sup>rd</sup>** Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Auction. Dominguez Adobe, 18127 So. Alameda Street, Dominguez, CA 90221.
- October 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>** SGVC&SS Winter Show. LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.
- December 18<sup>th</sup>** The Club Christmas Party! Put this date on your calendar!

**August Plant-Of-the-Month Mini Show Results:**

**Cacti – *Turbincarpus* Succulents – *Bromeliaceae***

**Beginner**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Jean Mullens	<i>T. schmiedickianus</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Alan Hooker	<i>Dyckia fosteriana</i> v. <i>Orange Sunburst</i>
			2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jim Schlegel	<i>Dyckia</i> “Silverado”
			3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dick Tatman	<i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i> x <i>tricolor</i>

**Intermediate**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Barbara Nolan	<i>T. schmiedickianus</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Barbara Nolan	<i>Dyckia species</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Barbara Nolan	<i>T. schmiedickianus</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Barbara Nolan	<i>Dyckia species</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Barbara Nolan	<i>T. schmiedickianus</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Barbara Nolan	<i>Dyckia species</i>
			Show	Barbara Nolan	<i>Bermilidium strawberg</i>

**Advanced**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Tom Vermilion	<i>T. schmiedickianus</i> v <i>schwarzii</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Rita Gerlach	<i>Dyckia species</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Frank Nudge	<i>T. pseudopectinatus</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rita Gerlach	<i>Dyckia species</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Frank Nudge	<i>T. gracilis</i>			
Show	Frank Nudge	<i>T. schmiedickianus</i>			

**Master**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Karen Ostler	<i>T. valdezianus</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Karen Ostler	<i>Crypthanthus</i> <i>univivittatus</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Karen Ostler	<i>T. pseudonescrothele</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Karen Ostler	<i>Dyckia remotifolia</i>

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you'd like to have announced in the **COMMUNIQUE**, please forward the info to me at the address below. Please verify event dates - sometimes events are rescheduled or canceled without adequate advance notice.

Articles, Notices and Corrections can be sent via e-mail to: [sgv\\_css@verizon.net](mailto:sgv_css@verizon.net) or via post to: Paul Maker, 2235 Canyon Road, Arcadia, CA 91006. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the **COMMUNIQUE**. Material in the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society **COMMUNIQUE** may be reprinted by nonprofit organizations (unless such permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the material) provided proper credit is given to the SGVCSS and the author and that one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material be sent to the editor. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization or publication without the permission of the publisher is prohibited.

# The San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society

presents

## The Eleventh Annual Winter Show

### October 9 & 10, 2004

At the Los Angeles County Arboretum

301 N. Baldwin Avenue Arcadia, CA (across from Santa Anita Race Track)

### SHOW SCHEDULE

**Set-up:** Thursday October 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am till noon(set-up tables, show & sales area) Exhibitors & sellers may bring in plants on Thursday from noon till 9:00 pm.

**Set-up:** Friday October 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am till 4:00 pm.

**Judging:** Friday October 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm till 10:00 pm.

**Take-down:** Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm till close

**Pre-sale:** the sales area will be open for workers and participants from 3:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m. on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup>. Plants bought during pre-sale must be paid for and removed from the show no later than 9:00 p.m. Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> or they will be placed back in the sales area.

### Horticultural Classifications

Competitive entries shall be as follows:

**NOVICE:** Exhibitor has won no more than 40 blue ribbons total in recognized C&S shows.

**ADVANCED:** Exhibitor has won 41 or more blue ribbons. No commercial sellers.

**OPEN:** Exhibitor must have won 80 or more blue ribbons or be a commercial seller of C&S plants.

**All entrants must register their total entries in the show registrar prior to placement on tables.**

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### DIVISION 1 INDIVIDUAL POTTED SPECIMENS, CACTI

- |    |                                                                                  |    |                                                       |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | <i>Ariocarpus</i> up to 5"                                                       | 21 | <i>Mammillaria</i> hooked up to 6"                    |
| 2  | <i>Ariocarpus</i> single over 5"                                                 | 22 | <i>Mammillaria</i> hooked over 6"                     |
| 3  | <i>Ariocarpus</i> cluster over 5"                                                | 23 | <i>Mammillaria</i> w/o hooks single up to 6"          |
| 4  | <i>Astrophytum</i>                                                               | 24 | <i>Mammillaria</i> w/o hooks single over 6"           |
| 5  | <i>Aztekium, Pelecyphora, Epithelantha</i>                                       | 25 | <i>Mammillaria</i> w/o hooks cluster up to 5"         |
| 6  | <i>Borzicatus, Matucana, Submatucana, Oroya</i>                                  | 26 | <i>Mammillaria</i> w/o hooks cluster 5 to 10"         |
| 7  | <i>Blossfeldia, Frailea</i>                                                      | 27 | <i>Mammillaria</i> w/o hooks cluster over 10"         |
| 8  | <i>Buiningia, Uebelmannia</i>                                                    | 28 | <i>Melocactus</i>                                     |
| 9  | Columnar - Ceroid types (N or S American)                                        | 29 | <i>Notocactus, Parodia, Weingartia</i>                |
| 10 | <i>Obregonia, Strombocactus, Encephalocarpus</i>                                 | 30 | <i>Opuntia</i> (all <i>Opuntioideae</i> )             |
| 11 | <i>Copiapoa</i>                                                                  | 31 | <i>Pediocactus, Sclerocactus, Turbinicarpus</i>       |
| 12 | <i>Coryphantha, Escobaria, Gymnocactus, Neobesseya, Neolloydia, Ortegocactus</i> | 32 | <i>Rebutia, Mediolobivia</i>                          |
| 13 | <i>Discocactus</i>                                                               | 33 | <i>Sulcorebutia</i>                                   |
| 14 | <i>Echinocereus</i> up to 5"                                                     | 34 | <i>Stenocactus (Echinofossulocactus)</i>              |
| 15 | <i>Echinocereus</i> over 5"                                                      | 35 | <i>Thelocactus</i>                                    |
| 16 | <i>Echinopsis, Lobivia, Acanthocalycium</i>                                      | 36 | Epiphytic Cacti ( <i>Aporocactus, Hatiora</i> , etc.) |
| 17 | <i>Echiocactus, Ferocactus, Hamatocactus</i>                                     | 37 | Any other genus                                       |
| 18 | <i>Eriosyce (Neoporteria, Neochilenia, Pyrrhocactus, Horridocactus)</i>          | 38 | Variegated Cacti                                      |
| 19 | <i>Gymnocalycium</i> up to 5"                                                    | 39 | Crested Cacti (fan-shaped growth)                     |
| 20 | <i>Gymnocalycium</i> over 5"                                                     | 40 | Montrose (multiple, irregular, growth centers)        |
|    |                                                                                  | 41 | Seed grown by exhibitors up to 5 years                |
|    |                                                                                  | 42 | Miniature Cacti (3" maximum pot size)                 |
|    |                                                                                  | 43 | Cacti Collections of 5 - 12 plants                    |

## DIVISION 2 INDIVIDUAL POTTED SPECIMENS, SUCCULENTS

### *Aizoaceae* (*Mesembrianthemaceae*) family

- 44 *Lithops*
- 45 *Conophytum*
- 46 Other genera - with prominent stems/roots:  
*Aloinopsis, Faucaria, Mestoklema*, etc.
- 47 Other genera - without prominent stems/roots:  
*Dinteranthus, Lapidaria*, etc.

### *Asphodelaceae* family

- 48 *Aloe* under 6"
- 49 *Aloe* 6" and over
- 50 *Gasteria*
- 51 *Haworthia* & *Astroloba* under 5"
- 52 *Haworthia* & *Astroloba* 5" and over

### *Crassulaceae* family

- 53 *Adromischus*
- 54 *Cotyledon, Tylecodon*
- 55 *Crassula, Kalanchoe*
- 56 *Dudleya*
- 57 *Echeveria*
- 58 Other *Crassulaceae*: *Aeonium, Pachyphytum*  
*Graptopetalum, Monanthes, Sedum,*  
*Tacitus, Orostachys*, etc.

### *Euphorbiaceae* Family

- Euphorbia* - species endemic to Madagascar
- 59 Caudiciform or Geophyte (*capsaintmariensis*,  
*cylindrifolia* v. *tubifera*, etc.)
- 60 Other Madagascar (*decaryi, milli*, etc.)
- Euphorbia* - species not endemic to Madagascar
- 61 Caudiciform (*knuthii, squarrosa*, etc.)
- 62 Medusa type (*esculenta, gorgonis*, etc.)
- 63 Stem type (*abdelkuri, obesa, suzannae*, etc.)
- Other genera of *Euphorbiaceae*;
- 64 *Jatropha, Monadenium, Pedilanthus*, etc.

### *Geraniaceae* family

- 65 *Pelargonium*
- 66 *Sarcocaulon*

### *Apocynaceae* family

- 67 *Adenium* & *Plumeria*
- 68 *Pachypodium* - African
- 69 *Pachypodium* - Madagascan

### *Asclepiadaceae* family

- 70 *Fockea, Raphionacme, Brachystelma*
- 71 *Caralluma, Hoodia, Huernia, Pseudolithos,*  
*Stapelia, Trichocaulon*, etc.
- 72 Other *Asclepiadaceae*: *Ceropegia,*  
*Sarcostemma, Hoya*, etc.

### Succulents in Other Families

- 73 *Agavaceae*: *Agave, Nolina, Yucca*
- 74 *Asteraceae*: *Senecio, Othonna*
- 75 *Bromeliaceae*: *Abromeitiella, Dyckia*, etc.
- 76 *Burseraceae*: *Bursera, Commiphora*
- 77 *Didiereaceae*: *Alluaudia, Decarya, Didierea*
- 78 *Dracaenaceae*: *Sansevieria* (may include  
variegates)
- 79 *Moraceae*: *Dorstenia* (enter *Ficus* in 83 or 84)
- 80 *Passifloraceae*: *Adenia*
- 81 *Portulacaceae*: *Anacampseros, Avonia, Ceraria*
- 82 *Vitaceae*: *Cissus, Cyphostemma*

### *Pachycauls, Caudiciforms & Geophytes*

- Adansonia, Bombax, Chorisia,*  
*Cucurbitaceae, Dioscorea, Fouquieria*  
*Pachycormus*, etc.
- 83 Pot size under 8"
- 84 Pot size 8" and over
- 85 Any other genus
- 86 Variegated Succulents
- 87 Crested Succulents (fan-shaped growth)
- 88 Monstrose (multiple, irregular, growth centers)
- 89 Seed grown by exhibitors up to 5 years
- 90 Miniature (3" maximum pot size)
- 91 Collection of 5 - 12 plants

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### DIVISION 3 ARRANGEMENTS

- 92 Dish gardens (miniature scene)
- 93 Planters (group of the same or assorted plants)
- 94 Bonsai (Succulent Media of Living Art)

### DIVISION 4 DISPLAYS

- 95 Individual display
- 96 Commercial display
- 97 Educational display

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### DIVISION 5 ALLIED INTERESTS

- 98 Photography
- 99 Art Work & Handicrafts

## SHOW DINNER

The dinner will be Saturday evening, October 9th at 6:00 pm at Ayers Hall in the show area. Dinner will be a special meal, prepared by Richard Jones Pit BBQ Catering. The menu will include three meats; Beef Brisket (cooked for 16 hours), Chicken Breast, and Pork Spare Ribs. It will be accompanied by 4 sides dishes including BBQ beans, Green Beans & Almonds, Mixed Green Salad and Seasonal Vegetable Medley. Also included are Rolls, Butter, BBQ Sauce, Beverage, and Apple and Peach Cobbler for dessert. Total cost is \$17.50 per person. There will be an awards presentation, auction and lots of fun! Please be sure to sign up at the next meeting! All reservations and payments must be in by Wednesday, October 6th so the caterer will know how many people to prepare for. Please pay Rita Gerlach at the meeting or send a check made payable to SGVCSS and send it to Rita Gerlach, Treasurer. 719 S. Albertson. Covina, CA 91723.

## SHOW RULES

- 1) Showers must be members of the SGVC&SS
- 2) Entries must be in the possession of the exhibitor for at least 6 months. Artificially propagated plant entries are encouraged. They must be clean (no weeds and debris), healthy (no insects, disease, and pesticide odor) and dry (to keep tables and table coverings from being ruined). Plant labels should be removed. Exhibitors are responsible for placing entry cards with exhibits prior to judging. The show committee may remove any entry which detracts from the show or jeopardizes the health of other entries.
- 3) Plants in Division I & II must be individually potted specimens. **Pot size** refers to the inside diameter of the pot at soil level (Irregular pots; the average diameter). **Cristate & Monstrose** plants should appear only in their specific classes. **Miniature** refers to the intrinsic characteristic of the species; ie., a small, mature plant; not an immature, or stunted plant. A collection should be of individually potted, identified plants of one genus or some unifying theme.
- 4) Depending on the number of entries, prior to the judging, the Show Committee may combine or divide categories and rearrange entries. The Show Room is open to authorized people only during judging. Entries must remain until the end of the show.
- 5) Entries are judged on: Condition, Size & Maturity & Difficulty of Culture (70%); Staging (25%); and Nomenclature (5%). Entries are judged against **perfection**; awards are given only if the judges, whose decisions are final, believe they are merited.
- 6) The Society and Show Committee will take due care to safeguard entries but cannot be held responsible for damage to, or loss of, plants or other property.

## AWARDS

First, second and third place ribbons may be awarded in each class in Divisions 1 through 5. In addition 18 rosettes will be awarded for outstanding entries in both Divisions 1 & 2. For Sweepstakes calculations  
1<sup>st</sup> place = 6 pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 3 pts and 3<sup>rd</sup> place = 1 pt. Rosettes will be tie-breakers.

## TROPHIES

**Best Cactus** (all categories), donated by *Cactus Data Plants*

**Best Succulent** (all categories), donated by *Steve Crider*

**Sweepstakes overall; High Points Cacti** (all categories); **High Points Succulents** (all categories).

Other trophies awarded as perpetuums include:

**Best Agave** donated by *Darlene Osborn*, **Best Ariocarpus**, **Best Collection**, The VIRGINIA SHAMBEAU trophy for **Best Crassulaceae** donated by the *SGVC&SS*, **Best Dorstenia** donated by *Tom & Carol Loehman*, **Best Epiphytic Cacti** donated by *Rainbow Gardens*, **Best Euphorbia**, **Best Gymnocalycium**, **Best Haworthia**, **Best Mammillaria** donated by *Woody & Kathy Minnich*, **Best Mutant** - includes variegates, crests or monstrose donated by *Ken Felton*, **Best Opuntia** donated by *Jean Mullens*, **Best Pelargonium-Sarcocaulon** donated by *Arid Lands Greenhouses*, **Best Rebutia-Sulcorebutia**, **Best Winter Growing Succulent** donated by *David & Eileen Tufenkian* and **Best Pachypodium** donated by *Bill Hagblom* and *Vince Basta*.

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**Show Chairman:** Vince Basta (714) 738-1422 **Sales Chairman:** Jim Hanna (562) 920-3046

**Treasurer:** Rita Gerlach (626) 332-8008 **Publicity:** Bill Gerlach (626) 332-8008

## San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

### Cactus of the Month September 2004 – *Ariocarpus*



***Ariocarpus retusus* entered in the 2001 Intercity Show by Vince Basta**

*Ariocarpus* is one of the treasures of the world of Cacti. This genus, from Central to Northern Mexico and Southern Texas has some of the most spectacular species of the entire family. Some succulent growers, who otherwise avoid cacti, make this genus their sole exception. There are collectors who collect nothing but *Ariocarpus*, and have hundreds of plants in their collections. Rare specimens can change hands for hundreds of dollars. Rare cultivars with unusual tubercles can be sold for even more, particularly in Japan. There is no denying that this genus has generated a world wide cult of devotees.

With all of this, you might expect *Ariocarpus* to be difficult to come by, and difficult to grow. Nothing could be further from the truth. They are no more difficult to grow than any other central Mexican genera. All of the species and all of the varieties are readily available, and nearly all are affordable. This genera is well within the range of even beginning novice growers. Field collected specimens are occasionally

available, and these are much more expensive, and much harder to grow. Recently collected specimens are now almost always illegally obtained.

With all of the fuss we make over this genus, it is important to remember that the plants have had important ethno-botanical uses. The tubercles have sticky mucilage, and this was often used as glue to mend broken pots. *A. kostchoubeyanus* was boiled and used as a cure for rheumatism, and several species were used as ‘false peyote’ in religious ceremonies.

Cultivation is not difficult, when the home environment of these plants is remembered. They grow in mineral soils, with very little organic matter. They all have large tuberous roots. They grow in areas that are very hot in the summer, and that have summer rainfall. If they are protected from excess organic matter, particularly peat, and watered heavily only in hot weather, good growth will result. They need protection from winter rains.



Artful *Ariocarpus*:

There are six species, several varieties, and a near infinite set of cultivars.

*Ariocarpus agavoides*, as its name implies resemble agaves. Discovered only in 1941, it is rare in nature and cultivation. It comes from just a few areas in Tamaulipas and San Luis Potosi.



*Ariocarpus bravoanus*, has flattened triangular tubercles. A beautiful species, it is slow growing and rare, although seedlings are now often available. This species also comes from just a few localities in San Luis Potosi.

*Ariocarpus fissuratus* is much more common. This species spreads from the Pecos River in Texas south to Durango. The wide area over which this species grows, and the isolation of some of the populations has given rise to many forms. This species is also one of the more collectable species, with many cultivars produced, with extra hair, wide tubercles, etc.

*Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* is the miniature of the genus. This species never gets above ground. It is widespread in Mexico, occurring in silt plains from Coahuila to Queretaro. In habitat, this species is sometimes under water! It is relatively easy to grow, requiring only a good, quick draining potting mix. Multiheaded specimens of this species are especially appreciated.

*Ariocarpus retusus* was the first species discovered, first described in 1938. This is an easily grown species. It is widespread throughout the Chihuahuan desert. A subspecies *A. retusus ssp. trigonus* has more triangular tubercles. As with *fissuratus*, there are dozens of cultivars, variants, variegates, etc. of the species and the subspecies.

*Ariocarpus scaphirostris* is another of the small, rare and harder to grow species. Seedlings are available, usually as grafted plants. It is native to Nuevo Leon.

#### References:

- Anderson, E. **The Cactus Family**
- Cullman, Gotz and Groner, **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**
- Preston-Mafham, **Cacti, The Illustrated Dictionary**
- Innes, C. and Glass, C., **Cacti**

Tom Glavich August 2004

## San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

### Succulents of the Month September 2004 - African *Pachypodium*

There are only a few species of *Pachypodium* native to Southern Africa, but they are all wonderful plants. They are among the most collectable of all of the *Pachypodiums*, are readily available, and are easily grown.



All of the species of African *Pachypodium* can be grown out of doors, year around in Southern California, requiring protection only from severe frost and freezing weather. If given good drainage, they can survive the winter in pots, with some species even showing some growth throughout the winter months.

All are easy to grow from seed, with seed usually available either at the April Seed growing Study group, or through the CSSA, or any of the better known seed houses. They are best planted in warm weather, (May

is ideal) one seed to a pot. Germination is quick, and small plants are ready for transplantation before the end of the summer.

*Pachypodium bispinosum* comes from the southern tip of South Africa. In habitat, most of the caudex of this plant is wedged between and beneath rocks, giving it protection from the sun and predators. Only the relatively small, and easily replaced branches stick out. This makes this species easy to bonsai, and dwarf. It can develop an impressive caudex even in cultivation.

*Pachypodium lealii* is the most tropical of the African species growing into Namibia and Southern Angola on the west coast and in South Africa and southern Zimbabwe on the east coast. It grows at the same latitudes on both sides of the continent, with the east and west side generally being treated as separate subspecies. The east coast species are *Pachypodium lealii* sp. *lealii*, and were the first discovered in 1859. They are easy to grow, but require very good drainage to avoid root rot. They form large trees in habitat, to 30 feet tall, but remain small and easy to handle in pots. The west coast subspecies is *Pachypodium lealii* ssp. *saundersii*. These tend to be smaller, and in habitat, to have a more spherical caudex than a tree form. It is easier to grow than its east coast cousin.

*Pachypodium namaquanum* is perhaps the most spectacular of all of the African species. It's common name is 'half man', which is what it appears to be on the hillsides of Namaqualand. It can grow to 6 feet or more.

It is the defining plant of portions of Namaqualand, just as the *saguaro* is to parts of the Sonoran desert. These often go dormant in the early summer, sometimes losing all their leaves, sometimes keeping some, but showing no growth. They leaf out again in late July, and grow through the winter.



***Pachypodium succulentum* about 8 years from seed**

*Pachypodium succulentum* is similar in appearance to *Pachypodium bispinosum*. It is a dwarf species that grows at the Southern tip of South Africa, with a habitat that is larger than and encompasses that of *Pachypodium bispinosum*. The flowers and flowering times are different, and the two do not hybridize in habitat. This species is easy to root from root cuttings. A piece of root is removed, and

immediately replanted, with about a quarter inch sticking out above the top dressing. Within a few days to a few months, new leaves will start to form at the tip, shortly followed by new branches and a new caudex. Stem cuttings can also be rooted, though with more difficulty.



*Pachypodium bispinosum*

This species is easy to grow from seed, and like *Pachypodium bispinosum* easy to keep small. The *Pachypodium succulentum* shown in the accompanying figure is about 6 years old from seed, and has been in a 1 ½ inch pot since it was a little over a year old. The entire plant is about 4 inches tall.

#### References

G. Rowley, **Pachypodium & Adenium**

Tom Glavich July 2004

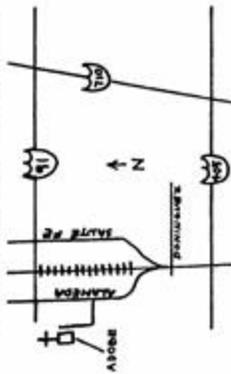
# LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB

*Proudly Presents*  
**CACTUS AND SUCCULENTS  
 ANNUAL  
 PLANT AUCTION**

*October 3, 2004 12:00 P.M.*



**DOMINGUEZ ADOBE  
 18127 S. ALAMEDA STREET  
 DOMINGUEZ, CA 90221**



Directions: From the 405 Freeway, take Alameda Street heading North. After going about a mile, take the Alameda Street West toward Compton. This puts you on the West side of the tracks heading North. Look for the following sign, which will be on your left:

Dominguez Seminary  
 The Clareians  
 18127

From the 91 Freeway heading East, take Alameda Street/Compton off-ramp. Turn right and drive a half mile to the sign Dominguez Ranch House.  
 From the 91 Freeway heading West, exit on the Santa Fe Ave./Alameda St. off-ramp. Take Alameda St., Compton, right. Look for the sign:

Rancho San Pedro  
 Dominguez Adobe  
 18127

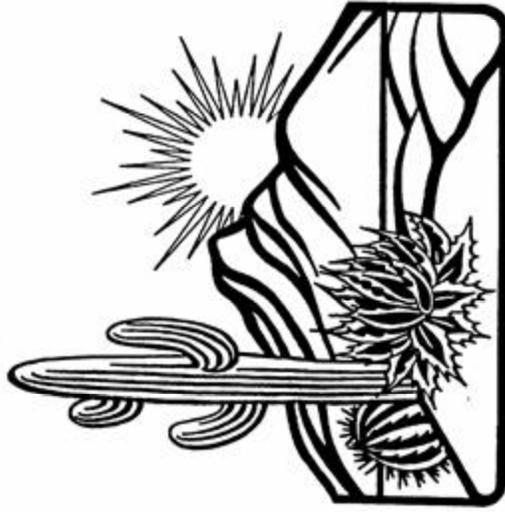
Contact: Hank WAZYBOK 562 429-7110 or DICK HOLETT 310-832-2262  
 \*Sodas will be provided \*BYO Sack Lunch \* Set up: 11:00 A.M.

# 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

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