

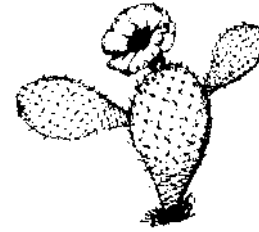
Turbincarpus schwarzii



Photo by Stephen Cooley

The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 4 **July 2001** Number 7

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

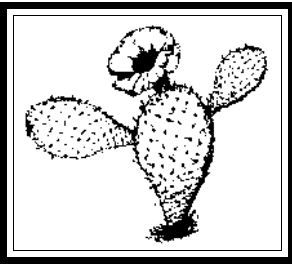
This Month's Program
**Treasure of the
Sierra Madre
slide show**

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, July 10
Olive Drive Church
Christian Life Center
5500 Olive drive at 7 PM

(West of 99 freeway on corner
of Olive drive & Victor street)

**Plants of the
Month
Turbincarpus &
Gymnocactus**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 4 Number 7
July 2001

BCSS General Meeting: June 12, 2001

Rob opened this meeting with a summary of the yard sale proceeds. We made \$705.46! Terry and Bobby deserve a big Thank You for their organizing! Maynard reported that we have around \$1800 in the bank. Upcoming events were described: the NorCal show and sale in San Mateo and the Guy Wrinkle auction. The CSSA show and sale at the Huntington will be 30 June-1 July. The CSSA convention will be in Woodland Hills 2-6 July. Upcoming programs are: Treasures of the Sierra Madre (July); August undecided; Woody Minnich speaking about Showing plants for September. Members were reminded that our Show and Sale will be October 13-14. It was decided that we need a display that showcases our club and its activities. The committee will be meeting sometime soon. Polly announced that the Fresno club is taking a bus down to the Inter-City show and sale and will allow us to go along at the club rate of \$32. They also have some "Huernia" T-shirts for sale. Maynard took some orders and will get the shirts. The next executive meeting will be held at the Skillins on June 26th at 7:00. Rob brought up the Kern County Fair and asked if we were going to enter the display contest again. The only opinion expressed by any member was a decided "No" from Bill! It was announced with great sorrow that this will be Polly's last meeting with us. She is going to join Bruce in Botswana. We will certainly miss Polly as much as we have missed Bruce. We look forward to their return at some time in the future!

The program then began with our guest speaker, Norma Lewis (along with her husband, Chuck). Norma shared with us her vast experience and enthusiasm for crassulas. We learned her recipe for potting soil (50% pumice, 30% coarse sand, and 10% potting soil) as well as her preference for Osmocote and Miracle Gro as fertilizers. It was revealed that Mesa Garden is a good source for crassulas. Some of the crassulas mentioned and shown were: *Crassula tecta*, *C. decidua* (good in the hot sun), *C. namaquensis*, *C. aussensis titanopsis* (likes bright light), *C. "Sunset"* (likes little water in summer and should be pruned at the beginning of October), *C. "Tom Thumb"* (likes part shade), *C. "Ivory Pagoda"* (no water in winter), *C. "Celia"*, *C. barbata* (winter dormant), and *C. "Devil's Horns"*. Norma recommended the use of Ultrafine Spray oil (1T/gal) for mealybugs or Safer's soap (but don't use these on plants with "bloom" on their leaves). Norma brought lots of plants to sell and to share. She has an extraordinary generosity with her plants and wants others to share her pleasure in these plants. Thank you very much for the fun and educational program, Norma! After the program, we had the plant of the month and the raffle.

The Cactus Patch is the official publication of the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society (BCSS) of Bakersfield, California. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the times and places noted within.
GUEST ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

2001 Officers

President - Rob Skillin
Vice-President - Lynn McDonald
Treasurer - Maynard Moe
Secretary - Bonnie East
Editors - Stephen Cooley
Linda Cooley

2001 Directors

CSSA Representative - Bobby Williams
Past President - Bruce Hargreaves

2001 Chairpersons

Refreshments - Bill McDonald
Historian - Bobby Williams
Librarian - Bobby Williams
Field Trips - Dan French

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BCSS Executive Board Meeting: June 26, 2001

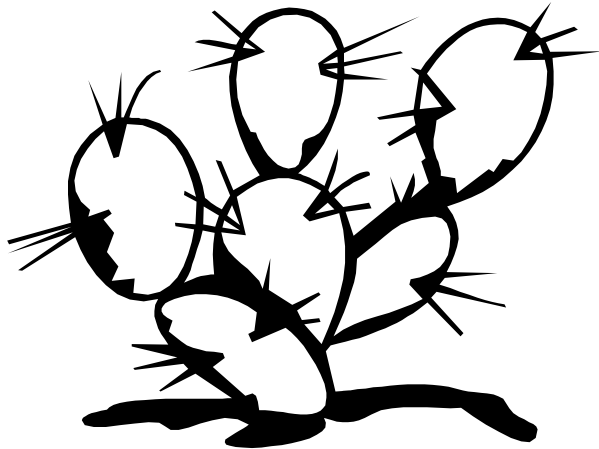
The executive meeting was held at Rob and Terry's house. In attendance were Rob, Lynn, Maynard, Bonnie, and Linda.

The Show and Sale was the first item discussed. Various tasks were assigned or discussed. Maynard will update the club members regarding the show and Sale at the July meeting. There was a fleeting reference to a possible field trip at some time to Catalina to see the Botanical Garden. We discussed the possibility of having a dinner meeting in August instead a regular program. This will be decided at the July meeting. The July presentation will be a slide show entitled "Treasures of the Sierra Madre". The Plant of the Month will be *Gymnocactus* and *Turbinicarpus*. Bonnie will investigate having a meeting of some kind at CALM. It was mentioned that the Inter-City Show and Sale will be in mid-August. That's all, folks!

PROGRAM NOTES

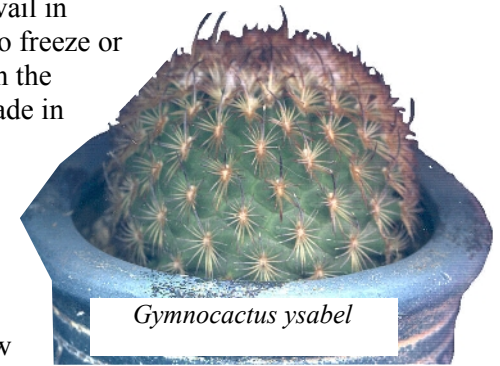
Treasure of the Sierra Madre Slide Program

No, not the 1948 classic movie starring Humphrey Bogart and Walter Huston, but a slide program about the Mountains of Mexico. (If you do watch the movie don't expect to see the real Sierra Madre -- it was filmed just north of Kernville)



PLANTS OF THE MONTH: *Turbinicarpus* & *Gymnocactus*

Turbinicarpus and *Gymnocactus* are small cacti that grow in central and northern Mexico. As it seems to always be the case, the taxonomy can be confusing: *Gymnocactus* is sometimes considered to be a *Turbinicarpus* and sometimes it is not and sometimes they're both considered *Neollyodia* and ... well, we're going to call them *Turbinicarpus* and *Gymnocactus* and if you want to discuss it, come to the meeting. They inhabit areas with extremes in both rainfall and temperature and this makes them able to withstand the conditions that prevail in Bakersfield as they are unlikely to freeze or bake as long as you water them in the summer and give them a little shade in the afternoon. *Turbinicarpus* is a 'shrinking' cactus that when dormant in the winter tend to pull themselves downward as they use up their stored water.



If you would like to know more about these plants, come to the meeting, and go to the [Turbinicarpus Information Exchange](http://www.mfaint.demon.co.uk/cactus/turbo) on the internet at:

<http://www.mfaint.demon.co.uk/cactus/turbo>

Tsodilo A Letter From Bruce



It's hard to top April with the trip to Khutse etc. (And I didn't even mention that the Easter meerkat found us and left chocolate eggs for the kids.) But moving on - May was a month for history. We opened a site museum at the Tsodilo Hills, nominated as Botswana's first World Heritage Site. The museum was left with a skeleton staff while two busloads of us took off for the far Northwest. We were alright to Francistown, but only one bus made it the 567km (352 mi) west to Maun. The second bus was left

120 km (75 mi) short. Eventually the busload was put on a truck & got there a day late. Luckily I was on the bus that made it to Nxamasere (67 km[42 mi]SW and 178 km[111 mi] N from Maun) where we transferred to other vehicles for the last 40 km (25 mi) through sand to the hills. On the way we made a pit stop where some *Acacia melifera* (hook thorns) had been bulldozed over. On the roots of one I found a fruit of *Hydnora Jeffreyi*. This was one of my goals for the trip since it was reported for Botswana but was not in our herbarium. For those who don't know *Hydnora*, it is a weird root parasite which only pokes above ground to expose the smelly flowers. Some species grow on euphorbias (but unfortunately not the one in Botswana).

At Tsodilo we stayed in huge army tents while preparing exhibits, food and grounds for the opening. During the two days of preparation I managed to zip off to photograph rock art (the main feature), one of which, I'm convinced is a grapple thorn. I also found *Kalanchoe brachyloba* in flower. I suspect this is what had been reported as *Cotyledon orbiculata*, a species not known in Botswana. Finally President Mogae et al. flew in on 5 May and the place was officially opened. There were about 200 camped, 500 for the opening and 800 for the free lunch! After the VIPs left we went to the nearby Hambukushu Village (there is also a San [Bushman] Village) and the museum soccer team was thoroughly trounced by the locals. For those who haven't heard of Tsodilo and its rock art, a good place to start is "Lost World of the Kalahari" by Lawrence van der Post; 1958, Hogarth, London. (The most conspicuous panel of rock art is called van der Post's. It is high on a cliff overlooking the new onsite museum.) The book is highly romanticised, but these rock outcrops in the middle of the sand with their thousands of paintings deserve a bit of exaggeration. Based on this, we had debated detouring from Maun back in 1969, but it was sand track all the way then so we didn't go. This was actually my second visit, but Polly still hasn't been there. The rest of May was anticlimactic, but I did go with Queen Turner, head of the Herbarium to the area near Kanye (SW of Gaborone) to look at medicinal plants. We did find a number of succulents including two species of *Plectranthus*, but nothing new or exciting. I found a crested plant of the very common *Senecio longiflorus*. June has been equally eventful - including Polly's safe arrival, but more of that next time.

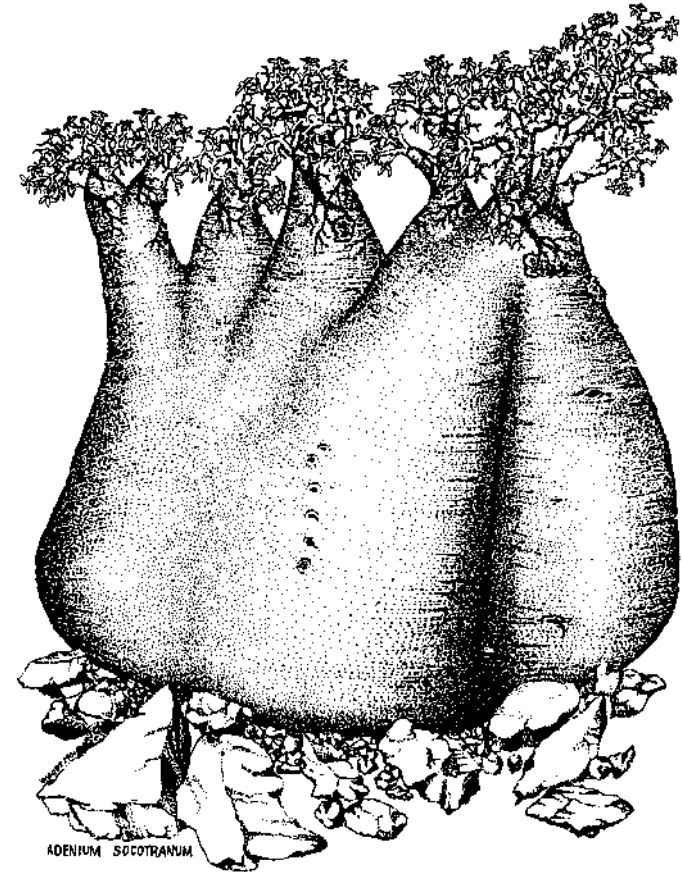
Bruce J. Hargreaves

[Just a note to add to the comments on Tsodilo. The Hills became Botswana's first World Heritage Site yesterday (28 June). Now we will work on Gcwihaba (Drotsky's Cave), another National Monument - Bruce]

2001 A CACTUS ODYSSEY

16th Annual Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show

Sat. & Sun. August 18th & 19th - 9 to 5 each day
L.A. County Arboretum 301 N Baldwin Ave. Arcadia, CA



For more information, please contact Gene Oster 818-998-9306
Tom Glavich 626-798-2430, Harry Fletcher 310-538-4078
Sponsored by the Los Angeles, Long Beach and the San
Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Societies

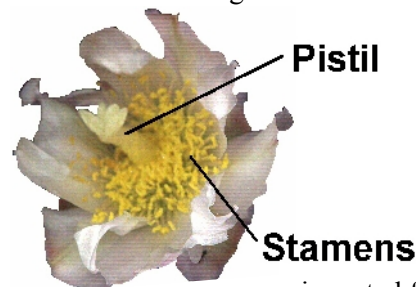
Succulent Survey

Cacti On The Move

While you are bustling about watering, preening, and weeding your succulents, you may not realize that some of your plants might be moving about as well. I'm not talking about the slow turning of a leaf

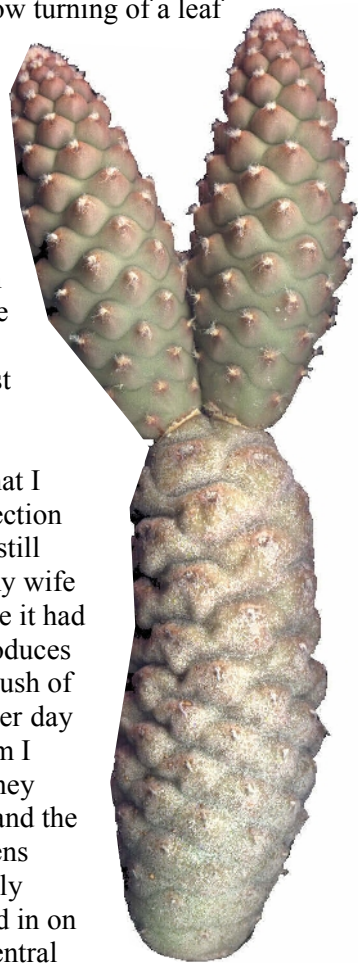
towards the light or the imperceptible opening of a flower bud. I mean discernible activity, honest-to-goodness right-before-your-eyes motion. Many of you are undoubtedly familiar with the Venus Flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*) which entraps insects by quickly closing its claw-like leaf. You may also have seen the Sensitive Plant (*Mimosa pudica*) whose leaves quickly fold up when touched. But did you know that some cacti also have fast moving parts?

I first became acquainted with this phenomenon thanks to a *Cylindropuntia* that I picked up several years ago when my collection and I were still young (after all this time I still haven't put a name to it, though early on my wife called it the "Mickey Mouse Plant" because it had two large 'ears'). During the summer it produces brilliant, pure white flowers each with a brush of yellow stamens in the middle. On a summer day with the sun beating down and the air warm I touched the anthers - and to my surprise, they moved! I tried it again on another flower and the



stamens quickly closed in on the central pistil. I delightedly repeated this until all the flowers were used up and my fingertip was yellow.

The fancy term that someone invented for this action is Seismonastic Movement - movement brought on by touch. I have noticed since then that other cacti in my collection exhibit seismonastic movement, including



Turbinicarpus and *Notocactus* and others that I have forgotten (at the time I didn't realize that I would be writing an essay on the subject, so I didn't take notes). It works best when the flowers are in a bright, warm location. Insects often trip the stamens before you get there, but come back later and they will be ready again. Amaze your friends and family! And add one more little eccentricity to your already over-exuberant hobby.

If you would like to share some of your garden happenings, let me know and I'll get it in the newsletter.

Do you want to see your name printed in bold letters atop the lead article in a highly respected international journal? Good! I've got just the way to start you out. Gain the experience you need by submitting an article to The Cactus Patch.

I know what you're thinking, "How can a modest, hard working, good looking individual like myself ever get my essay accepted?" Though you may imagine that The Cactus Patch gets thousands of authors begging us to print their articles, don't let it deter you. I can guarantee you that BCSS members get preferential treatment. Why should I even consider someone like Steven Hammer, Ernst van Jaarsveld, or John Lavranos when I have the likes of all you wonderfully talented imaginative BCSS members?

So, do yourself a favor and write an article today!

Send your submissions to one of our convenient locations:

The Cactus Patch	The Cactus Patch
Stephen Cooley, editor-in-chief	Linda Cooley, chiefly editor

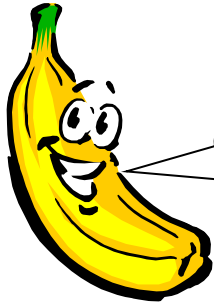
Or preferably Email your article to:
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

(Please note that The Cactus Patch has strict guidelines concerning submissions. All articles must be in the form of one of the following: A scientific treatise, Ph.D. dissertation, graphic illustration, poem, recipe, arts & craft, photograph, cocktail napkin doodle, sketch, short story, travelguide, last minute scribble, painting, fold out diagram, paper dolls, scratch & sniff stickers, rumor and/or innuendo, joke, short essay, puzzle, paint by number, novella, or musical score. Many exceptions accepted. Articles concerning automotive repair will not be allowed unless they specifically mention or allude to a succulent in some way.)

Stephen Cooley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

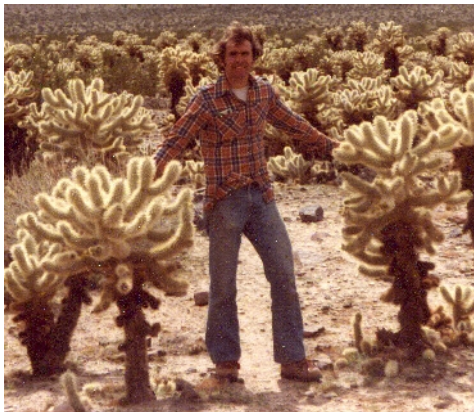
Attention Anyone attending the CSSA Convention: why not write up a description of your experience and submit it to The Cactus Patch?



*Thank You Bill & Polly
For bringing the July Treats!*

BE SURE TO VISIT US AT

www.BakersfieldCactus.org



**DO YOU HAVE A COUPLE OF
FRIENDS WHO ARE
INTERESTED IN CACTI AND
SUCCULENTS? GIVE THEM A
GENTLE NUDDGE IN THE
DIRECTION OF ONE OF OUR
MEETINGS. THEY'LL THANK
YOU
FOR IT LATER!**

CALENDAR

July 10 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church
program: "Treasure of the Sierra Madre" slide show
Plant of the Month: *Turbinicarpus* & *Gymnocactus*

Aug. 14 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church
Aug. 18-19 Inter-City Show & Sale, Los Angeles Arboretum
Sept. 1 Huntington Symposium, Huntington Botanical Gardens
Sept. 8-9 South Coast C&SS Show & Sale. Kiyoto Ken Nakaoka Memorial
Community Ctr, 1670 W 162nd St., Gardena. 9am - 4pm.

Sept. 11 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church
speaker: Woody Minnich
program: Showing Plants

Sept 15-16 Monterey Bay Area C&SS Show & Sale, Jardins De San
Juan, San Juan Bautista

October 13-14 BCSS 2nd Annual Show & Sale!

Oct. 13-14 C&S Society of California Show & Sale. Lakeside Garden
Center, Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue, Oakland.

To have your article printed in The Cactus Patch get in touch with:
Stephen Cooley, editor Linda Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

Membership in the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society costs \$10 per year for an individual and \$15 a year for a family. This extraordinarily reasonable price not only includes twelve issues of The Cactus Patch but entitles you to participate in club field trips to far-off (out-of-town) and exotic places (more exotic than Bakersfield). You will also receive a nifty name tag that will be your ticket to the members only plant raffle held every meeting featuring the best plant on the raffle table! All this is in addition to the wonderful programs and people at the meetings. To become a member contact:

Maynard Moe, treasurer
Lithops44@bak.rr.com