

Epi News

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New members & Corrections.

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October Program:

President Gene Lund will show about one hundred slides of and from the Nicholas R. Keough collection. Many of these plants will be available to the members of this Society. This is a good chance to see just what is available as far as flowers and plants go. Some of the plants are unnamed, but hopefully we can name those from the slides. Hopefully also, Mr. Keough will be around so some of the newer members have a chance to meet him.

Library News:

Librarian Addie Szobar would like all those members who have checked out materials from the Library of this Society to return them so she can take inventory (especially those overdue!).

F# Hybrids

I'm sure that most of us, at some time, have seen a plant or a description of one with the notation that it is an F1 hybrid or a Generation 2 plant and wondered what it meant. I too used to wonder the same thing. Since going through a friend's Exotica 6, I found the answer and it is much simpler than it looks:

F1 hybrid---A first generation hybrid obtained by artificial flower cross-pollination between two dissimilar parents ("F" means filial (as in filial piety.)) each from a pure line and bearing hereditary factors (gene (not Schmeddings and Lunds) traits) that are transmitted according to Mendel's Laws. Often these hybrids are of greater vigor than either of the parents (heterosis).

F2 hybrid---second generation from a given cross, usually obtained through self pollination within the F1 hybrid.

Gene Schmedding

SDS SCRIPT

Those members who bring in 10 healthy and named cuttings now have only option #2 as stated in the September '78 issue of Epi News. However this option has been expanded to other activities in the club:

1. Donors may receive for their 10 cuttings (or twice for 20 or thrice for thirty...) one plant table ticket normally costing \$1.00 donation, for as many chances that a holder is eligible for on that particular meeting.

2. Donors may receive for their 10 cuttings (etc.) a \$2.00 (value only within the San Diego Epiphyllum Society) Script to be used towards payment of Society functions such as bus trips, dinners, etc.

Those members holding the old forms may redeem them at a ratio of one old for one new. Society member John Clancy has made the new Society Script for us.

This issue is dedicated in the memory of long
time member W. E. "Bill" Hummel and Mr. Boyle,
husband of our member Blendina Boyle.

The Genus Epiphyllum I
(The Phyllanthus Group)

The true species of the genus Epiphyllum are of varying distinction, as is true of species in most genera. Some Epiphyllum species such as *E. chrysocardium*, *E. grandilobum*, and *E. lepidocarpum* are so definitely different from any others that there is no question that these are valid species. Other species groups such as *E. darrahii*-*E. anguliger* or *E. E. caudatum*-*E. pumilum*-*E. cartagense* are difficult to divide into separate species, since there are transitional forms. Then we come to the largest and most difficult of such groups in Epiphyllum—the phyllanthus group. The group is called this, because *E. phyllanthus* was the first named of these. The group consists of: *E. phyllanthus*, *E. guatemalense*, *E. strictum*, *E. stenopetalum*, *E. hookeri*, and *E. pittieri*. When one examines the plants without flowers, they all appear to be the same. They all are the same dark green, spineless, mostly flat, and show little variance in width.

The flowers themselves, are the only way to tell the plants apart. The flowers show a considerable range of size and length, but otherwise differ only in coloring and scent. To view an average flower of each species, is like observing the same flower at different magnifications. Because the extremes of one species may overlap those of another, a single, unidentified flower might prove difficult to identify. It seems to be too picky of us to call each of these 'species' true species. Therefore we should just call them varieties, but varieties of which one. It would seem to be most logical to call all of these varieties of the medium sized flowered (old) species, or even the most popular—our own *E. strictum*. Unfortunately the rules of the game say we must use the name of the first discovered—*E. phyllanthus*. The next page shows the new names with the relative sizes of each variety's flower. A representative collection would be # 1, # 4, and # 7. This new arrangement of names won't bother Epiphyllum growers, since they see things in terms of varieties anyway. The source author considers *E. strictum*, *E. stenopetalum*, and *E. hookeri* to be the same. Unfortunately again, *E. strictum* is not the earliest named, so all our strictums are really hookeris! I think most Epiphyllum growers will quietly ignore this clause and go on calling their strictums strictum!

Several Months back, member John Meier related to us at one of our meetings, his trip with his wife Regula to Peru. At several locations around Iquitos, Peru they collected several Epiphyllum-like cuttings. Two of these look to me like they belong in the phyllanthus group (# 2 and # 3). The source article lists only one coming from Peru—*E. phyllanthus* var. *phyllanthus*. Yet I doubt that we can be so sure that the keys are 100 % accurate since every inch of jungle has not been explored. So listed as coming from Ecuador are—*E. P. var. rubrocoronatum* and *E. P. var. columbiense*. These two also come from Colombia which is closer to this part of Peru than Ecuador. These three are the most likely candidates, but we can not be sure until they bloom! The one labeled #1 does not look to me to belong in this group. My only guess at this date is that it might be *Ec-cremocactus rosei*. But again we will only know when they bloom.

REFERENCES:

Kimnach, Myron, "Epiphyllum phyllanthus", CSSA Journal, 1962?, pp. 105-115.

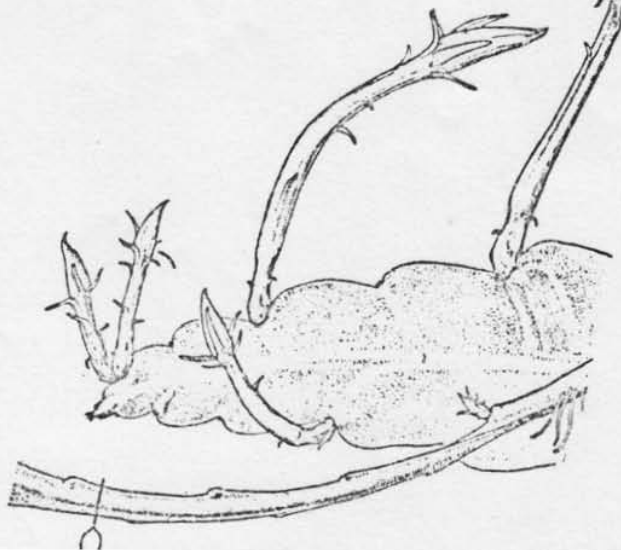
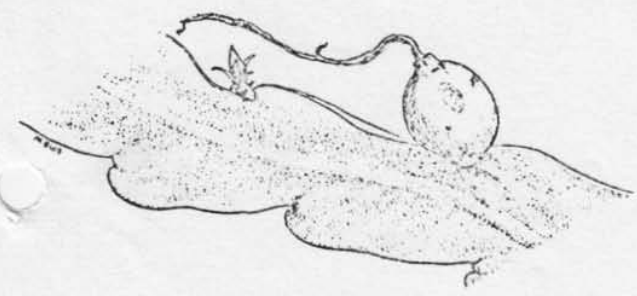
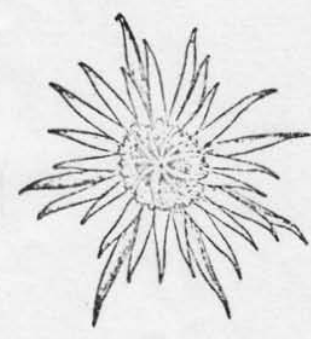
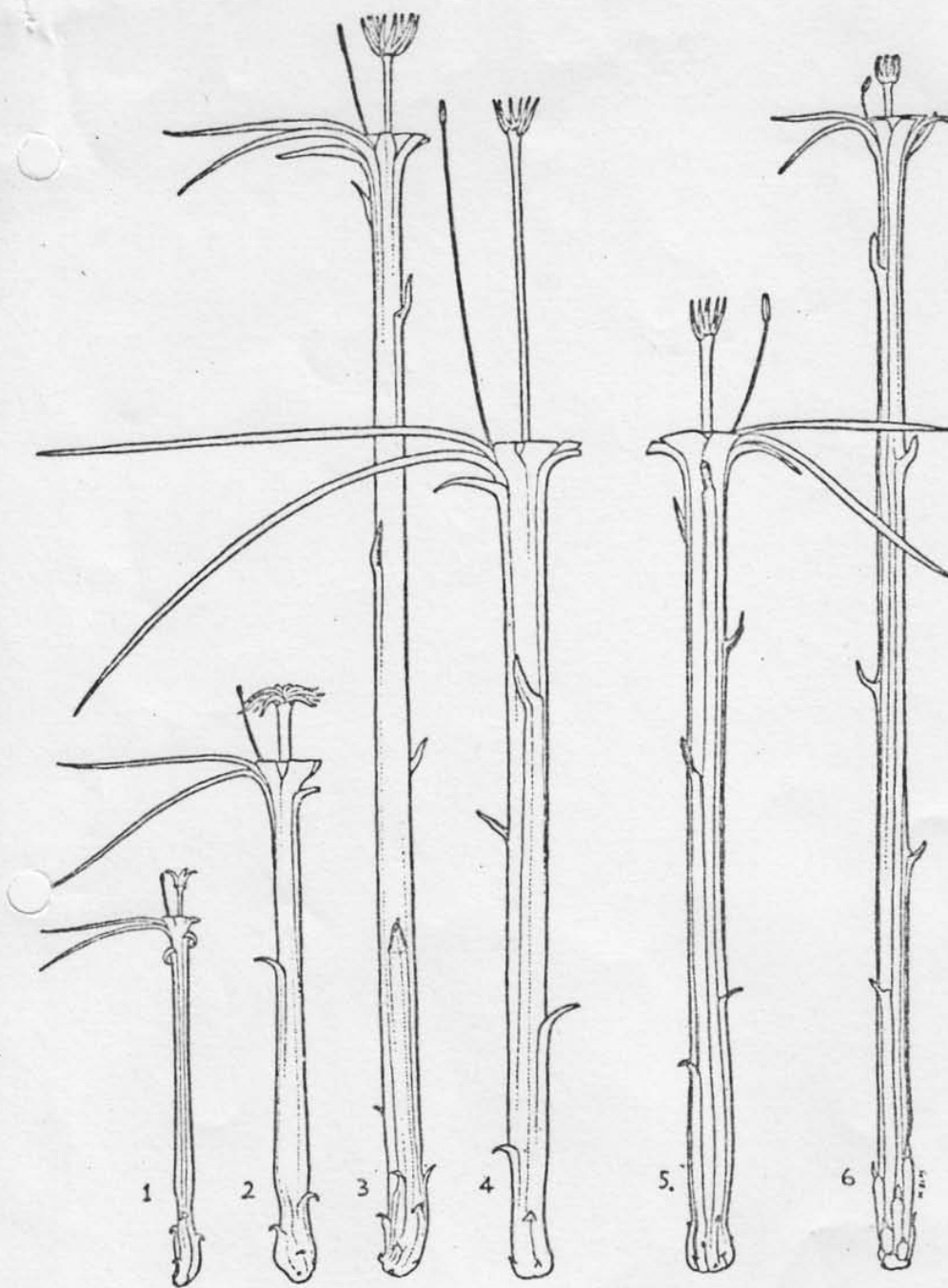
Send all news items and articles to: R. G. Latimer Jr., 5990 Lake Murray Blvd., La Mesa, Ca. 92041

Send all membership renewals or new memberships to: Dolores Moss, 8551 Neva Ave., San Diego, Ca. 92123

Varieties of *Epiphyllum phyllanthus* :

1. Var. *columbiense* (Ecuador).
2. Var. *pittieri* (Costa Rica).
3. Var. *rubrocoronatum* (Ecuador).
4. Var. *guatemalense* (Guatemala).
5. Var. *hookeri* (Honduras).
6. Var. *phyllanthus* (Ecuador).

All x 0.65. Drawing by Mrs. M. Blus, 1962.



Epiphyllum phyllanthus var. *pittieri* All x 0.5 Drawings
by Mrs. M. Blus.