

Epi News

PUBLISHED BY THE SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

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* * * Birth Announcement * * *

The San Diego Epiphyllum Society is pleased to announce the birth of its first sister organization-the Orange County Epiphyllum Society. Including our mother organization-the Epiphyllum Society of America, this brings to three the number of Epiphyllum Societies. (Is a Bay area Epiphyllum Society far behind?) At present there are eighteen members and a newsletter entitled "Orange Epi News". The first issue included the tip to use Aloe vera (barbadensis) to heal epi cutting wounds. Interested growers should contact Jane Grimshaw, 2362 Coco Palm Dr., Tustin, Ca. 92680, phone (714) 838-0836. Membership dues are \$3.00 per year. Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month in the Friendship Room, Santa Ana Federal Bldg., 1802 North Main Street, Santa Ana, Ca., 7:30 p. m. to 10:00 p. m. and refreshments are served.

---Jerry Albright, Vice President Orange County Epiphyllum Society

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"WONDER WATER"

Epiphyllum growers are familiar with the advantages of rain water to plant health.

Now two Soviet scientists say they have found a way to make water so biologically active that it stimulates plant root formation better than the plants own root stimulant hormones; according to an article by Jeff Cox, in the January issue of ORGANIC GARDENING (Rodale Press, Emmaus Pa, 18049)

"WONDER WATER" is so simple to prepare from ordinary tap water that you would hardly believe it. "It has the power to increase yields when seeds are soaked in it, to increase root crops, and to boost chlorophyll production and water uptake into the leaves of plants."

"The brothers Zelepukhin stated 'the experimental plants were superior to the control plants in all stages of development!'"

According to the article the secret of "wonder Water" is, it has been thoroughly de-gassed. This is done by boiling ordinary tap water at a rolling boil for five minutes. The next step is very important. The water must then be poured into sealable containers and sealed tightly to prevent gas from the air from dissolving into it. The water is then cooled rapidly under a faucet of cold water. Once you expose a jar or milk bottle of "wonder" water to the air use it right away, because it loses its biological activity in an hour.

¿Why should de-gassed water speed cell reactions? I am donating my copy of the January Issue of ORGANIC GARDENING to our Society library. If you are interested in trying "wonder water" on your "Epis" read the article on page 84.

Samuel Markey

Program for February 14, 1979: Club Photographer Fred Shamblen will show his slides taken at last year's three flower shows and Christmas party. Future speakers will include W. C. Cocke and John Daniel.

---Frank Granatowski

New Members: Timothy & Matthew Stafford, 850 Jefferson Ave., Chula Vista, Ca. 92011, 420-3646.

---Dolores Moss

Our annual show is the membership's opportunity to display their flowers. The availability of cuttings at the show is our primary fund raising source of the year. This year the cutting table will be supervised by the Clancy's (277-8206). John & Jerrie will be contacting members during the next two months regarding contributions for the cutting table. Additional information concerning the show will be forthcoming in future "Epi News" and at our monthly meetings.

---John & Jerrie Clancy

LEPISMIUMS

Originally there was only one Lepismium-L. cruciforme. Curt Backeberg later looked at some of the closely related Rhipsalis species and decided that they were really Lepismiums. The main difference between Lepismium and Rhipsalis is that the former group has a tendency for flowers to grow from depressed areoles which become rather wooly. Buxbaum later decided that all but the original L. cruciforme (with its different flower structure) should be returned to Rhipsalis. Clive Innes (and I) feels that there are meager reasons to separate any from Rhipsalis. However there are enough pictures and drawings to go around, so we will treat Lepismium as a separate genus here. The first subgenus, Eulepismium, has the original L. cruciforme and its varieties. Subgenus number two contains just one of the most interesting of all of the epiphytic cacti-L. paradoxa. Next is Trigonorhipsalis with only L. trigonum. Subgenus Heteropodium also includes only one species-L. marnierianum with red fruits and the look of rounded off L. paradoxum. The last subgenus has the other twelve species. Most of the species are native to southeastern Brazil, but L. pittieri comes from Venezuela and L. tucumanense from Argentina to Bolivia. All but four of the Lepismiums have white, cream, or yellowish flowers. L. cruciforme-var. anceps has violet flowers, L. marnierianum and L. pacheo-leonii have red flowers, and L. puniceo-discus var. chrysocarpum reportedly has an orange flower. Berries of the Lepismium species are predominantly of the red-purple-pink color group, but six species have white berries: Ls. flocossum, gibberulum, megalanthum, pittieri, puniceo-discus var. chrysocarpum, and tucumanense. The culture for Lepismiums is the same as for Rhipsalis: a well drained mix of humus, compost, perlite, etc. (typical epi mix). Lepismiums seem to enjoy a rest period during late fall, winter, and spring, when they are less inclined to grow.

REFERENCES:

Backeberg, Curt, Cactus Lexicon, 1976, pp. 220-222.

Friedman, Kenneth A., "Are You Sure It's a Rhipsalis and not a Lepismium?", CSIE (Canada), V. 1977, # 6, pp. 131-135.

Innes, Clive, The Complete Handbook of Cacti and Succulents, 1977, pp. 41-42.

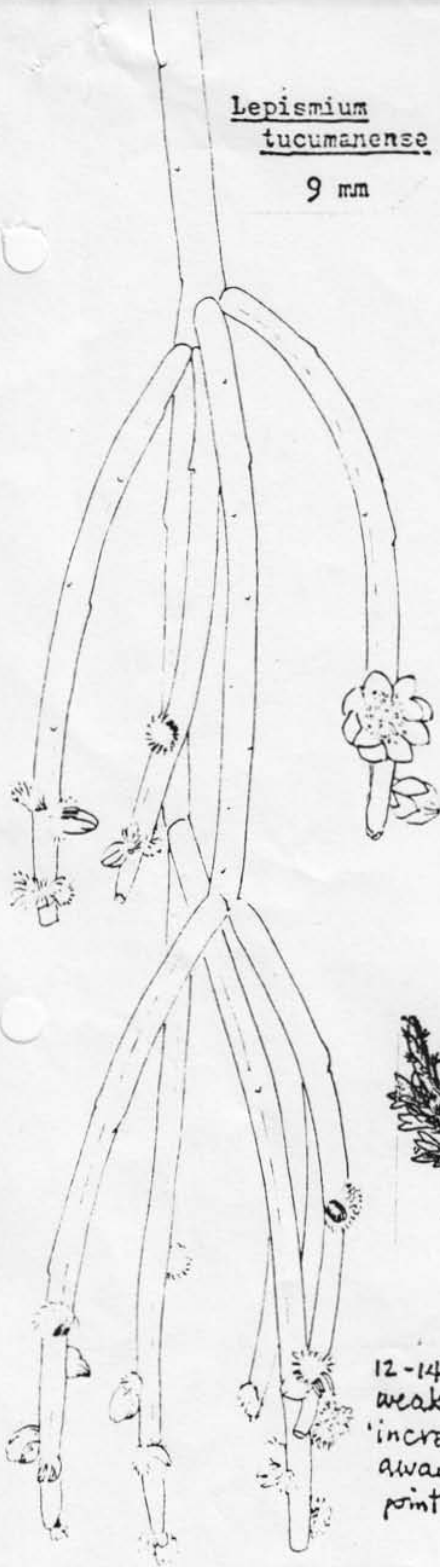
Send all news items and articles to: R. G. LATIMER JR., 5990 Lake Murray Blvd., La Mesa, Ca., 92041

Send all membership renewals or new memberships to: DOLORES MOSS, 8851 Neva Ave., San Diego, Ca., 92123

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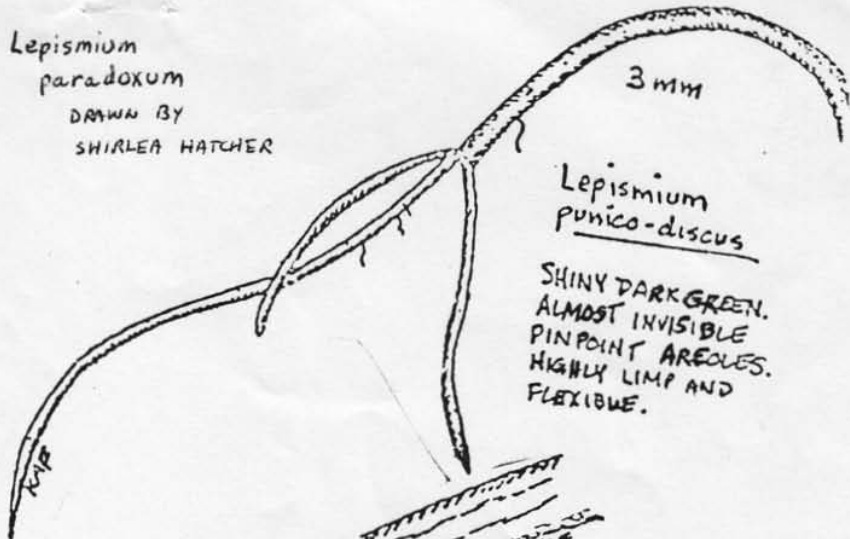
Lepismium
tucumanense

9 mm



Lepismium
paradoxum

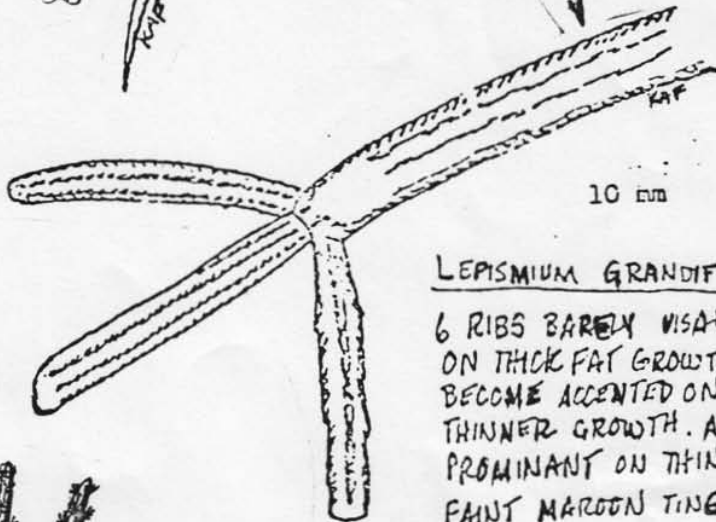
DRAWN BY
SHIRLEA HATCHER



3 mm

Lepismium
punico-discus

SHINY DARK GREEN.
ALMOST INVISIBLE
PINPOINT AREOLES.
HIGHLY LIMB AND
FLEXIBLE.



10 mm

LEPISMIUM GRANDIFLORUM

6 RIBS BARELY VISIBLE AS STRIATIONS
ON THICK FAT GROWTH BUT
BECOME ACCENTED ON
THINNER GROWTH. AREOLES MORE
PROMINANT ON THIN GROWTH PLUS
FAINT MAROON TINGE.



7 mm

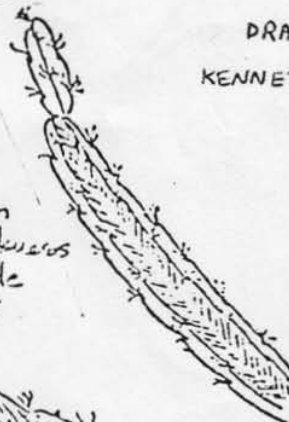
Lepismium dissimilis

Lepismium
dissimilis
DRAWN BY
KARL SCHULZE

NO HAIRS, 1 mm maroon
tinge on areoles. Thickens
and coloring resemble
R. ganacarpa except
for tinge.

12-14 hairs to 4mm on
weak growth, maroon tinge
increases to 4mm tapering
away from areoles, hairs
point in direction of growth

DRAWINGS BY
KENNETH A. FRIEDMAN

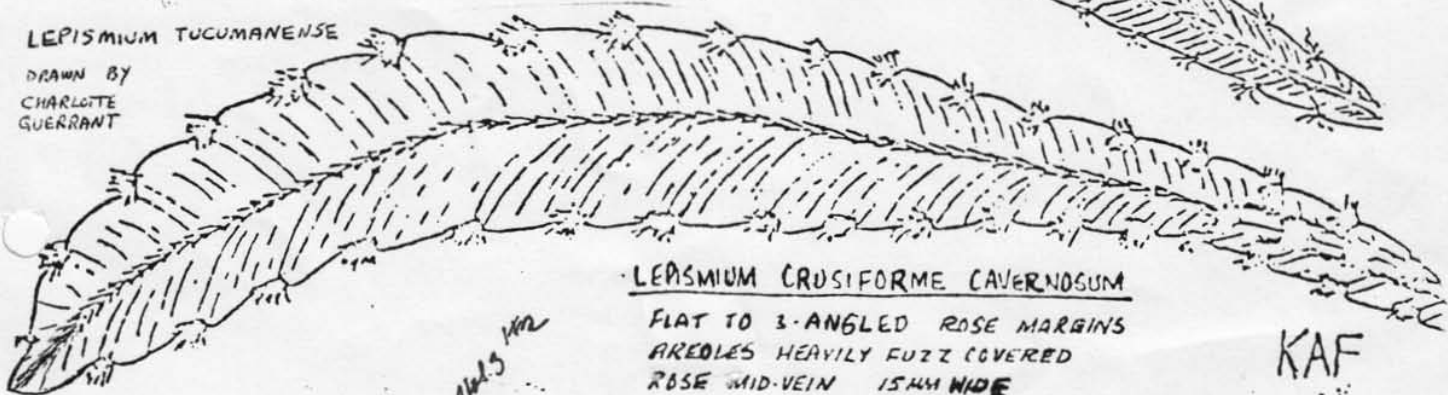


LEPISMIUM
CRUCIFORME
MYOSURUS

3-4 ANGLED
MAROON MARGINS
ROSE AREOLES

LEPISMIUM TUCUMANENSE

DRAWN BY
CHARLOTTE
GUERRANT



LEPISMIUM CRUCIFORME CAVERNOSUM

FLAT TO 3-ANGLED ROSE MARGINS
AREOLES HEAVILY FUZZ COVERED
ROSE MID-VEIN 15MM WIDE

KAF