

Epi News

PUBLISHED BY THE SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

January 9, 1980**Volume 4-Number 1

January 9-7:30 p. m. Program

At our 1979 San Diego Epiphyllum Society Open House, we had two exhibitor tables from out of the county. One such table was exhibited by Chuck Everson & Jerry Williams of Rainbow Epiphyllum Gardens (Nursery). They gave us our last regular program in 1979. To begin 1980 (and a new decade) will have as our guest speaker the other exhibitor from the Los Angeles area-Mr. W. C. Cocke. Mr. Cocke has hybridized many different sizes, colors and styles of Epiphyllum hybrids, notable crosses between Ruby Snowflake and Tassel and the smaller, off season Disocactus-type hybrids. (Do you have any of this latter kind now in bloom?)

---John Clancy

FALSE ECONOMY

In these days of high prices, some of us may try to economize by making their Epiphyllum potting mix consist of cheaper ingredients or be made up of ingredients close at hand (to save on gas). Sometimes this is a good idea if the ingredients included are good for Epiphyllums. However, to include garden soil in our Epiphyllum mixes is not a good idea on the West coast. Many of our local soils are infested with destructive nematodes.

Nematodes enter the root system and damage it to the extent that the plant cannot utilize the necessary water and nutrients. The plant will become pale and stunted and may soon die altogether.

Commercial vegetable growers have to use a fumigant, from time to time, to make their soil usable for crops. However, the soil cannot be used immediately after fumigation. This cost time and time is money (as is the fumigant). It is not always practical for Epiphyllum growers to use this method of eradication. (Do Marigolds repel nematodes?) In the end, it is cheaper for Epi growers to use pest-free, commercial potting mixes.

---Gene Schmedding

Ed Gauss 444-8112
1607 Villa Crest
El Cajon, Ca. 92021

Has one gallon used plastic pots for
sale at 5 for \$1.00.

Announcing

1. Our new SDES Photographer will be Paul Runde.
2. Our 1980 SDES Tour Chairman will be Gene Lund.

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

THE GOLDEN AGE OF EPIPHYLLUMS

PART I: THE 1800's

The ease at which the true species of Epiphyllums have been crossed with each other and related cacti has resulted in thousands of named hybrids during the last 150 years. The first hybrids were developed in Europe, far from their native homes of tropical North and South America. Some species were cultivated near their local habitats, but otherwise this hemisphere was out of the picture until this century. The early maritime traders and botanist-explorers brought these unique plants home to their plant-minded or arm-chair botanist friends who then hybridized the species to produce plants and their flowers that had never before existed.

The historical documentation of these earliest hybrids is sketchy, unavailable, or simply never existed in the first place. So, we have to make do with what ever information that is around and hope no obscure hybridizer is left out. According to Scott Haselton, the earliest records go back to 1830 in England where Jenkinson and Smith recorded the first hybrids. They were followed by the gardener of Lord Liverpool (name?) and Pressley in 1832. At a later date following some early German hybridizers, some English hybridizers were Sellow, the gardener of Walter Boyd, and the Baumann brothers. Because of the great interest in horticulture in England at the beginning of the 19th century, considerable time was devoted to plant breeding. About 1820, Heliocereus speciosus was introduced into collections shortly after Nopalxochia phyllanthoides had been distributed. The ease in crossing these two plants led to many fine hybrids which were named and offered in the trade. The enthusiasm spread to France and Germany where most of the hybrids up to the year of 1850 were the result of crossing these two species. Further development in hybridizing up till then had been confined within narrow limits, especially as far as flower colors. Even the named varieties of Foerster (country?), 1846, according to the testimony of contemporaries, hardly differed from each other in flower colors.

Then came a new plant to stimulate further hybridizing-the white and large-flowering, scented Epiphyllum crenatum. It was imported into Europe for the first time in 1840. While the English descriptions of this species were mindful of its exceptional worth for hybridizing, its true value was first realized by the two French breeders, Charles Simon and Lorenzo Courant. They obtained hundreds of new hybrids with large flowers of many colors: from light yellowish white, rose shades, to deep ambers.

The momentum was picked up by the Germans (especially in^s Prussia) in the latter part of the 1800's (and as we shall see the legacy of this country was strongest in the first half of this century). In the 1890's Johannes Nicolai hybridized in his nursery near Dresden. Nearly 300 named varieties were introduced by him including Schlumbergera and Rhipsalis hybrids. He was the first to cross Echinopsis (now Pseudolobivia aurea) with Epiphyllum. One such hybrid with Nopalxochia phyllanthoides looks like a yellow and white N. ackermannii. In the July 1892 issue of Kakteenkunde (2:2), Edmund Bischof complained that hybrids, from such cactus dealers as Hildmann, Lorenz, Haage & Schmidt, and Liebner, were often similar and that these nurserymen should give basic descriptions in their catalogues! In 1894 Georg Bornemann founded a large horticultural establishment in Blankenburg. Some of his plants were imported from the English breeders Veitsch &

Sons. Bornemann produced many of the "German Empress" type hybrids. Evidently there were many active European growers, most of whom I have never heard of including most of those I have just listed. One well known one, however, was the Belgian, de Laet.

F. A. Walton published The Cactus and other Succulents-Amateur's Guide and Price List with the date "1845" on the cover. However, Gordon Rowley of present day England did some checking and found that many of the plants listed inside were not named or in cultivation until the 1890's. Also he doubts that Walton was even born in time to have printed the book in 1845. Rowley suggests that the 1845 means the year of the founding of the Handsworth Nurseries. The correct date is probably 1899. Gertrude Beahm evidently had some sort of access to this work. In a 1954 article she quotes the following:

These magnificent large-flowering cacti are rapidly gaining in favor with both amateur and professional horticulturists; there is every indication of their becoming the Fashionable Flower of the future, being quite as attractive and more easily grown than Orchids. The attention of Continental growers has for years been directed to raising new hybrids of increased size and beauty. Now some of the varieties have magnificent blossoms from 9 to 12 inches across. The colours have been much improved, and lovely art shades of pink, salmon, orange, and violet have lately been added to the already long list of beautiful varieties. In all the list I give, there is not a single bad or even poor flower. All are good, but some are better than others.

Of the 420 named varieties listed, Mrs. Beahm mentions that only the following are still in the trade and well known: Agatha, Aurore Boreale, Conway's Giant, Couranti, Cooperi, crenatum, Dante, Elegans (now Padre), Gen. Garibaldi, Gordonianus, Jenkinsonii, Jules Schlumberger, Kermésinus Magnus, La France, Lilas Solferino, Magenta (now Scheherazade), Medaille d'Or, Mons. Jolibois, Niobe, Orion, Sarah Courant, Triomphe des Anthieux, Triomphe de Poissy, and Wrayi. (Mrs. Beahm did not list the others.)

Britton & Rose had access to Charles Simon's list of hybrids of which they reproduced a portion and which I have on the next page. What we have to keep in mind though are the following comments: In the last century Epiphyllum hybrids were apparently raised, described, and enjoyed much the same as today. Although the parentage of some of the old European hybrids was recorded and the names handed down, all that remains of most of this early work are the names themselves, which can never be associated with any particular plant or a plant with any particular name. And finally, there is little wonder that hybridizers in various parts of the world (then as now) have developed quite similar flowers to which have been given different names. Most of Mrs. Beahm's list are still with us, but some are unfamiliar. Do you have a plant that was hybridized in the last century?

REFERENCES:

- Curt Backeberg, Cactus Lexicon (contains a photo of the Nicolai hybrid).
- Gertrude Beahm, "Plant of the Month - 'Conway's Giant'", CSSA Journal, (26:2), March-April 1954, p. 61-62.
- Britton & Rose, The Cactaceae.

3 41

Scott E. Haselton, Epiphyllum Handbook.

Gordon D. Rowley, "Walton's Catalogue: A Date Correction", OSSA Journal, (26:3), May-June 1954, p. 72.

There are many Latin names of *Epiphyllum* in catalogues, representing hybrids. We give below only those which have been used more or less in general botanical works, either as binomials or trinomials in regular Latin form:

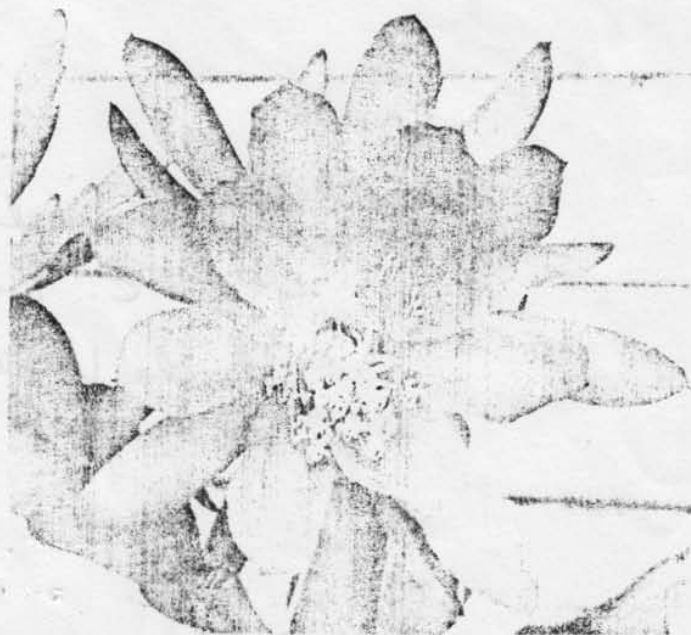
acutifrons	buestii	* germania	lunus
* agatha	campmannii	guentneri	mexicanus *
alatus	caparti	hamburgiensis	purpureus
albus superbiens	capelleanus	hauffii	ruecheri
alexandrinae	carolus magnus	helenus	speciosissimus feltonii
amarantinus	castneri	hempelii	superbus
arnoldi	chico	hibridus	ulbrechtii
aurantiacus superbus	coccineus	incomparabilis minuat	victoria-regia
belgicus	demouline	* jenkinsonii	vogelii
bergeri	* dolores	kerthii	wippermannii
bieindlii	epirus	laarsenii	wrayi
boehmii	fuertii	lorenzii	zarka

In 1897 Charles Simon, of Saint-Ouen, Paris, published a list of 370 names of *Epiphyllum*, most of which were probably hybrids. The following binomials and trinomials are in the usual Latin form for specific and varietal names and are not recorded elsewhere:

* ackermannii hybridus	crenatus hirsutis	funkii	lorentzii	pulcherrimus	speciosissimus grandiflor
ackermannii major	crenatus lateralis	gloriosus	ludmani	quilliardetti	speciosus roseus
alatus major	crenatus latifolius	gordonianus	ludwigi	raveaudii	splendens
albus grandidissimus	crenatus luteus	grandidissimus	maigretii	rebuti	splendidus
albus perfectus	crenatus ruber	grandiflorus	magnificus	reichei	stenesi
albus superbissimus	crispielsi	grandiflorus albiflorus	makoyi	reineckii	superbissimus
amabilis	curtissi	grandiflorus ruber	mayanus	roseus carmineus	tettani
amabilis perfectus	dangeli	guebwillerianus	meyerianus	roseus carneus	tricolor
atrosanguineus	decumbens	guedeneyi	meuhlenpfordtii	roseus floribundus	undiflorus
aurantiacus	deveauxi	hansii	mulhousianus	roseus grandidissimus	vandesii
bergei	dieffenbacchianus	havermansii	multiflorus	roseus miniatus	vonhoffini
billiardieri	dumoulini	hitchensis	neubertii	roseus splendidus	vitellinus
binderi	edwardsii	ignescens	niedtii	roydii	warscewiczii
lindii	• elegans	jenkinsonii superbus	niger	ruber	wittmackianus
olivensis	erectus perfectus	johnsonii	nitens	ruber perfectus	
bollwillerianus	erectus superbus	jordanis	nymphoea beata	ruber violaceus	
bothii	ernesti	kampmannii	paraguayensis	sarniensis	
brongnarti	erubescens	• kermesimus magnus	pentneri	schafferi	
burmeisteri	fastuosus	kiardi	phyllantoides	schallerianus	
colmariensis	feasti	kranzii	phyllantoides crenatus	schlimmi	
colombiensis	felonis	krausei	potstachianus		
* courantii	feltoni	laetingii	pouletianus		
crassulifolius	floribundus	laloyi	pressleri	schmidtii	
crenatus amarantinus	formosus	laudowi		sellowii	
crenatus caulorhizus	franzii	leopoldii		specillimus	
				speciosissimus	

Now is the time to start looking for buds---It is all down hill from here to the flower show!!!!

'Conways Giant'



4

204 #1