

Xerophilia

the passion for cacti and other succulents

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11

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Xerophilia

the passion for cacti and other succulents

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Front cover

The blister beetle *Megetra cancellata* attacks and devours an *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* flower.

Photo by Miguel Angel González Botello



Back cover

Ruins on White Island.

Photo by Vlad Zimer

Xerophilia

the passion for cacti and other succulents

editorial 11

The central topic for this editorial will be our statement of intent against the main troublemakers in the plant trafficking issue which are, puzzlingly and quite unexpectedly, precisely the competent authorities. We should, however, in the first place, present our apologies to all Xerophilia readers for the huge delay our 10th issue was published. All that we can do after the fact, is, as we did from our appearance, we continue to strive in order to avoid such unpleasant moments. Nevertheless, our work is an ongoing volunteering who has only one reward, the satisfaction of sharing free information. There is not always an easy job! Therefore, the satisfaction indicated by our fans after completing our well received new multilingual layered format - grazie mille, Andrea! - seems to justify and compensate somewhat partially our poor timing of the editorial plan.

As I wrote in the beginning of the Editorial, we intend not only to remain firmly engaged and campaigning for exposing all abuses and illegalities committed by plants traffickers, but we decided to make a step forward, by setting, this time, more emphasis on two other issues: to awake the consciousness of the malicious buyers and generally work towards establishing a certain buyers morale, and - especially - to express criticism for the guilty indolence established within the authorized authorities, either in the EU, or in the United States, Japan and / or in any other country of the 180 affiliated to the CITES Convention. We still stubbornly continue to present tangible examples, hoping that many will join us in this online protest, generating a critical mass, potentially able to become a well perceived public voice. We started with *Aztekium valdezii* - plant we felt responsible for, since its formal description in our journal. From now on, however, we will not focus only on one subject. We will not be fixed on the miracle that is *Mammillaria bertholdii*, although its location was known only by those accredited to protect it, but ends up already being sold, and becoming public knowledge among the looters. We will not cling only to one species or another. From now on, we will continue with all possible examples for where they come our



way. We will continue until the appropriate authorities will feel bound to take note of this ongoing protest. We will continue until the law will no longer be invoked pompously and rhetorically. We will continue until the law is applied methodically and consistently. And

how could we stop anyway, since both buyers morality and the attitude of the officials paid from public funds, are more than reprehensible, are miserable, dismal, pathetic!

Getting online, in a timely manner, of this issue almost immediately after the previous one was not a simple task ... but we think we managed to cover the various sections of the magazine with interesting articles. However, until end of March when our next issue is due it's a pretty long time... Therefore we may shorten the wait by producing a special issue in early 2015. We already have outlined several projects but we are still uncertain which one to choose and unsure if we can complete it in time, as special issues are sometimes more difficult to produce than the regular ones.

As always towards the end of the editorial - we want to thank, once again, to our loyal readers from all over the world and to all our collaborators for this new issue!

Now, looking forward for 2015, Xerophilia team wishes you at the end of 2014: Happy Holidays, and spend them safely with your loved ones!

Happy New Year, everyone! Feliz Año Nuevo! Guten Rutsch ins Neue Jahr! Bonne et heureuse nouvelle année à tous! Felice Anno Nuovo! Godt Nytår, alle! Gelukkige verjaardag!

... Şi la anul ŞI LA MULȚI ANI !!

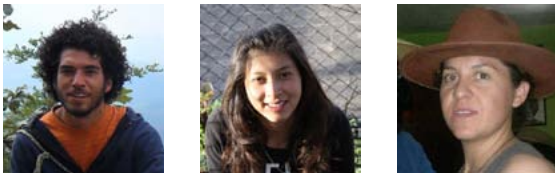
Eduart

contents →

rescue and translocation of *pelecyphora strobiliformis* from an area of high anthropogenic impact in the state of san luis potosi

Fric & Schelle

Conservation

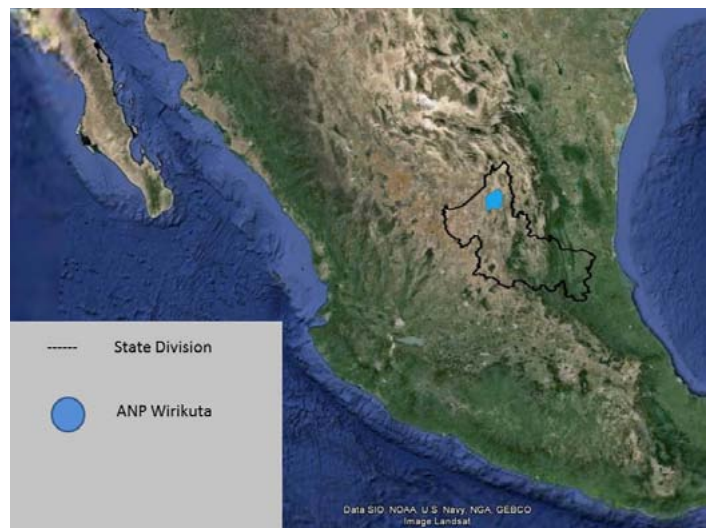


Pedro Nájera Quezada, Jovana Jaime Hernández, & Claudia López Martínez - San Luis Potosí, SLP, Mexico.

During the first half of 2014 we received information about a *Pelecyphora strobiliformis* Fric & Schelle locality of affected by mining activities, during which large quantities of stone material known locally as "Laja Stone1" have been removed, being used for construction of paved roads, fences and houses; then after the announcement made by our fellow Christian who reported the matter, we set out to check the place which was an unknown location for our team until then and we were surprised to learn that lies within the national natural protected area Wirikuta2 (Map1);

This report confirms the presence of the species listed in the supporting technical study for the establishment of protected area as Biosphere Reserve named "Wirikuta" (CONANP, 2012), and confirms the exponential increase of the number of individuals within the protected area; however,

The site is inside the statal protected area ANP² Wirikuta.



contents →

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the current guidelines of protection in the area allow the traditional use of biotic and abiotic resources, so it does not limit the activities of the quarry, which also proved to be an ejido³ property, being exploited and commercialized by people of the same community and even of the surrounding towns. This generates a stable economic flow and about 25 jobs between carriers and masons, which are better paying jobs among most of the offered job opportunities in the area; however, on the other hand there is a federal protected area and, if given notice directly to the local authorities of PROFEPA⁴, only an

1, 2 & 3 - Active quarry. Quarrying flagstone is still a traditional way to extract construction and paving slabs.

interdiction to continue work in this place would be achieved and that source of income for the surrounding suburbs would be completely lost. Another big surprise was the lack of action from the authorities, because there was given notice to the municipal authorities and they demonstrated a complete disinterest for "these biznagas" as



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4 - All around the impacted area several hundreds of plants are threatened by the advancing the quarry. 5 - *Anacampteros coahuilense*, present in all *Pelecyphora* populations. 6 - *Sedum wrightii*, a *Crassulacean* that occurs in several populations of *Pelecyphora strobiliformis*.

which indicated to us that they were to flourish in just over a month; we returned home to continue with our work and planned what to do with the population. During the subsequent weeks all available geo-soil maps were revised in various information or research centres and also a nearby area with little chance of impact in the distant future was located and an annual extraction from the pit was estimated and, based on these data assumptions, a future compromised strip around the edges of the actual mine was established. Likewise the flowering period was determined and a review of weather information from various sources to select predictions of expected rainfall; the

they said, just as the landowners and miners have shown a complete disregard for the protection of their local flora.

For that time of the year, beginning of May, the plants were just starting to show their fluff more frizzy and white at the centre of the plant,



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7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 - Flowering *Pelecyphora strobiliformis*.

hurricane season in the Gulf of Mexico was forthcoming and although the state of San Luis Potosi is not on the coast, this is basically the only way to rise enough clouds to generate conspicuous showers up in the Mexican High Plateau. Casually three weeks later a tropical storm was getting closer to the coast and threatened to whip the coast. So, we prepared enough money for the expedition, plenty food and supplies were bought and the team was ready to go and expecting to perform the work of rescue and translocation in mid-June.

The extraction, counting and translocation of the specimens was carried out by Pedro Nájera Quezada, Claudia López Martínez and Jovana Jaime Hernandez; the rescue progressed without incident or issue, aided by the intense flowering synchrony of the plants, which helped us locate the sub-populations and subsequently also the



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12 - Flowering *Pelecypora strobiliformis*. 13 - *Callisia navicularis*, another species often associated with extremophile cacti. 14 - *Mammillaria* spp. translocated during this operation. 15 - *Stenocactus* spp.

juvenile specimens which were not flowering yet. During the translocation of *Pelecypora strobiliformis* 477 specimens were collected, of which: 157 were adults, 88 large juveniles, 78 medium sized juveniles, 139 small juveniles, and 15 hypocotyls; we also got up four *Ariocarpus*

retusus Scheidw., two *Coryphantha glanduligera* (Otto & A.Dietr.) Lem. and three *Mammillaria* aff. *formosa*; all this was moved to the site previously designated for its qualities as shelter and having exactly the same ecological characteristics as the original location; during the translocation of the above mentioned specimens, *Pelecypora aselliformis* was also found in the area, giving us even more confidence to continue our rescue work, which ended without any problems during the morning of the next day and continued our trip anticipating the rain as previously predicted.



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Of the strip all around the quarry we removed entirely the specimens of *Pelecyphora strobiliformis*, but still, it was not possible to remove all species, for their advanced crypticism5, which hinders and delays the location of individuals when they not flowering, but also because of the time constraints and efforts that were required for removing species from the strip surrounding the quarry. We also encountered and removed a large and abundant population right on one of the ramps to the quarry, which absorbed virtually all our time

16 & 17 - *Pelecyphora strobiliformis*, in its typical habitat.
18,19,20 & 21 - Rescued specimens, one and a half months after their translocation.

because in this specific spot we removed about half of the total number of rescued plants that are listed in this paper. In this area of high risk remained an estimated number of 120-150 individuals, this number being obtained by calculating the percentage of remaining surface



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22, 23 & 24 - Large juveniles, one and a half months after their translocation

from the total and the total amount of rescued plants.

Population monitoring and subsequent evaluations

The monitoring of the location was conducted during August, September, October and

November of the same year, where the survival of individuals and the number of deaths was confirmed during the subsequent five months.

The week following the rescue operation really heavy rains occurred across the state, and the area was not bypassed whatsoever. This sowed a seed of worry in the team since it was speculated that excess rain had washed out loose soil around the relocated plants, and we could not return to the area but only a month and a half later. During a follow-up research trip we analysed and corroborated data on the fitness of the plants and the results



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were extremely favourable: all plants were in place and the heavy rain did not compromise the operation. By mid-August it was decided to return to the area to continue the monitoring of the population we recorded that there was no problem with the plants and only one had been taken from the site, probably for the same reason that what happened with the rescue of *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* (Lem.) K.Schum. (Nájera et al.2014), an animal has probably kicked the ground while crossing the area. In early September we noticed that the only one or two years old seedlings had died from dehydration, apparently because their delicate root system that is not well formed. During the rest the visits in September, October and November were also gradually recorded casualties among older individuals.

After 5 months, and after three subsequent visits to record the rate of survival and adaptation, we recorded that the survival was nearly 100%, only hypocotyls and 10 other plants failed to adapt, we assume that was because of the specific sensitivity in the early life stage of the cacti, when they did not generate yet a thick

25, 26, 27 & 28 - Large juveniles and adults, one and a half months after their translocation.

cuticle, nor spines and features of advanced root formation.

Conclusions

Again this methodology proves to be the most suitable for the rescue of plants of the Cactaceae family and certainly can also be applied to other families such as Asparagaceae (Agavoideae), Burseraceae and possibly Crassulaceae.

The use of natural resources by desert people is the basis of livelihood of most families in the region, thus precluding the restriction and environmental regulation, since they conduct low impact activities compared with industrialized systems, so this type of methodology is the best choice for areas of traditional exploitation of natural resources.



29 - *Ariocarpus retusus* growing among rocks in the area selected for translocation. 30 - Translocated specimen removed from the site, probably by grazing animals. 31 - Colony of *P. strobiliformis* living in the new location chosen for translocation.

Below: Table with the survival rate of translocated individuals.

Species	Stage	Translocated	Deceased	Survivors	Survival rate
<i>Pelecyphora strobiliformis</i>	Adults	157	1	156	0,993630573
	Big juvenile	88	2	86	0,977272727
	Medium size juvenile	78	1	77	0,987179487
	Small juvenile	139	6	133	0,956834532
	One or two year old seedlings	15	15	0	0
<i>Ariocarpus retusus</i>	-	4	0	4	1
<i>Coryphantha glanduligera</i>	-	2	0	2	1
<i>Mammillaria</i> sp.	-	3	0	3	1
Total		486	25	461	0,948559671
Survival rate for all translocated <i>Pelecyphora strobiliformis</i>					0,782983464
Survival rate for juvenile and adult translocated <i>Pelecyphora strobiliformis</i>					0,97872933
Survival rate of one or two year old translocated seedlings					0



32 - *Coryphantha* spp. part of the rescued plants, with stones around to prevent trampling from animals. 33 - *Ariocarpus retusus*, another rescued specimen well adapted to its new location. 34 - Young medium size juvenile of *Peleciphora strobiliformis*, growing on the vertical already excavated zone, before translocation.

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Pedro Nájera Quezada et al.; Rescue translocation of „in situ” Cactaceae: the case of *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus*. | *Xerophilia* – Volume III, No. 2 (9), June 2014



Author's Notes

1. "Laja Stone" or Flagstone; refers to sedimentary rocks that due to their structure allow fracturing in a single direction, permitting production of block like cut stone and stone plates.
2. Decree declaring historic site, cultural heritage and ecological conservation area under the ethnic group „Wirrarika" as holy places and the historic cultural route located in the municipalities of Villa de Ramos, Charcas and Catorce state of San Luis Potosi. 19/09/1994
3. Ejido is a rural property intended for public use
4. PROFEPA - Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection
5. Crypsis (crypticism) is the ability of an organism to adapt in order to go unnoticed to the senses of other organisms

three weeks in mexico

the last part

april 14 - april 21

Travelogue



Aldo Delladdio, Rovereto, Italy.



What follows is the second and last part of the travelogue of my most recent trip to Mexico, the twelfth I made to this beautiful country, from April 14th 2014 to April 21st 2014.

April 14 - From San Miguel de Allende to Hualahuise, Nuevo León (746 km)

We left home at 6 o'clock in the morning and went to Querétaro to collect my Mexican friends.

This is the day we drove the highest number

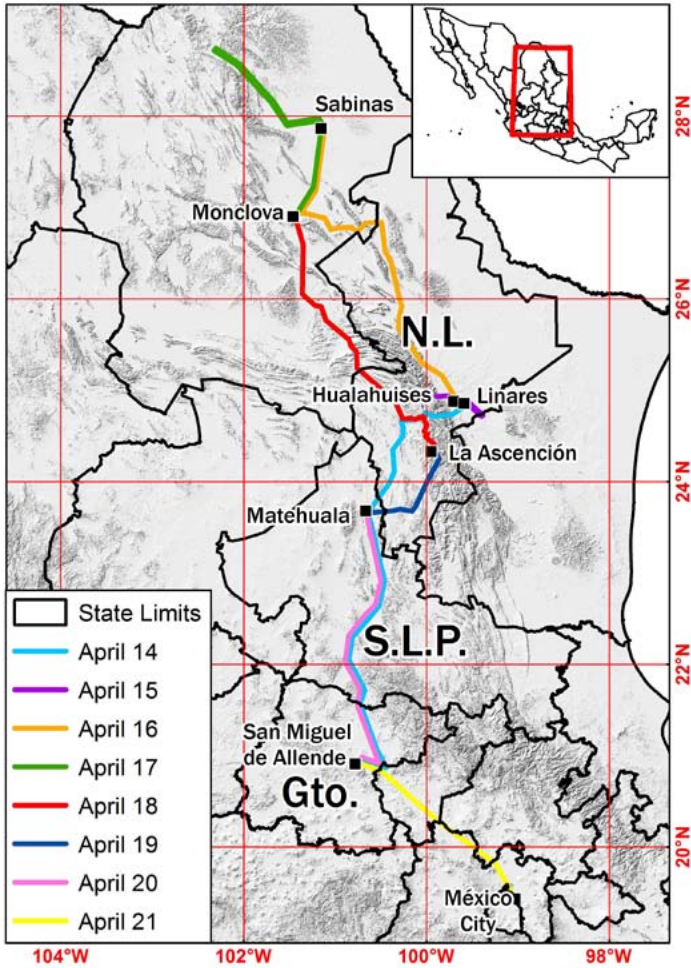
1 - *Habitat of Turbinicarpus booleanus.*

of kilometres, since we wanted to start our explorations in the north ASAP. Despite this, we made a few stops. The first one was south of Entronque San Roberto, to look for *Echinocereus sharpii*. My friends found some, quite far from the car, while I found none. Since I had already seen it three days earlier, I looked around without much conviction.

Back on the road towards Galeana, we stopped south of the city to explore a gypsum hill. Initially

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The map of the last part of the expedition - by Miguel Angel González Botello. 2 - *Turbinicarpus booleanus*, Galeana, Nuevo León. 3- *Astrophytum asterias*, Lucio Blanco, Tamaulipas. 4 - *Ariocarpus trigonus*, Lucio Blanco, Tamaulipas. 5 - *Ancistrocactus megarhizus*, Lucio Blanco, Tamaulipas.

up to a valley until we had to leave the car. We walked for more than two of hours until it was getting too dark, and pitched tent.

April 15 - From Hualahuisé to Linares, Nuevo León (135 km)

We spent most of the day walking on a canyon. When we returned to our car, we were tired but happy. We still had at least one hour of daylight, so we went south to Lucio Blanco, where, growing together on a low hill next to the road, we found *Astrophytum asterias*, *Ariocarpus trigonus*, *Echinocactus texensis*, and an *Ancistrocactus* that

we found large specimens of *Turbinicarpus beguinii*, but further up we saw *Turbinicarpus booleanus*. We arrived in the proximity of Hualahuisés at about 18 o'clock, and then drove



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my friends said could have been *megarhizus*. We certainly didn't dig it out to check whether it had a large root, but it could have been it.

We slept in Linares. My room was incredibly noisy due to the proximity of what seemed a giant air conditioning machine, so I asked to change room.

April 16 – From Linares to Sabinas, Coahuila (609 km)

We left the hotel at 7 o'clock and headed north. The first thing we had to face was the challenge of crossing Monterrey, which took some time. Three hours later we made our first stop on an unpaved road north of Hidalgo, Nuevo León. A bar was blocking the road, so we asked some men working nearby the permission to lift the bar and continue. A few kilometres later we explored a hill where we found *Epithelantha unguispina*, *Turbincarpus saueri* ssp. *septentrionalis*, *Astrophytum capricorne*, *Ancistrocactus scheerii*, *Acharagma roseana*, *Echinocereus* sp., and the omnipresent *Neolloydia conoidea*.

Back on the road, we continued north along the NL 1, and then turned west to Bustamante. Going further west for a few kilometres, on a road that was unpaved in 2006, but not anymore, there's a tourist attraction, a thermal spring, Ojo de Agua, so we had to pay a small fee, 20 pesos,

6 - *Epithelantha unguispina*, Hidalgo, Nuevo León.

7 - *Turbincarpus saueri* ssp. *septentrionalis*, Hidalgo, Nuevo León. 8 - *Epithelantha ilariae*, Bustamante, Nuevo León. 9 - Habitat of *Epithelantha ilariae*, Ojo de Agua, Bustamante, Nuevo León.

to enter the area. We weren't interested in taking a bath, although it wouldn't have been a bad idea. The reason we were there was to look for *Epithelantha ilariae*, a population I found with my friends back in 2006, well before it was described by Davide Donati and Carlo Zanovello in 2010 (*Piante Grasse* 30(4)). We soon found it, in full flower. Despite the hill was heavily grazed by cows, there were many healthy plants, and only a few showed some damage, but were still alive, with small heads sprouting. On the same hill we found *Escobaria duncanii*, *Echinocereus pectinatus* (one was curiously growing inside a rusty iron trap), *Echinocereus stramineus*, *Coryphantha* sp., *Escobaria roseana*, *Mammillaria* sp., *Astrophytum capricorne*. At the bottom of the hill, we found *Echinocereus (Wilcoxia) poselgeri* in flower, (I'm not sure we would have found it without flowers), and another *Coryphantha* sp.. We returned to the NL 1, and drove north up to the NL 30, and then went west to Monclova. We made another quick



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10 - *Echinocereus (Wilcoxia) poselgeri*, *Bustamante, Nuevo León*. 11 - *Echinocereus dasyacanthus*, *El Conejito, Coahuila*. 12 - *Ancistrocactus scheeri*, *north of La Muralla, Coahuila*.

stop for the day at Sabinas, Coahuila, where we arrived one hour and fifteen minutes later. We found a hotel and went to dinner.

April 17 - From Sabinas to Monclova, Coahuila (646 km)

We left the hotel at 7 o'clock, took the Highway 57 going north, and then the NL 93 west to Muzquiz. We stopped briefly at Muzquiz to take pictures of the city's portal, none of us had ever been here before, and the continued north for another 130 kilometres. Apparently the NL 93 suddenly stops some kilometres later, but we took an unpaved, northbound road, bordering the Sierra del Carmén. We drove another 60 kilometres

stop west of Candela, and found *Escobaria ilariae* again, as well as *Coryphantha* sp. and *Thelocactus bicolor*.

We arrived to Monclova when it was already dark (21 o'clock), but decided to go as much further north as possible, since the following day would be rather tough, so we made our final



or so crossing a beautiful area. Unfortunately we didn't stop for a second, because we were too concentrated on the goal of the day: finding *Mammillaria luethyi*. We would take picture on the way back. We had independently gathered information about its locality; the data was similar but not coincident, so we thought there might be more than one. We decided to explore the nearest locality first, but when we were at about 5 kilometres away from the place, one of us saw some wild turkeys, so we immediately stopped the car to take pictures of them. That was good, because, after getting out of the car, I noticed that one tyre was very low, it was punctured actually. Had we continued, due to the road conditions and the low speed, we would have damaged it before noticing that it was flat. Obviously this happened at the farthest point away from a vulka. It was just 11 o'clock, so we decided we would go looking for *Mammillaria luethyi* anyway, but we replaced the wheel with the small spare one before starting our 5 km walk under the baking sun. The main difficulty wasn't the distance, but the barriers formed by large patches of tall, spiny bushes, that at times didn't allow us to see where we were going.

We reached the hill after about 2 hours and started exploring. We found several species, *Echinocereus dasyacanthus* in flower, *Coryphantha* sp., *Neolloydia conoidea*, *Echinocactus horzonthalonius*, as well as *Fouquieria splendens* in flower and leafless, but no *Mammillaria luethyi*. After exploring the hill for about one hour we walked back to our car and the drove south, very slowly, until we reached the paved road. We

13 - The portal of Muzquiz, Coahuila

had noticed a few houses in the morning, so we stopped to ask whether there was somebody that could fix our wheel, but the answer was that we had to go to Muzquiz. So, we drove another 130 km until we arrived to the city and found a vulka. How we were able to drive 60 km of unpaved road and then another 130 km of paved road with a small wheel without getting another flat remains a mystery to me. I can only call it a miracle.

The tyre repair shop was run by two rather fat boys, two brothers probably, and very good. In less than 20 minutes we were back on the road. We drove south until we arrived to Castaños, but since we couldn't find a hotel, we went back to Monclova, found a rather expensive hotel and then went to dinner. We were back to our hotel at 23 o'clock.

April 18 - From Monclova to La Ascensión, Nuevo León (538 km)

We left the hotel at 7 o'clock, and made our first stop south of Castaños, where we knew we would find *Turbincarpus valdezianus*. Unfortunately the area was crisscrossed by several roads going to nearby quarries, and after one hour of trying, we weren't able to find one that would take us past the quarries. A bird view of the area would have been useful in this situation. We decided that walking to the locality would have taken too



14 - Habitat of *Epithelantha greggii*, north of La Muralla, Coahuila. 15 - *Epithelantha greggii*, north of La Muralla, Coahuila. 16 - *Echinomastus mariposensis*, north of La Muralla, Coahuila. 17 - *Epithelantha greggii*, Hipolito, Coahuila. 18 - *Epithelantha pachyrhiza* ssp. *parvula*, Hipolito, Coahuila. 19 - *Epithelantha greggii* and *Epithelantha pachyrhiza* ssp. *parvula* growing sympatrically, Hipolito, Coahuila.

much time, so we decided to leave it for another time and drive further south. Our next stop was about 50 km later before arriving at La Muralla. On a very low hill next to the Highway 57, we saw *Ancistrocactus scheeri*, *Mammillaria heyderi*, *Echinomastus mariposensis* and many nice clumps of *Epithelantha greggii*. Back on the road again, after about 60 km we left Highway 57 in direction of Hipolito, where we arrived at 11:30 o'clock. In the middle of the road south of Hipolito we found a smashed tortoise, a *Gopherus* sp.. My friends took pictures of it, but I just couldn't do



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it. Less than one km later, there was a snake in middle of the road, and I managed to pass over it without harming it. We stopped the car and walked back to where it was still standing still (Fig.56). It was a *Phituophis catenifer* (Alicante for the Mexicans, Gopher snake for the Americans). After taking many pictures, I searched for some sticks in order to lift it from the asphalt and moving it to the roadside, but at that point the snake decided it was warm enough, and moved off the road by its own decision. Luckily no car passed during those minutes. We continued on an unpaved south west of Hipolito and soon made a stop. Not far from the road we

20 - *Phituophis catenifer*, common name Alicante, Hipolito, Coahuila. 21 - *Phrynosoma modestum*, the roundtailed horned lizard, north of La Muralla, Coahuila. 22 - *Thelocactus rinconensis* 'phymatothelos', Arteaga, Coahuila.

found *Epithelantha greggii* and then *Epithelantha pachyrhiza* ssp. *parvula*, sometimes growing a few cm apart from each other. In the same area we also found *Echinomastus mariposensis*. Back on the paved road, we continued south east until we reached the Highway 40 and made another



stop just past La Rosa, Coahuila, where we found, in very little time, *Ariocarpus kotschybeyanus* growing in muddy flats. Also growing at this spot: *Echinocactus horzonthalonius*, *Thelocactus bicolor*, *Epithelantha greggii*. We then followed the Highway 40 past Saltillo and made a stop north of Arteaga. Here we tried unsuccessfully to get close enough to the hill where we knew we could find *Turbinicarpus valdezianus*, but, as it happened at Castaños, we couldn't find the right road going past the quarries. We settled for a nearby hill, where we found *Thelocactus rinconensis*, *phymatothelos*, and *Agave nickelsiae* (*A. ferdinandi-regis*), as well as *Coryphantha* sp., *Echinocactus horzonthalonius*, *Echinocereus pectinatus*, *Neolloydia conoidea*.

We arrived at Galeana after 21 o'clock, when it was dark already. Unfortunately it was Good Friday, and we couldn't find a single hotel room available, because the city was full of tourists. Nevertheless, we had dinner at the same good restaurant I had eaten with Daina the week before. After dinner we drove south along the NL 2 to La Ascensión, where we arrived at almost midnight. My friends were almost tempted to sleep in a tent near the town, but I suggested we should look for a hotel, since the night promised to be cool at 2,000 meters. Luckily we found one.

23 - *Agave nickelsiae* (*A. ferdinandi-regis*), Arteaga, Coahuila. 24 - *Thelocactus argenteus* and *Turbinicarpus schmiedickeanus* ssp. *stanikii* n.n., north of Dr. Arroyo, Nuevo León. 25 - *Turbinicarpus schmiedickeanus* ssp. *stanikii* n.n., north of Dr. Arroyo, Nuevo León. 26 - *Turbinicarpus pseudopectinatus* ssp. *jarmilae* n.n., La Escondida, Nuevo León.

There was only a single bathroom for the entire hotel, and the roof was made of Eternit, but still better than sleeping in the cold.

April 19 - From La Ascensión to Matehuala (255 km)

We left La Ascensión at 6:30 o'clock and headed west. At the junction with the NL 9 we went south in direction of Dr. Arroyo. After about 15 km we stopped to explore a hill, where we found, growing in rock cracks, a form of *Turbinicarpus schmiedickeanus*, closely resembling the *Turbinicarpus schmiedickeanus* ssp. *andersonii* (*T. panarottoi*) that lives 140 km south as the crow flies, in the State of San Luis Potosí. This plant is still undescribed, and has a nomen nudum "stanickii" attached to it. Growing with it there were *Thelocactus conothelos* ssp. *argenteus*, very



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27 - Habitat of *Turbinicarpus hoferi*, Joya de Bocacelly, Nuevo León. 28 - *Turbinicarpus hoferi*, Joya de Bocacelly, Nuevo León. 29 - *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* growing on a very atypical substrate, north of Dr. Arroyo, Nuevo León. 30 - *Ariocarpus retusus* and *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* growing sympatrically, north of Dr. Arroyo, Nuevo León. 31 - *Ariocarpus retusus* 'elongatus', south of Entronque Huizache, San Luis Potosí. 32 - *Leuchtenbergia principis*, south of Entronque Huizache, San Luis Potosí.

common in this area, and a few *Mammillaria candida*, whilst at the hill's base we found many *Thelocactus rinconensis* ssp. *multicephalus*, *Echinocereus pectinatus* and *Stenocactus* sp..

Back on the road, we continued south and then took the NL 2 north to Aramberri and then to Joya de Bocacelly. Here I was finally able to see, with a little help from my friends, *Turbinicarpus hoferi* (Fig. 64), growing on steep gypsum slopes. Two weeks earlier I had arrived 500 meters away from it.

We returned to Aramberri and back to the



33



34



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NL 2. South of La Escondida we stopped again at the locality of *Turbinicarpus subterraneus* I had visited with Daina two weeks earlier, but this time we searched and found *Turbinicarpus pseudopectinatus* ssp. *jarmilae*, the red-flowered *pseudopectinatus*, hiding underneath *Agave stricta*. We also explored the nearby hills, where we found the very common *Thelocactus bueckii* in flower, and *Mammillaria albicoma*.

Continuing south to Dr. Arroyo along the NL 2, we made another stop to explore a muddy-ish area, where we found, not surprisingly, *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus*. We made another stop further south, to explore an area with a rather different type of soil, since it was covered by small pebbles. Here we found *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* again, the first time I saw this species outside a clayish type of soil, with the exception of *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* var. *elephantidens*. But the real surprise was that it was growing next to *Ariocarpus retusus*. Although we didn't find any hybrids, we can't exclude that there might be some. *Thelocactus bicolor*, *Thelocactus rinconensis* ssp. *multicephalus*, *Ancistrocactus uncinatus*, *Lophophora williamsii*, *Echinocactus*

33 - *Neolloydia matehualensis*, south of Entronque Hiuzache, San Luis Potosí. 34 - *Cumarinia odorata*, south of Entronque Hiuzache, San Luis Potosí. 35 - *Mammillaria pilispina*, south of Entronque Hiuzache, San Luis Potosí.

horizonthalonius and *Mammillaria formosa* where growing there as well.

We arrived to Matehuala at 22 o'clock. As it happened in Galeana, the city was full of tourists for the Holy Week, and we couldn't find any room available at the hotel were we usually stay, but luckily we found another one that was even cheaper.

April 20 - From Matehuala to San Miguel de Allende (534 km)

We left Matehuala at 8:30 o'clock. It was Easter and the city was very quiet. The following day I had my return flight to Italy, so I wasn't in the mood for travelling in remote areas. However, we made an interesting stop south of Entronque Huizache. We left Highway 57 and drove towards



36 - Hills south of La Escondida, Nuevo León.

the mountains as far as it was possible without risking to get stuck, and then continued on foot. At the mountains foot we found the 'elongatus' form of *Ariocarpus retusus* and *Astrophytum myriostigma*.

On the mountain slope we first found *Leuchtenbergia principis*, and then, growing in rock cracks, almost like a *turbinicarpus*, we found *Cumarinia odorata* and *Mammillaria pilispina*. On the same mountain slope, but further west, we found *Neolloydia matehualensis*.

This was our last stop, but not the last thrill. In fact, after a good lunch at a buffet roadside restaurant where we ate like pigs, when we were almost to the city of San Luis Potosí, on the Highway 57, we got another puncture. Due to our relatively high speed, the tyre was badly damaged and impossible to repair. We replaced the wheel, but I certainly didn't want to drive the remaining 350 km with the small wheel, so, since, quite wisely, I chose the total coverage insurance, we called the Car Rental company, and they found another car for us at the airport, which wasn't far from where we were stuck. We went to the airport, collected our car and the drove to Querétaro, where I left my friends, without further problems. I then drove to San Miguel, where I arrived at 22 o'clock.

April 21 - From San Miguel de Allende to Ciudad de México

I spent the morning relaxing and packing my stuff, and then I drove to the Querétaro airport,

where I returned the car. The taxi ride from the airport to Querétaro Autobus Station took about 20 minutes and 350 Pesos. One hour later the bus left the station directed to Terminal 1 of Benito Juárez International Airport in Mexico City. The 216 km trip took two hours and fifty-seven minutes.

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- 1) *Piante Grasse* 30(4): 186 (182-183; photos). 2010, Oct-Dec 2010.

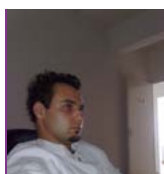
Xero-notes

- (1) Pulque is an alcoholic beverage made from the fermented sap of agave plants. It is traditional to central Mexico, where it has been produced for millennia. It has the color of milk, somewhat viscous consistency and a sour yeast-like taste. *(Wikipedia)*
- (2) OXXO is a primarily franchised chain of convenience stores from Mexico, with over 11,000 stores across Latin America.
- (3) Cabrito, a word of Spanish origin, refers specifically to young, milk-fed goat.
- (4) „Eternit” is a generic term for fibre cement, but in fact it is a trademark for a brand of fibre cement.

wonderful miniatures!

or the satisfaction of
your own sowings

Collection Pictorals



Ionuț Mihai Floca, *București, România.*

Mammillaria theresae, *first bud...*



... and the first flower



contents →

Mammillaria saboae ssp. *roczekii*, first bud...



Mammillaria sanchez-mejoradae first buds and flowers.



... and first flower



Mammillaria sanchez-mejoradae first buds



Mammillaria saboae ssp. *goldii*, first buds...



Turbinicarpus viereckii first flowers



...and the first flower



contents →

contents ↑

Mammillaria hernandezii



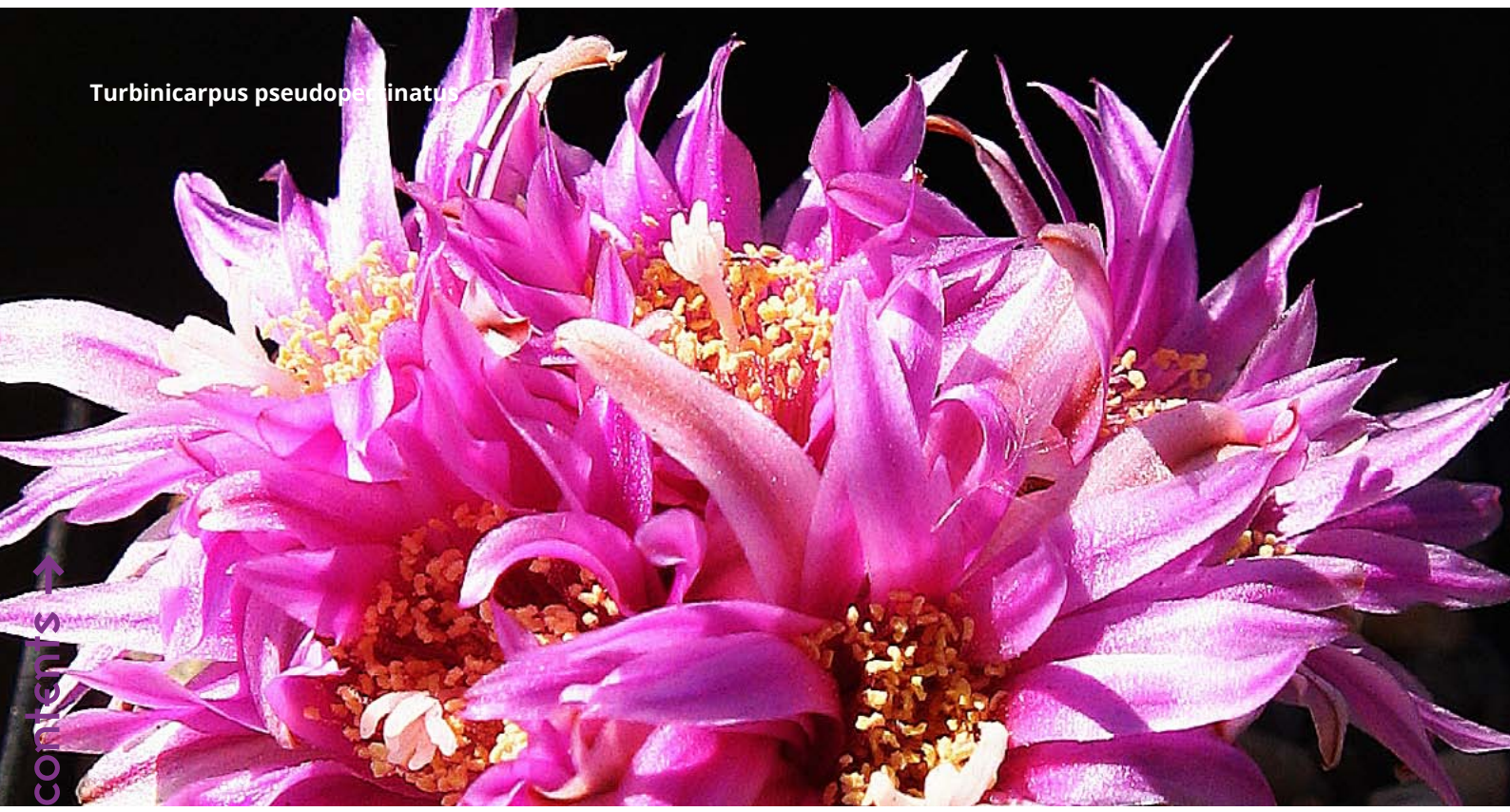
Epithelantha bokei SB416



Pelecyphora aselliformis first flower



Turbinicarpus pseudoperuvianus



contents ↑

contents ↑

Mammillaria theresae first show



Mammillaria coahuilensis, first show



Mammillaria luethyi first show



contents ↑

Mammillaria albiflora first show



Mammillaria albiflora first show



whakaari white island



Eduart Zimer, Auckland, New Zealand. Photos: Vlad Zimer & Eduart Zimer

Whakaari - White Island - is not the kind of South Pacific island you would like to spend your holiday on, it is mostly barren and inhospitable. It is after all an active volcano with fumaroles, boiling mud pools, steam, gas and ash emissions and astringent sulphur smell, rumbling and sending out tremors on a daily basis. However, my recent trip there (April 2014) was quite memorable to say the least: it was my ultimate New Zealand volcanic experience. As a matter of fact people have worked and lived here from time to time, even in the times prior to the European colonization... but not only themselves.



1 - Approaching the steaming White Island.

New Zealand's largest volcanic structure

Whakaari is an 150,000 – 200,000 years old active volcano, part of the Taupo volcanic field, 48 km off Bay of Plenty coast, opposite Whakatane. The 238 ha island is rising to 321 m above sea level and it happens to be only a small part of the volcanic complex climbing some 1,600 m from



2



3



4

the sea bed and containing active volcanic vents up to 400 m deep underwater – it is in fact New Zealand’s largest volcanic structure.

There is a long list of volcanic events of the past. However, the actual shape of the crater was largely created during the 1976-1982 eruptions and subsequently altered again between 1986-1990 in the centre of the crater there is an acid lake with quite volatile water levels. 1976-1991 was the longest period of intense and almost uninterrupted volcanic activity on the island, at least in known history. It is believed that in 1991 part of the high conduit channel collapsed covering the magma chambers (only 300-400 m deep at that time) and putting the

2 - White Island volcano erupting on the 20th of August 2013 (GeoNet - photo by Alex and Jennifer Simon). 3 - Steam rising from the main crater lake. 4 - Fumaroles.

volcano to rest, not before to generate the strongest volcanic earthquake ever recorded in New Zealand. Subsequently there were other significant eruptions in 2000 (when a strombolian explosion occurred, covering the crater floor with scoriaceous lava bombs) and again in 2012/2013 while the recent background volcanic action suggests that another activity spike could be



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arriving soon. Gaseous emissions are mostly carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide, but on occasion there are short explosive events, when fumaroles erupt, sending jets of hot steam into the skies and sometimes ejecting football sized rocks which can land hundreds of metres away. After the turbulent 1976-1991 period the crater lake almost disappeared, but reappeared once the volcano settled a bit and the main crater cooled down. Although the water level is fluctuating quite a lot, fresh water wells are filling the lake regularly.

Big business and tragedies

The Maori used to sail regularly to the island and gather birds and their eggs for food and also to collect sulphur which they used as fertilizer. Captain Cook discovered the island during his 1769 voyage and named it White Island, purely based on its appearance: surrounded by what he thought there were white clouds (he didn't realize it was an active volcano). In the 1830s the island was bought from the Maori and in 1874 the first small scale sulphur mining operation was set up, and again in 1883 on a larger scale. After the dramatic Mt. Tarawera eruption in 1886 the mining on the island was abandoned, for fear that a devastating eruption could take place here as well. But not for long: in 1898 and 1913

5 - Fumarole with thermometer and gas analyzer. 6 - Steam arising from the cracks of the inner walls. 7 - Near the crater lake you have to put the gas mask on. 8 - At the main crater rim.

sulphur ore mining was resumed once again. However, the 1913 operation was doomed to fail, and in September 1914 disaster struck all of a sudden. When the regular supply ship returned on the island, the crew found that all existing structures had been taken by a large lahar (1) and no trace of the 10 workers was found; just one cat survived. No bodies have been ever recovered, even after repeated search parties. Couple of weeks later debris of the structures, poles, railway sleeps, timber and the wreckage of the three existing dinghies, were washed ashore on the mainland. Nobody knows exactly what happened. Fact is that part of the gigantic western flank wall collapsed into the crater triggering a devastating lahar and leaving no chance for the workers to escape. In 1923 was established another mining company, but struggled financially from the start



9



10



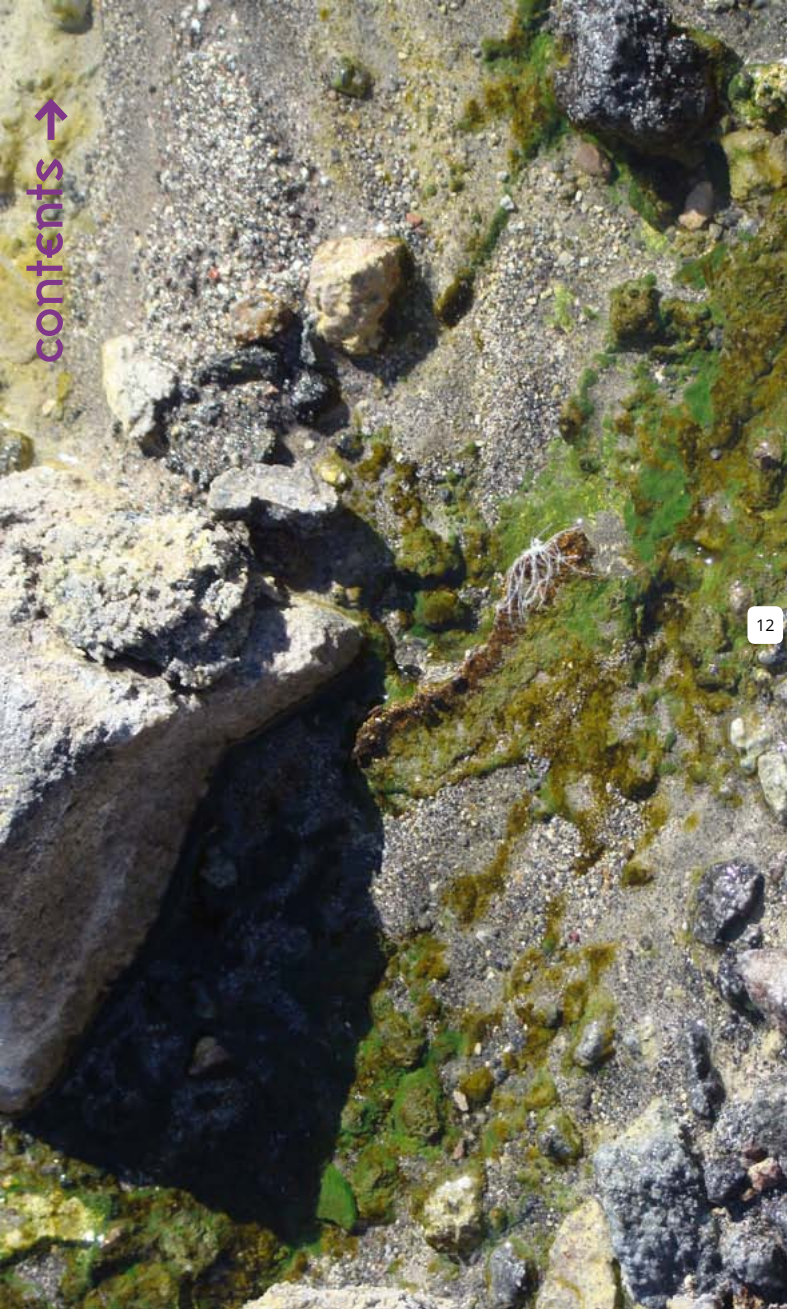
11

9 - A worker toils at the sulphur extraction plant on White Island in the Bay of Plenty in the late 1920s (Photo by unknown photographer). 10 - A cat was the only survivor of the 1914 tragedy (Photo by unknown photographer). 11 - Ruins and corroding equipment of the 1923 sulphur processing factory.

and finally filed for bankruptcy in 1933. Remains of the 1923 factory and equipment (corroding quickly away) are still standing and for some very obvious reasons attract most of the visitors. In 1953 White Island was declared a private scenic reserve (2) and in 1995 access has been restricted.

This hell is not lifeless!

As we suggested from the start, despite the extreme environment and sustained volcanic activity, the island is not lifeless. I was quite



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12 - *Cyanidium caldarium* and other diatoms growing in the acid hot water pools and flows near the main crater. 13 - Aerial photograph of White Island with young *Metrosideros excelsa* forest on the northern outer slopes (Ardmore Pilot). 14 - Regenerating *M. excelsa* scrub after being wiped out by volcanic activity.

surprised seeing butterflies crossing the desolate landscape. *Cyanidium caldarium* and other diatoms (3) (monocellular algae living in large colonies) have been observed in hot water pools near the crater. Browsing the specialized literature I found out that the small streams contain in a dissolved state compounds of most known chemical elements, however, most of them in infinitesimal, merely detectable amounts. No bryophytes, lichens or terrestrial algae have been observed in vegetation surveys.

The vascular vegetation is quite interesting. Depauperate, but one of a kind. In total, 19 species have been recorded on the island in vegetation surveys between 1912 and 1994, but due to the harsh environment no more than 13 at a time (in 1967). Volcanic activity wipes out every now and then most of the species and specimens.

Metrosideros excelsa

The dominant species is pōhutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) which forms dense and almost monotypic scrub and young forest

patches of vegetation on the outer slopes of the cone, in sheltered positions. Volcanic ashes, acid rain and fumes interfere with vital processes (such as photosynthesis) so that large patches of *Metrosideros* are destroyed, only to regenerate from seed or resprouting from epicormic buds(4). In my opinion these are very localized events: I have seen an utterly destroyed pōhutukawa section only 300 metres from a thriving patch of vegetation that seemed to be completely unharmed.



15 - Sparingly vegetated outcrop. 16,17 & 18 - *Disphyma australe* ssp. australe.

Other established plants species on White Island

Another frequent occurrence is the chenopod *Einadia trigonos* ssp. *trigonos*. *Poa anceps* and *Phormium tenax* are two other species that survived eruptions and all the disturbances. Fig. 16 shows an inner rock face, sparingly vegetated by patches of *Einadia trigonos* ssp. *trigonos* and the native ice plant *Disphyma australe* ssp. *australe* and few minute *Poa anceps*, *Metrosideros excelsa* and *Phormium tenax* individuals. Other casual species mentioned in vegetation surveys during the years are: *Paronychia brasiliiana*, *Cakile maritima*, *Cirsium vulgare*, *Asplenium northlandicum*, *Histiopteris incisa*, *Coniza albida* and *Coronopus didymus*.

A succulent plant: *Disphyma australe* ssp. australe

The big expectation – quite understandable for a succulentophile – was to see with my own

eyes another survivor: *Disphyma australe* ssp. *australe*. I knew there are large vegetation masses surrounding the large gannet breeding colony, so my first care before landing was to locate it. I have never seen such a large patch of *Disphyma* in my life, and I've seen a few. In the photos you can't really tell (so you have to trust me) but the binoculars offered me a spectacular view.

But still I wanted to see them close. Almost immediately after landing and climbing up the plateau I noted the first patches, small but relatively numerous, growing between boulders or in the remains of the 1923 factory. Some were happy (with plenty of moisture available between and under the boulders) some were particularly stressed, especially few patches growing in cracks, with virtually no soil available, in the ruins of the former factory. I don't know if lack of moisture was the only reason for their state, or gusts of acid fumes could have played an important role here.

I haven't seen flowers, of course highly unlikely at this time of the year (April, which is autumn in the southern hemisphere) but few seed capsules were visible. Only a few – pointing out maybe the lack of pollinators – but definitely seed has been scattered in the area in the past and will be also scattered in the future. Another observation – this local form is the biggest I have seen in this



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species so far, having strong stems and longer and thicker leaves than usual. The stems are only just a bit reddish on occasion (reduced amounts of betanine) which suggests that flowers could be white, not the usual pale pink. This I don't know for sure. After *Metrosideros excelsa* this is the second species forming here monotypic vegetation patches and seems to be growing almost everywhere near the shore.

A surprising wildlife

Wildlife is also very limited as number of species, but quite surprisingly. During the visit I observed a butterfly and my son Vlad a couple more, but to our disappointment we were not able to take pictures. It was simply mesmerizing to see such delicate creatures flying above the barren land. I guess there is enough vegetation on the island to support insect life, but we haven't been actually there and didn't notice any other insects. I wonder how they could survive so close to the crater lake, where we had to put our gas masks on at times.

Seabirds such as the Australasian gannet (*Morus serrator*) and Grey-faced petrel (*Pterodroma macroptera*) have breeding colonies on the island, but except few gannets guarding the deserted

19 & 20 - *Disphyma australe ssp. australe*. 21 & 22 - Stressed *Disphyma australe ssp. australe* in the ruins of the sulphur factory.

colony I haven't seen any. Such a remote island is actually an ideal breeding ground. But more incredible is the passerine fauna. In times of low volcanic disturbances the European sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), both introduced species, have been reported to populate the island. I haven't seen any but I guess they are spending their time mostly in the dense *Metrosideros* scrub and young forest. Especially the presence of the sparrow is quite surprisingly as it usually lives close to human settlements. However, this indicates that substantial food resources must be available on White Island. The Chaffinch's diet consists more of seeds and vegetal materials, while chicks are fed almost exclusively on insects. Both passerines are terrestrial insectivores and that gives us a hint in regards to the food availability in vegetated



See ya soon White Island!

areas of the island. As mentioned above, we've seen butterflies! Kiore, the Polynesian rat (*Rattus exulans*) is also present here, quite common near seabird colonies as they usually prey their eggs, even if their diet is more varied.

Life has to hang on... or start all over again!

White Island gives us another perspective on how resilient life can be. I can't stop comparing White Island to a very young volcanic island in the Hauraki Gulf: Rangitoto. Unlike White Island, Rangitoto is already stabilized, although it is only 7-800 years old. As volcanic activity (small gas and ash emissions) stopped completely only in the late 1700s we can consider that the vegetation and fauna of Rangitoto is merely 250-350 years old. Perhaps in the early days Rangitoto would have looked similar to White Island.... only that the latter's volcano wasn't put at rest yet and life has to hang on and trying to start more or less all over again after every significant volcanic event. A full length English version - including the References - is available in **Annex 1**.

Xero-notes

- (1) A lahar is a type of mudflow or debris flow composed of a slurry of pyroclastic material, rocky debris, and water. The material flows down from a volcano, typically along a river valley. Lahars are extremely destructive: they can flow tens of metres per second, be 140 metres (460 ft) deep, and destroy any structures in their path.
 - (2) Private scenic reserve is conservation land still privately owned but administered by the Department of Conservation or jointly by the Local Councils and the Department of Conservation. On a case by case basis the landholders are allowed (or not) a limited use of the area, and typically receive some of the proceeds from the touristic income.
 - (3) Diatoms are a major group of algae, and are among the most common types of phytoplankton. Most diatoms are unicellular, although they can exist as colonies in the shape of filaments or ribbons (e.g. *Fragilaria*), fans (e.g. *Meridion*), zigzags (e.g. *Tabellaria*), or stars (e.g. *Asterionella*). Diatoms are producers within the food chain. A unique feature of diatom cells is that they are enclosed within a cell wall made of silica (hydrated silicon dioxide) called a frustule.
 - (4) An epicormic shoot is a shoot growing from an epicormic bud which lies underneath the bark of a trunk, stem, or branch of a plant. Epicormic buds lie dormant beneath the bark, their growth suppressed by hormones from active shoots higher up the plant. Under certain conditions, they develop into active shoots, such as when damage occurs to higher parts of the plant, or light levels are increased following removal of nearby plants.
- (notes after Wikipedia)

mammillaria bertholdii

“import snicer”

who’s “snicer”?



An international collaboration against looters of 4 persons, with 4 different languages, from 4 countries, on 3 continents!

Dag Panco, Tegheș, România - article text; Some pictures are screenshots of Facebook public pages;
Pavel Golubovskiy, Kiev, Ukraina - screenshots of analyzed source-cods from public web-sites; Russian translation;
Eduart Zimer, Auckland, New Zealand - English translation;
Pedro Nájera Quezada, San Luis Potosi, Mexico - Spanish translation replacing OR layer.

1 - There are only a few plants in cultivation ... and Mila, in the Czech Republic, has two clones...

The rarest Mammillaria plant... there are just a few plants in cultivation, and Mila in Czech has 2 clones and pollinate the first 2 flowers . seed is in the plants so wait for the first seed grown plants .!

Mammillaria bertholdii
Oaxaca, Mexico



Once upon a time, if it was not true, it would not be told, there was a beautiful *Mammillaria*, which lived quietly in her native Oaxaca, in Mexico. And there came a Knight, named A. Berthold, who found it and took it from there and maybe just because of this it is now referred as *Mammillaria bertholdii*, and not because he was lucky enough to see it flowering and thus become its official discoverer.

When I learned of its forthcoming description, I was writing an article on *Aztekium valdezii* and



2 - In conjunction with the statement of the same person, from the previous photo, this explanation is very interesting: "... he got this plants to propagate, not for him, but for the 2 who found(f)" - And no one says nothing! ... Although everyone knows who is involved. Everybody knows who dicovered it, for the plant bear his name; and everyone knows who's that Mila that propagates in the Czech Republic, for only he is the best propagator of all of them...! In the text you will see that this is an argument that always returns...

with bitterness in my soul, I prophesied that looting will now be turned away to this new species, somewhat diverting attention from the latest member of the genus *Aztekium*.

Our response is firm: NO!

In the article „The Worm ...” on page 102 of this issue, we draw again attention on the contempt of law and legality too many members of the community of plants and animals lovers and collectors display, with little to no embarrassment. We illustrate this contempt, with a particularly relevant quotation from an email by Hans-Jörg Voigt, written to a member of a German forum who dared to express the idea that possessing plants such as the ones shown in the photos above is illegal; so, the sender, confirms very steady what was already known from social networks: „Mr. Berthold personally brought his cacti to the Czech propagators [...]”. To this confession he adds, in a very robinhoodian manner, that the purpose is a quick propagation of the species, for “everyone”.

Importing these plants in Europe is illegal!! Can we therefore accept a good deed done by illegal means?

Our response is firm: **NO!**

A rhetorical question

Moreover, we are surprised by the complacent position adopted by Mr. Voigt in regards to the offence of Mr. Berthold when importing illegal genetic material from Mexican habitats, while *Mammillaria bertholdii* is already available on the market.

However, without explicitly accusing anyone – an almost rhetorical question arises: Who could sell the location of this new species, known only by the discoverer!? A. Berthold should respond to this legitimate perplexity of everyone having the common sense of compliance. Our pages are at his disposal for any explanation or right of reply.

The Ukrainian middleman

You will wonder, of course, what has this to do with this article. There is a simple link, the one

Aztekium ritteri f.intercostatum

3 - It is mentioned: not grafted, imported, from where, the size.

Aztekium ritteri f.rotundum

4 - It is mentioned: not grafted, imported, from where, the size.

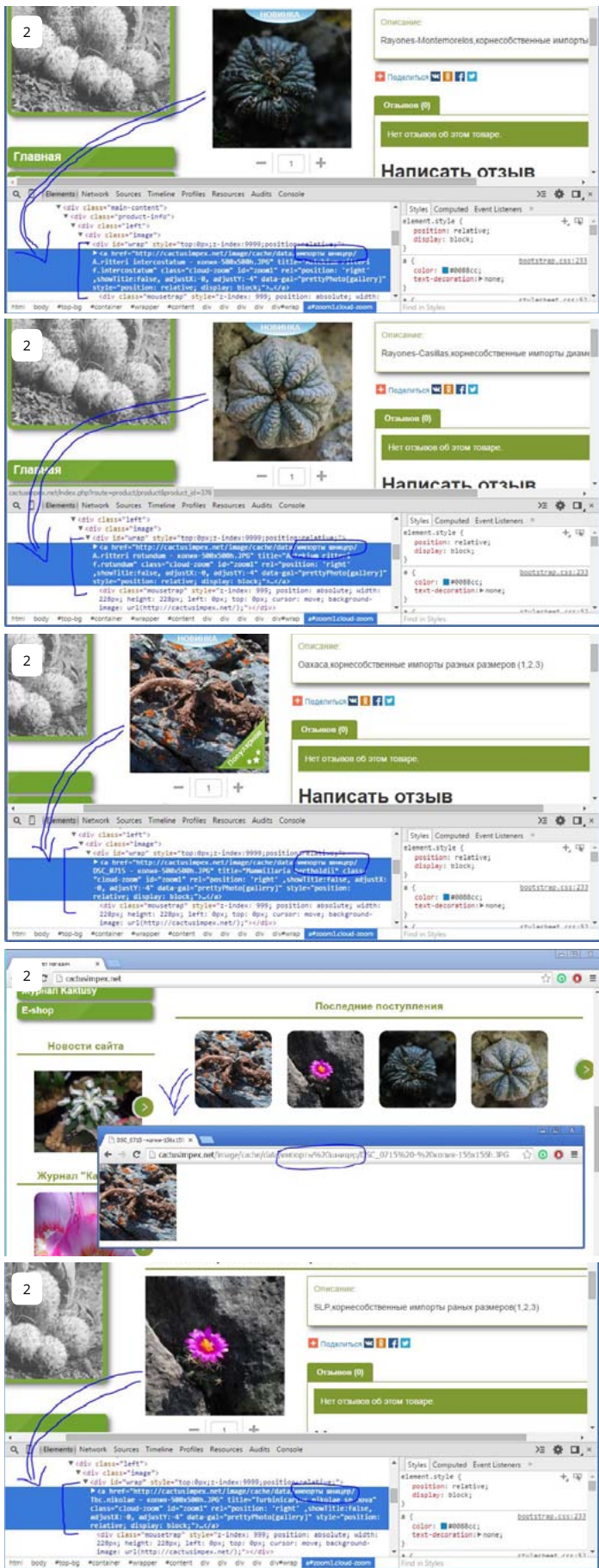
Mammillaria bertholdii

5 - It is mentioned: not grafted, imported, from where, the size.

Turbincarpus nikolae sp.nova

6 - It is mentioned: not grafted, imported, from where, the size.





between the cause and effect. We started by discussing about a newly discovered plant and the fact that it was illegally imported. I went on to say that it was already available in commercial offers and asked a rhetorical question in the preceding paragraph. We continue now by stating that *Mammillaria bertholdii*, import plant from Oaxaca – as the offer* reads, is for sale on a website registered in Ukraine, owned by Igor Ivanov, a controversial person and disputed by many members suculentophile community of Russian-speaking area and whose posts were removed from main sites in Ukraine and Russia, just because they were promoting sales of habitat plants. His relationship with the Czech Republic was visible from the moment he began to sell, and still sells as of today, *Aztekium valdezii* at the same prices the Czechs were selling and using the exact same photo which have circulated via e-mails also originating from Czech Republic, photographs published by us in a previous issue of this magazine.

Seeing that he no longer can advertise in large Russian-speaking forums that have closed the door for him, blocking and / or banning and deleting his postings, Igor Ivanov built his own website, an online shop selling cultivated plants in his own name but also habitat plants, serving as a middleman. He picks up the latter personally from the Czech Republic without hiding this fact.

I take this opportunity to praise and express our respect for those moderators and communities that do everything they can to discourage habitat looting. It would be nice to see that West European forums will follow this exquisite example of civilized behaviour.

Recently, only shortly before the publication of this material, Igor Ivanov made the first plant sales of the batches he had available. Presumably, under pressure calls to which we participated actively, issue after issue, criminals prefer to move their dirty businesses out of the European Union, using middlemen, in a place where, so they hope, they will not be bothered by anyone. Noteworthy is that the greed generates haste and rushing brings mistakes.

„импорты шницер”

Only now, we can formulate the second question, this time, not a rhetorical one, but of practical interest: to whom the location of this new mammillaria has been sold? For how much or for what “barter” is absolutely irrelevant to us, but, most likely, for parties this was a profitable deal.

There is a transparent response. However, at this time, it is and remains a hypothetical judgment for our readers and - unfortunately - not to being judged by the lawmakers yet. Therefore, we wish you to note that one of the most famous connoisseurs of Mexican habitats, discoverer and author of new species, accused

7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 - A simple research of the source codes, made by a benevolent collaborator from the Ukraine, Pavel Golubovskiy, made us discover a shocking detail on the origins of these plants...

Mammillaria bertholdii



Описание:

Оахаса, корнесобственные

Поделиться

Отзывов (0)

Нет отзывов об этом товаре

Написать отзыв

import snicer

contents →

Elements Network Sources Timeline Profiles Resources Audits Console

```

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  <div class="image">
    <div id="wrap" style="top:0px;z-index:9999;position:relative;">
      <a href="http://cactusimpex.net/image/cache/data/импорты шницер/
DSC_0715 - копия-500x500h.JPG" title="Mammillaria bertholdii" class=
"cloud-zoom" id="zoom1" rel="position: 'right' ,showTitle:false, adjustX:
-0, adjustY:-4" data-gal="prettyPhoto[gallery]" style="position:
relative; display: block;">_</a>
      <div class="mousetrap" style="z-index: 999; position: absolute; width:
228px; height: 228px; left: 0px; top: 0px; cursor: move; background-
image: url(http://cactusimpex.net/);"></div>
    </div>
  </div>
</div>

```



by many - perhaps wrongfully - to be the perpetrator of numerous lootings in nature, J. Snicer, was already last October's days in Oaxaca at the SECRET location of the species *Mammillaria bertholdii* !!

And you will see that all of our questions, both rhetorical and practical, become ridiculous in terms the relevance of everything you see in the illustrations of this cryptic article if we you give the key to interpreting images that are outlined in the letters of an alphabet unknown to many of you.

„импорты шницер“ = “import snicer”
Who’s “snicer” ?!

12 - Who brought this *Mammillaria bertholdii* in Europe and from where was it taken to Ukraine?

* Оахаса, корнесобственные импорты разных размеров = Оахаса, not grafted import of various size.

России текст

contents →

a dane visiting romania

a story about friendship
and cacti

second part



Erik Holm, Herning, Denmark – Chairman of *Nordisk Kaktus Selskab*



contents →

B was an excellent, generous and much regretted host. I will remember this trip for a long time, which unfortunately I will not be repeated again. As I said at the end of part one, of the last issue, I could have spent almost any amount of time there to take more pictures, but I had another visit planned for that day. I had to reach Mihai Ionescu, in Mangalia.

1 - I was amazed to see storks, but imagine my wonder, when the next road at the entrance to Mangalia, I saw huge flock of the Dalmatian Pelican, *Pelecanus crispus*, recognizable from a distance because of their pinkish feathers ...! 2 - Zoom of the group from back in the first picture, showing how these waders are associated with the large cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*.



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3 - Mihai Ionescu. 4- Mihai Ionescu in his open greenhouse searching for a plant to make cuttings from for me. 5 - A view through the greenhouse. 6 - Plants are everywhere!

Just a short drive away we came to Mihai Ionescu's house in Mangalia. Mihai is a teacher, historian and archeologist and a wise man who knows a lot about many things. He was not only interesting to talk with, but also very kind.

He has a great collection of cacti under roof, but during summer without walls. I should soon learn that this is used by others in Romania. As an experience, to me, this is not a bad idea, because the plants benefit from good ventilation this way; on the other hand with the windy weather in Denmark it would require a very solid



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construction of such greenhouses. Mihai also grows hardy cacti and have them everywhere he can find room for them. We had a nice stay with refreshments, cutting of plants and good conversation.

After this it was time to go to a hotel, get something to eat after an excellent day.

Day 2:

I woke up to a nice, but hazy morning. Dag picked me up at the hotel and we started a long ride from Constanța to Mangalia. On the way there, I was again amazed by all the beautiful

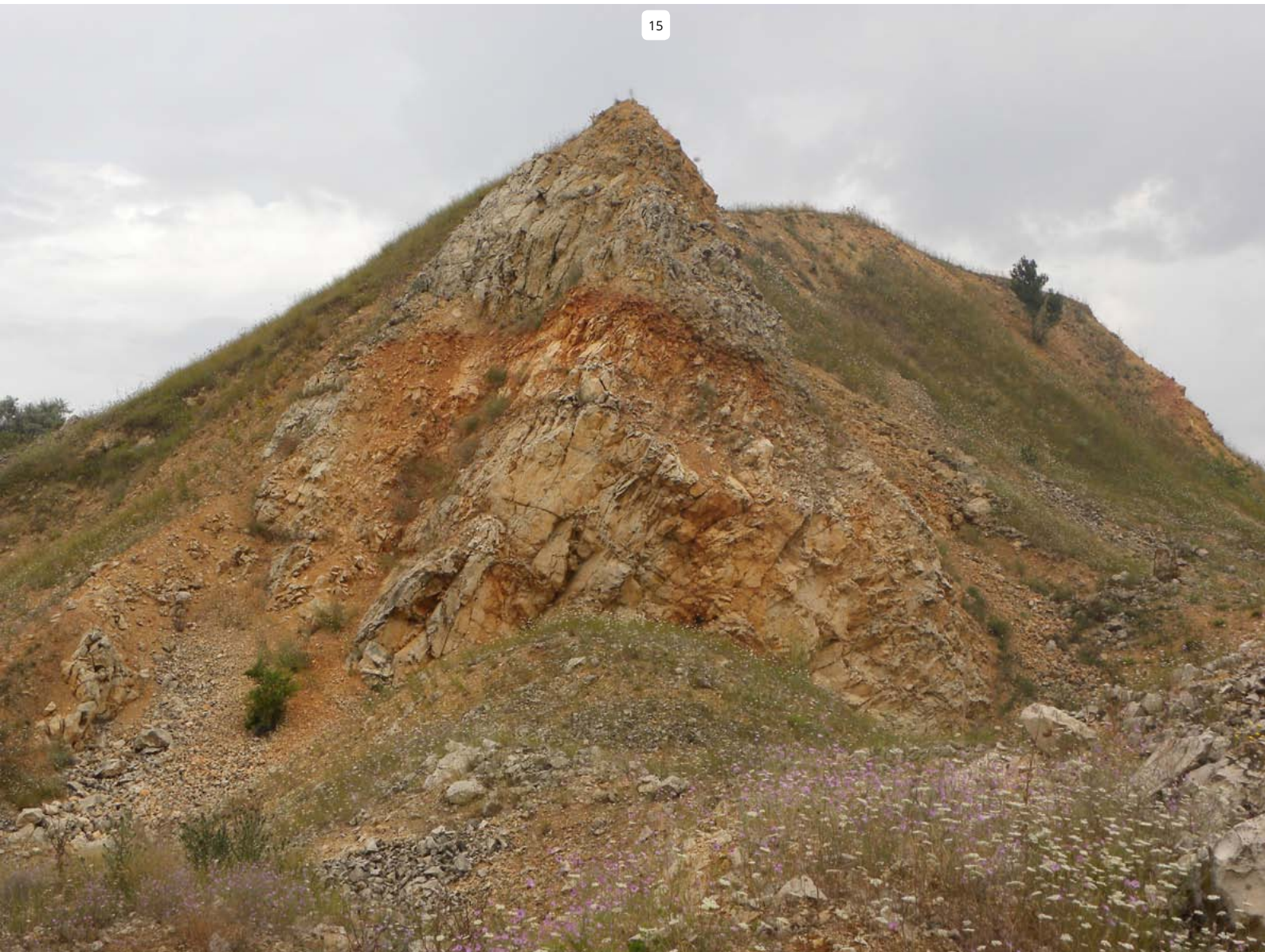
7 - A view through the greenhouse. 8 - Another view through the greenhouse, with *Astrophytums* in the front. 9 - A big *Ferocactus*, living outdoor in summer, under open skies. 10 - On the fence to the neighbor there's room for more hardy cacti. 11 - Mihai also had cacti growing on a rock. 12 - *Astrophytum caput-medusae*.



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13 - Fields of sunflowers at the top of blooming. 14 - Gentle mountain on a cloudy day. 15 - Eroded limestone mountain with red stripes of rock containing iron.

fields of sunflowers at the top of blooming. It was very beautiful. Another interesting thing was mobile beehives. All these sunflowers need pollination, so the farmers keep their own bees and move them from field to field.

After some time the landscape began to change. At some point, we came to old, much erupted mountains, no longer wild but gentle curves of eruptive slopes and an occasional higher top. We had entered one of the areas



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where Dag found mineral soils for the building of Basarab Popas collection.

I wish I could have taken a truck full of materials with me from here. It was nice to see with my own eyes what I had read about in Xerophilia. The wisdom of the Stone Eaters was already clear to me when I read it back in Denmark, but visiting this site added more depth to my relatively new knowledge of how to grow cacti properly.

We continued our trip and after a while, the landscape began to change again. We were

*16 - The abandoned limestone quarry of Sitorman.
17 & 18 - Like cacti, the common plants looks different growing in pure mineral with limestone. They grow smaller and have more intensely colored flowers..*



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19 & 20 - Limestone rocks. The one in the right is the size of a wheelbarrow. Bothe have cracks and holes that would be perfect for growing cacti. 21 - The Old Danube (Dunărea Veche). 22 - This is probably the ferry that did not get to bring us across the Danube. Our ferry was much smaller. 23 - The Danube at Brăila.

approaching the Danube. We have lots of ferries in Denmark, but the way they did things here were different, but efficient. Close to the river, we suddenly met a couple of young men who pointed our way to a poor dust road. I was puzzled. What was happening? Well, they were just assuring themselves that we took their little ferry and not a bigger one further ahead on the main road. No need for advertising!
On the other side of the river, our next host waited for our arrival. Marius Dumbraian showed us the way to his future home. The house is



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under construction, but the greenhouses are there already.

Marius has a large collection where you can see all kinds of cacti. What is rare and sought after by collectors you find here. Unlike many others, Marius has many cacti that need more warmth during winter. Lots and lots of *Melocactus*, *Discocactus*, *Buiningia*, *Uebelmannia* and so on. In addition, he has a good collection of some of the more rare species of *Euphorbia*, who need heating in winter like the Brazilian cacti. I spent an hour on studying the plants and taking many

24 - Marius Dumbrăian backyard and greenhouse seen from his new house terrace. 25, 26, 27, 28 & 29 - As you can see, he loves *Euphorbias* too. All rare plants are grafted by himself.



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30 - In the summer some plants are outdoor in Marius' backyard. 31 - Some others are directly in the soil in the greenhouse, as you can see this Mammillaria beisei. 32, 33 & 34 - The majority of the plants are in pots, like this beautiful Melocactus schatzlii, Mammillaria perezdelarosae ssp. andersdoniana or this Melocactus pachyacanthus. 35 - Pachycereus marginatus and others columnar cacti living directly in the greenhouse soil.



36 - *Lophophora williamsii*, a very old colony. 37 - *Mammillaria gaumeri*. 38 - *Pelecyphora aselliformis* colony. 39 - *Turbinicarpus gielsdorfianus* colony. 40 - A table full of beautiful plants. 41 - *Strombocactus disciformis* "on the rocks".



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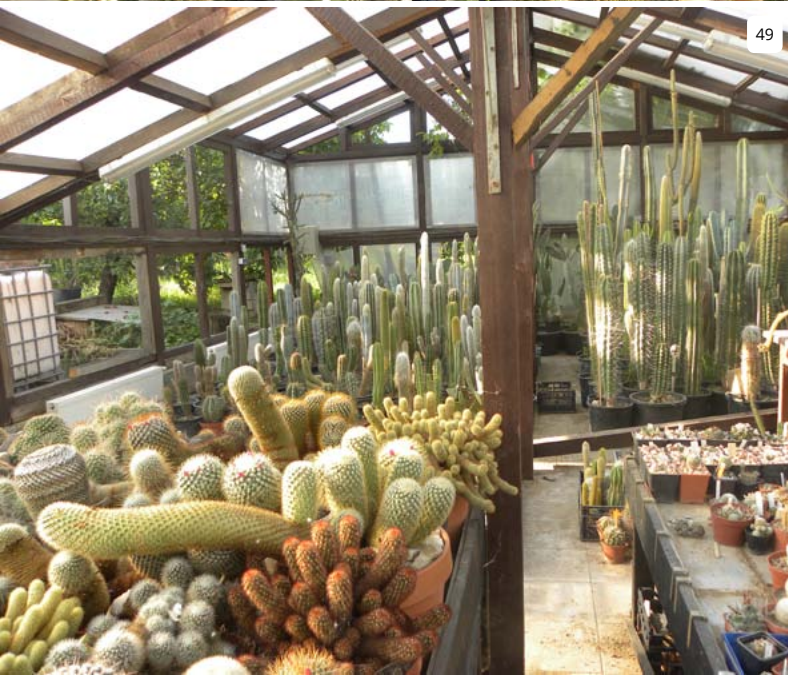
42 - Melocactus intortus. 43 - Gymnocalycium saglionis. 44 - Huge Gymnocalycium spegazzinii. 45 - Buiningia brevicylindrica. 46 - Marius preparing grill meat for us. 47 - South American group of old and remarkable plants.

photos. After this, a very fine meal was served. I forgot all about the names of the food, but it was very tasty and was accompanied by beer and a taste of homemade plum brandy. After eating and talking a lot I took another tour in the greenhouse and in the yard that also is full of cacti and succulents. Marius gave to me quite a lot of goodies so I was very happy when we left.

Next stop on my cactus safari was at the home of Georgiana and Mihai Dunca in Fundulea. As always I was met with a lot of kindness both by



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48 - With Mihai Dunca in his greenhouse, the columnar section. 49 & 50 - It's really a big place!

the hosts and by a number of cats, who obviously were used to a lot of caressing. This time we were going to stay overnight, so for once Dag didn't have to worry about what he drank, so he got his share of the beer.

The first impression of the greenhouse was the size. My greenhouse could easily have been inside Mihai's more than 10 times and it was packed with well-grown plants. What caught the eye was the large number of columnars taking up maybe 20-25 % of the space.



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51 - Foggy very early morning in Mihai Dunca's greenhouse.
52 - a grup of big and old parodias. 53 - Big colonies of Mammillaria setispina. 54 - Eriosyce senilis. 55 - Mammillaria mazatlanensis.

After a good long tour of photo safari in Mihai's greenhouse it was time to eat. Once again we had very tasty local dishes and a lot of beer. It was a hot evening, so we stayed outside all night talking about a lot of things like evolution, philosophy and of course the growing of cacti.

The long day, the heat and the beer made me tired as the first one, so I went to bed. I don't remember my head hitting the pillow.

the anonymous engraver

from the monsters's garden



Ada Damiani, *Palermo, Italy*

Villa Palagonia - Bagheria, Palermo, is one of the most curious examples of Baroque architecture in Europe. Built in 1715, is known as the "Villa of Monsters", for the curious decoration that adorns the exterior walls of the outbuildings, formed by statues in "pietra tufacea d'Aspra", depicting fantastic animals, anthropomorphic figures, statues of ladies and knights, musicians and various caricatures, which horrified the poet Johann Wolfgang Goethe, when he visited the Villa in 1787.

- 1 - Part of the wall surrounding Villa Palagonia.
- 2 - Monster statues from the villa wall.





The portrait of the guitar player scratched on an Opuntia ficus-indica pad, by an unknown artist, in Villa Palagonia courtyard.

mammillaria polythele, m. zeilmanniana and other cacti from guanajuato



Leo Rodríguez, Salamanca, Guanajuato, Mexico.

More than writing a scientific article, I would take a look and observe the natural beauty that exists in the south west region of the state of Guanajuato in Mexico. For over 15 years, I have had the opportunity to live in the small town of Pénjamo in Guanajuato, and as a pretty inquisitive admirer of nature, I have always tried not to avoid browsing through the canyons and mountains surrounding this village, at the border with the state of Michoacán.

The municipality is located in the west corner of the state of Guanajuato, and was founded more than 450 years ago, having a rich history which makes it the oldest in the country. Purépechas and chichimecas settlements in central and western parts have left important archaeological sites in various geographic parts of municipality; one of them, named Plazuelas, is one of the most important pieces of history built in the Late Post Classic style and located only 10 km from the county's administrative centre, bequeathing an area of great beauty and archaeological

1 - Water drains from the mountains





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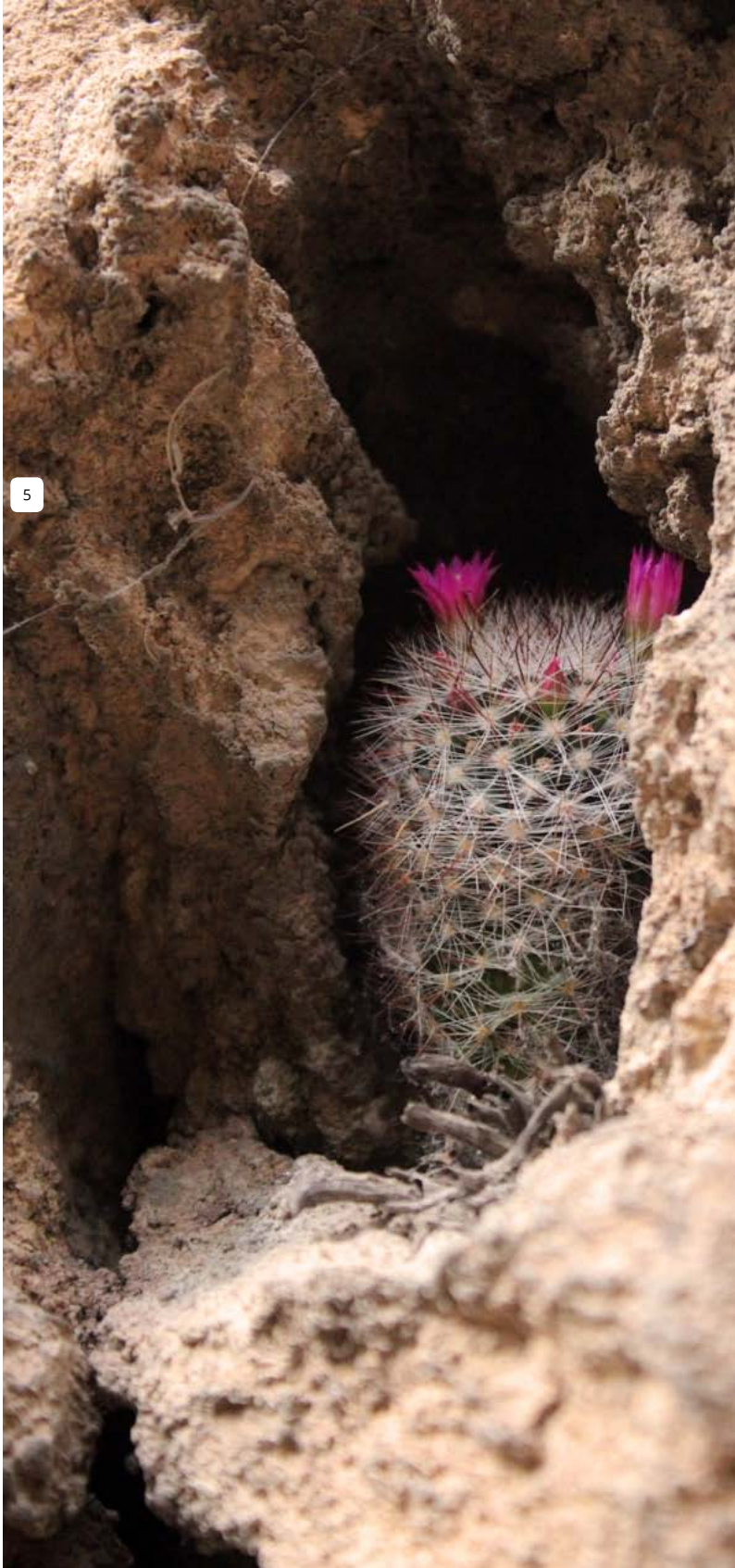
2 - Water spring in the mountains of Pénjamo.
3 - First cliffs of the Fuerte de los Remedios.



architectural finesse, divided into several sections, or squares named "plazas", hence its name.

The name Pénjamo, comes from the Purépecha language, Penxamo or Penchamo, meaning, Cypress Place. The bald cypress or ahuehuate (*Taxodium mucronatum*) is the most representative tree of the country and really admirable and overwhelming for its beauty when you have the chance to see really old specimens; in the town you can see several trees over 500 years old, which, thanks to their deep pervasive roots favours the appearance of springs, very common nearby and which provide clean water to the most remote communities in the mountains.

One of the places I've ever visited for many years, is the "Fuerte de los Remedios" located about 20 km from the city. The huge cliffs, which used to shelter in the past felines, deer,



4 - Habitat of *Mammillaria zeilmanniana*. 5 - *M. zeilmanniana* in a rock crevice. 6 - Inaccessible cliffs inhabited by *M. zeilmanniana*. 7 - Panoramic view of the mountains.

wolves and coyotes, among many other species of animals, are today under the siege of the “progress”, that fuels ignorance and eventually will end up deteriorating wild life to extinction in this place; it nevertheless still harbours

several species of cacti being recorded to date only in other Guanajuato municipalities, quite dissociated from each other.

One of these species is *Mammillaria zeilmanniana* recorded only in San Miguel de Allende. It was quite a surprise for me seeing it here, on the cliffs of the mountains. More, this species hasn't been seen since its description some 80 years ago, which made me to wonder if it was actually the same plant.

After analyzing some pictures I took and consulting with several biologists friends, it was



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8, 9 & 10 - Mammillaria polythele ssp. durispina.

confirmed that this was indeed *Mammillaria zeilmanniana*. This fact alone brought me back again to this place, in order to observe more closely the habitat and the distribution of the plant. Unfortunately, my photographic equipment is not resistant to wet weather, and this prevented me to take more pictures of the plant. Some sources describe the plant as growing in a microenvironment, which was no exception here in Pénjamo, as the plant grows in a thin line of cliffs of no more than 30 meters. There are no more than 50 specimens, which makes it an extremely restricted species in the wild. After several walks on the slopes of the

neighbouring canyons, I was unable to find other locations of the same plant, practically its distribution is limited to a cliff line of 30 meters at a height of at least 7 meters on the vertical walls, making it virtually unreachable because of the precarious ground.



11 - *Laelia autumnalis* and *Pachyphytum brevifolium* sharing the habitat in the mountains of Pénjamo 12 - The completely rocky substrate of the area sustains the growth of the species. 13 - *Echeveria agavoides*.

The disappointment that I couldn't find more populations of the same plant made me delve more into the canyon, and after about 2 hours of hiking up the slopes and on to the cliffs, I managed to find a population of *Mammillaria*

polythele ssp. *durispina* "dotting" the ground, or scattered in various communities containing medium sized specimens, of no more than 6 cm high, but in the population at "Fuerte de los Remedios" more robust plants having longer spines could be seen.

Mammillaria polythele ssp. *durispina* has a much wider distribution in its habitat, and grows along *Echeveria agavoides*, *Laelia autumnalis*, *Pachyphytum*, *Salvia* and other plants such as oaks and cypresses that mostly make up the entire ecosystem. Systematically "mapping" the plant



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diversity of the area is not an easy task, since it requires first of all a literature review as it is very hard to get reliable data to refer to, but a project which is worth undertaking on a long-term anyway.

Some 30 km from the above mentioned habitat of *M. zeilmanniana* and *M. polythele* ssp. *durispina*, is a very large population of *Stenocactus zacatecasensis*; the interesting thing about this population is that it is the only one where you can see sizable specimens, of about 18 cm approx. diameter, their distribution is actually limited, because grazing on this land has forced this plant

14 - *M. polythele* ssp. *durispina*. 15 - *Coryphantha elephantidens*. 16 - A large *Stenocactus zacatecasensis* population in good health.

to withdraw in small pockets of the hundreds of hectares of plains of the south-western Guanajuato.

In the same area, you can also observe *Mammillaria rettigiana*, *Mammillaria uncinata*, and just very few specimens of *Coryphantha*



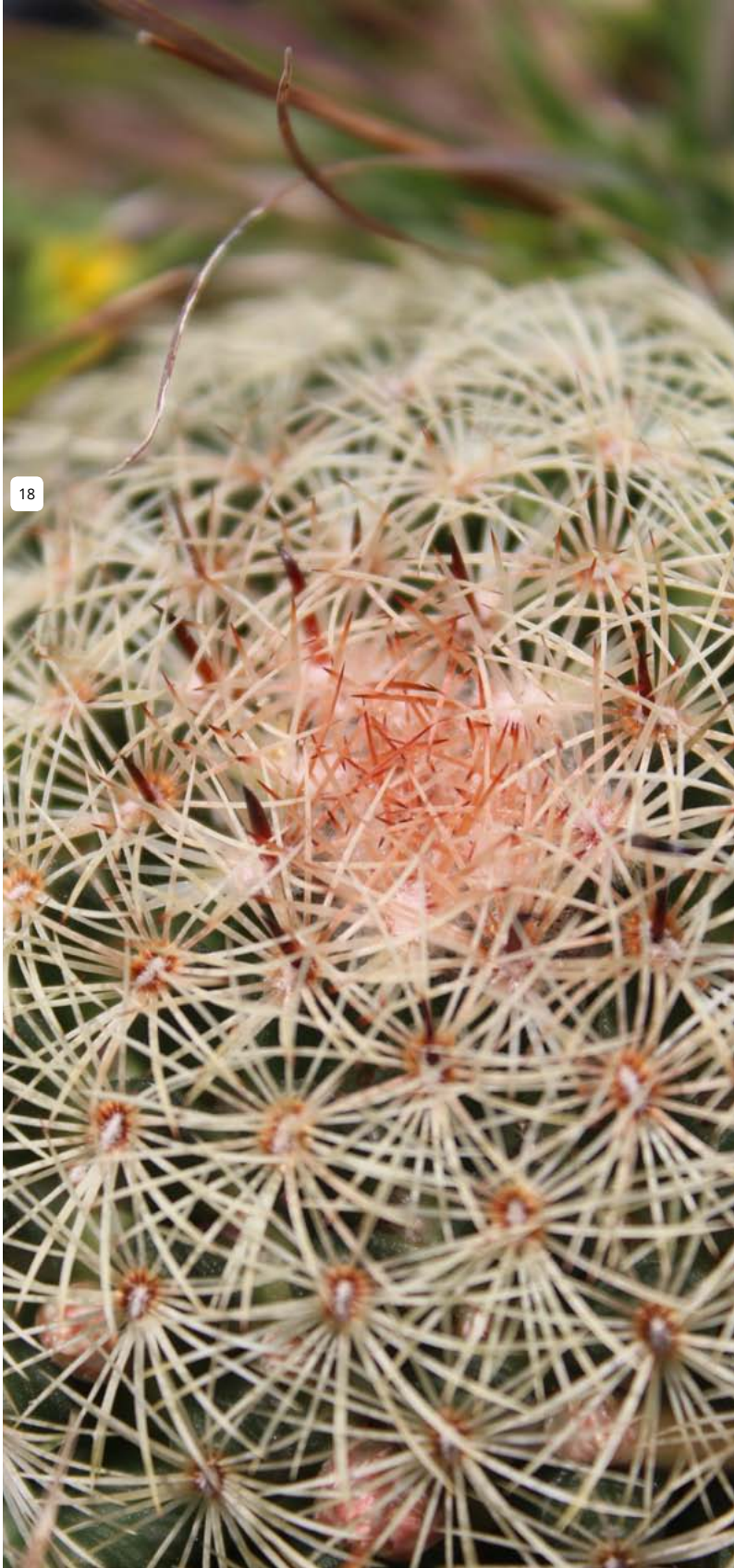
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17 - A flowering *Mammillaria rettingiana*.
18 - *Mammillaria rettingiana*. 19 - *Echeveria agavoides*.
19 - *Mammillaria uncinata*. 20 - A pair of *Mammillaria uncinata* in the same area.

elephantidens, among large numbers of *Opuntias* and *Stenocereus marginatus* being able, refreshingly, to thrive in these small plains.

Mexico has a vast diversity of cacti in deserts, the niche of these species, which is reflected in all ecosystems across the country. In places like

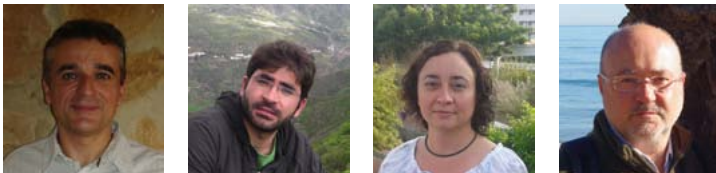
the southwest of Guanajuato, cactus species thrive in isolated corners unaffected by the agricultural environmental footprint (called "progress"), in uncertain steep slopes of the mountains or grassland plains just waiting to be used for agricultural purposes, only to become threatened. However, these species provide an interesting view on a little explored area, and prove, once again, that cacti will be there and hold on to life in places and ecosystems, anywhere, at any time, and with the innate perseverance known only to cacti.

new records of

allochthonous succulent plants

of ornamental origin in the
province of valencia
(valencian community, spain)

Contributions



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As a result of various surveys conducted by the authors of the article in the province of Valencia (Valencian Community, Spain), is given notice of new records of succulent ornamental plants of non-native origin. The georeferenced quotes and images of the specimens cited in each of the localities are reported.

During the period 2001-2014 the results of the study of non-native succulent plants of the Valencian Community, by the authors of this article, have been embodied in the publication of several monographs on the genus *Agave* (Guillot & al., 2009 a), and the plant families Crassulaceae (Guillot & al., 2009 b), Cactaceae (Guillot & al.,

2009 c), Aloaceae (Guillot & al., 2009 d) and Aizoaceae/Portulacaceae (Guillot & al., 2009 e), along with numerous scientific articles dedicated to cataloging the Valencian allochthonous flora overall (Sanz-Elorza & al., 2011), or particular families, as in the case of the Cactaceae family (Guillot & van der Meer, 2001; Guillot, 2003 a; Guillot & van der Meer, 2004 c, 2006 a, b Guillot, 2006; Guillot & al., 2008; Guillot & Lodé, 2009; Lodé & Guillot, 2010; Guillot, 2012; Guillot & Lodé, 2012; Guillot, 2013 a; Guillot & Laguna, 2013; Gomez & al., 2013; Guillot & al., 2013; Laguna & al., 2013), Agavaceae and Aloaceae (Guillot & van der Meer, 2003 a, b, c, d; 2004b; 2005 a, b; 2008 a, b; Guillot, 2011; Guillot & van der Meer, 2013; Guillot & al., 2013; Guillot, 2013 b), Crassulaceae (Guillot, 2003 c; 2005; Guillot & Rosselló, 2005;

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Guillot & Puche 2010; Roselló & al., 2012) and Aizoaceae (Guillot & al., 2008), along with other general information on non-native plants (Guillot, 2001; 2003 b; Guillot & van der Meer, 2004 a).

Results

1. *Aloe delaei* × Radl. (*A. ciliaris* Haw. × *A. succotrina* Lam.) (Aloaceae).

VALENCIA: 30S7252544395960, Segart, 281 m, on a bank, in an area of scrub and pine forest, with other allochthonous, such as *Aloe arborescens*, *Senecio angulatus*, *Opuntia tuna* etc. D. Guillot. 15-IV-2014.

It has been mentioned previously in Valencia in the province of Castellon "30SYK2933, Fanzara, road margin, 358 m, 1-II-2002, Guillot. 30SYK2033, Fuentes de Ayodar, wasteland, 600 m, 14-III-2002, Guillot" (Guillot & Meer, 2005) and in "30TYK5144, Vilafamés, near Castillo, 14-II-2005, D. Guillot" (Guillot & al., 2009) and in Valencia in "30SYK2605, Alfara de Algimia, wasteland, 234 m, 5-V- 2002, Guillot & Van der Meer; 30SYJ2193, Náquera, gorge,

- 1 - *Aloe delaei*.
- 2 - *Aloe variegata*.
- 3 - *Cleistocactus samaipatanus*.

300 m, 3-I-2002, D. Guillot; 30SYJ2096, Serra, gorge, 342 m, 3-I-2002, Guillot" (Guillot & Meer, 2005), in "30SYJ1195, Olocou, near the village La Lloma, scrubland, 4-II-2007, 270 m, D. Guillot; 30SYJ1993, Náquera, Els Trencalls, scrubland, 377 m, 18-VI-2007, D. Guillot" (Guillot & al., 2009) and in "30SYJ18, Bétera, facing the Green Centre, 4-II-2011, 93 m, D. Guillot; 30SYJ17, Manises, near the motorway to Barcelona, 16-V-2011, 59 m, D. Guillot" (Guillot, 2013). In the Biodiversity Data Bank of the Valencian Community (2014) we also find a reference "E. of Laguna Lumbreras, P. Pérez Rovira & A. Navarro Peris. 2013. 31TBE76. 31TBE7869 Peñíscola Castellón".

The Daisy Database (2014) regards one of the



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- 4 - *Echinopsis pachanoi*.
- 5 - *Gasteraloe* × *beguinii*.
- 6 - *Portulacaria afra*.

parents, *Aloe ciliaris*, as allochthonous in Madeira, and the other parent, *A. succotrina*, in France and Spain. *Aloe ciliaris* has been observed in Gran Canaria (Kunkel, 1972).

2. *Aloe variegata* L. (Aloaceae).

VALENCIA: 30SYJ1194, Olocau, near village, in scrubland areas, various specimens, 4-V-2014, 296 m, D. Guillot.

It has been previously cited in the Valencian Community in "VALENCIA: 30SYJ2096, Serra, gorge, 342 m, 3-I-2002, Guillot" (Guillot & Meer, 2005), and we also found two references in the Biodiversity Data Bank of Valencia (2014) "J. E. Oltra Benavent & A. Navarro Peris 2011. 30SYJ12. 30SYJ1720 Xàtiva VALENCIA" and "J. E. Oltra Benavent. 2010. 30SYJ30. 30SYJ3700 Vall de

Gallinera ALICANTE".

It is distributed naturally in Namibia and South Africa (Northern Cape, Western Cape, Free State) (Newton, 2001).

3. *Cleistocactus samaipatanus* (Cárdenas) D. R. Hunt (Cactaceae).

VALENCIA: 30SYJ1584, 84 m, Paterna, La Cañada, on the margins of a ravine with scrub and low pine vegetation, P.P. Ferrer & I. Ferrando, 27-I-2014.

First record as allochthonous for the Spanish and European flora. This species is widely distributed in the lowlands of Santa Cruz, Bolivia (Anderson, 2001).

4. *Echinopsis pachanoi* (Britton & Rose) H. Friedrich & G. D. Rowley (Cactaceae).

VALENCIA: 30SYJ1584, 84 m, Paterna, La Cañada, on the margins of a ravine with scrub and low pine vegetation. P. P. Ferrer & I. Ferrando, 27-I-2014.

It is the second reference for the Iberian



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Peninsula and Balearic Islands, having been cited earlier in "VALENCIA: 30SYJ0649, Catadau, 220 m. P.P. Ferrer & I. Ferrando (CIEF: in culture). 8-VIII-2013; 30SYJ2079, Godella, 79 m, E. Laguna & V. Deltoro. 12-VI-2013" (Laguna & al., 2013).

It is distributed in Ecuador (Jørgensen & Ulloa, 1994; Madsen, 1989; Jørgensen & León-Yáñez, 1999; Backeberg, 1959; Anderson, 2001), Bolivia (Saravia, 1996) and Peru (Anderson, 2001). Britton & Rose (1920) indicate that this species was widely cultivated throughout the Andean region of Ecuador, where it was grown as an ornamental and as a hedge crop, and in one of the adjacent valleys of the western slopes of the Andes it seemed to be native, in Alausí for instance, but "as long as it has been widely cultivated it was impossible to identify the wild habitat". The same authors add that this species belongs to the high Andes, within a range of 2000-3000 meters altitude. It has long been used by indigenous people for their psychotomimetic properties (hallucinogenic) (Anderson, 2001), being a mescaline cactus (Pummangura & al., 1982) used in Peru for the diagnosis and cure of diseases

1 - *Stapelia variegata*.

2 - *Yucca recurvifolia*.

(Dobkin, 1968).

5. *Gasteraloe × beguinii* (Radl) Guillaumin (Aloaceae).

VALENCIA: 30SYJ1584, 84 m, Paterna, La Cañada, on the margins of a ravine with scrub and low pine vegetation. P. P. Ferrer & I. Ferrando, 27-I-2014.

This is the first record for the allochthonous flora of Valencia, and the second for the Iberian Peninsula, having been previously mentioned by Sanz-Elorza "30TYM2253 Piracés, slope with debris and nitro halophytic vegetation, between the village and the road to Tramaced, 440 m, 25-XII-2004, M. Sanz-Elorza, MA 726873" (cf. Sanz-Elorza. 2006).

It is a hybrid artificially obtained from crossing *Aloe aristata* Haw. × *Gasteria carinata* (Mill.) Duval,



9 - *Yucca recurvifolia*.

both originating from southern Africa (Cape Region) (Sanz-Elorza, 2006). Like many related species, it is a valuable garden plant (Sanz-Elorza, 2006).

Gasteria carinata (Mill.) Duval var. *verrucosa* (Mill.) van Jaarsveld has been cited in the province of Valencia in "30SYJ8507, Benaguacil, uncultivated land, 61 m, 7-V-2002, D. Guillot; 30SYJ2096, Serra, uncultivated land, along the highway near Serra Portacoeli, 342 m, 21-IV-2001, D. Guillot" (Guillot, 2003).

6. *Portulacaria afra* Jacq. (Portulacaceae).

VALENCIA: 30S7116754397404, Olocau, 280 m, margin of road, out of the village towards Gátova. D. Guillot. 14-IV-2014.

It is distributed in the eastern parts of South Africa, in Eastern Cape, northern parts of KwaZulu-Natal, Swaziland, Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces, and Mozambique (Hankey, 2009).

7. *Stapelia variegata* L. (Asclepidaceae).

VALENCIA: 30S7116754397404, Olocau, 280 m, margin of road, out of the village towards Gátova. D. Guillot. 14-IV-2014.

This is the first record as allochthonous in Valencia and Spain. The plant is native to the Cape Province. (Jacobsen, 1954).

8. *Yucca recurvifolia* Salisbury (Agavaceae).

VALENCIA: 30S7254684406741, Algar del Palancia, 192 m, clearing and pine forest, at the entrance into the village, close to the motorway to Mudejar, with many specimens raised from escaped seed, on a gentle slope. D. Guillot. 12-IV-2014. This is the second record as allochthonous in Spain and Europe.

It has been mentioned earlier in "VALENCIA: 30SYJ2092, Náquera, scrubland area, with species such as *Pinus halepensis* Mill., *Pistacia lentiscus* L., *Quercus coccifera* L. etc, and with other succulent species such as *Austrocyllindropuntia subulata* (Engelm) Backeb. and *Aloe saponaria* (Aiton) Haw., close to the village Mont Ros, 200 m, D. Guillot" (Guillot & al., 2013). The Daisie Data Base (2014) mentions this species and indicates as being a synonym of *Yucca gloriosa*, a closely related species to *Y. recurvifolia*. Its treatment as a species or variety of *Y. gloriosa* depends on the author, for example, Sargent (1905) includes it in *Y. gloriosa* and states in regards to *Y. recurvifolia* and the other cultivars (1891-1902): "Slight variations in foliage and habit of young flowering stems of this species (*Y. gloriosa*) grown in gardens, have been taken by European botanists as evidence of distinct species, which has resulted in great confusion in the names applied to the cultivated Yuccas". The major differences between the two are the most flexible and loose leaves, inflorescences barely surpassing the leaves, their smaller and erect fruits and autumn flowering season against mostly erect leaves, inflorescences arranged on the leaves, fruit longer and pendulous and spring flowering season in *Y. gloriosa* (Thiede, 2001).

Bibliography

biznaga blanca chilona

another habitat pictorial about

epithelantha



Cristian Perez Badillo, Guanajuato, Mexico.

The name „Epithelantha” derives from the Greek words *epi* meaning “upon, on, at, over”, *thele* meaning “nipple” (denoting the tubercles), and *anthos* meaning “flower”, referring to the flowers are borne at the tip of the tubers.

This genus has a very wide distribution in the Chihuahuan Desert and can be also found in some southern states of the United States such as New Mexico and Texas.

However, Mexico is where you can find most of the locations and most of the species and subspecies of the genus, especially Coahuila, Nuevo León, Zacatecas, San Luis Potosí; yet the biggest concentration is in Coahuila and

Nuevo León. In some places you can find large *Epithelantha* populations growing together with some subspecies of the same and forming micro populations. I have to admit that this genus is not exciting me a lot and, on top of that, is creating for me some confusion in regards to some of its subspecies. During my travels I have seen variations in shape in different locations which I would not regard as significant. Although most individual plants are small, in some places it is awesome to see large clusters formed over the years.

Therefore I’m going to mention few of the *Epithelantha* populations I have seen in my travels, and also comment on other species inhabiting the same areal.



Epithelantha unguispina* (Boed.) N.P.Taylor ssp. *unguispin

Locality: Potrero Grande, Nuevo León.

It coexists here with *Turbincarpus saueri* ssp. *septentrionalis* G.F. Matuszewski & J. Snicer, *Astrophytum capricorne* (A. Dietrich) Britton & Rose, *Escobaria dasyacantha* Britton & Rose ssp. *chaffeyi* (Britton & Rose) N.P. Taylor, *Echinocereus enneacanthus* Engelmann. There are different micro populations in this area, most of them being concentrated on small hills and rocky outcrops.



Epithelantha greggii (Eng.) Orcutt ssp. greggii

Locality: Parras, Coahuila.

Companion species are *Ariocarpus fissuratus* K. Schum. ssp. *lloydii* (Rose) U. Guzmán, *Echinocereus enneacanthus* Engelman, *Astrophytum coahuilense* (H. Möller) Kayser, *Coryphantha poselgeriana* Britton & Rose var. *valida* Heinrich ex Backeb., *Coryphantha difficilis* (Quehl) A. Berger. It has a very wide distribution, most of the specimens can be found under small shrubs, as well as on the banks of small dry creeks.



Epithelantha greggii (Eng.) Orcutt ssp. greggii

Locality: Cuatro Ciéneas, Coahuila.

Companion species are *Ariocarpus fissuratus* (Engelm.) K. Schum., *Mammillaria lasiacantha* Engelman, *Coryphantha echinus* (Engelm.) Britton & Rose, *Epithelantha bokei* L.D. Benson, *Escobaria zilziana* (Boed.) Backeb., *Echinomastus hispidus* D. Donati & C. Zanovello, and *Escobaria vivipara* (Nutt.) Buxb. This species can be found on small rocky hills and near streams where it thrives in gravel mounds. It grows on a large area, with plants varying greatly in size and shape; some specimens reaching up to 13 cm in height.

contents →



**Epithelantha greggii (Eng.) Orcutt
ssp. greggii**

Locality: Monclova, Coahuila.

It grows here along with *Echinomastus mariposensis* Hester, *Ancistrocactus scheeri* Britton & Rose, *Lophophora williamsii* (Lem. ex Salm-Dyck.), and *Coryphantha ramillosa* Cutak. This is a population where you can see large multi-headed specimens, some of them having well over 40 heads. Typically the plant grows on small ridges containing plenty of gravel.

We actually can consider this a stable population.

contents →



***Epithelantha greggii* ssp. *polycephala* (Backbg) Donati & Zanovello**

Locality: Hipolito, Coahuila.

Companion species are *Thelocactus bicolor* ssp. *bicolor* (Galeotti ex Pfeiffer) Britton & Rose, *Echinocactus horizonthalonius* Lem., *Echinocereus pectinatus* (Scheidweiler) Engelmann, *Coryphantha difficilis* (Quehl) A. Berger, *Epithelantha pachyrhiza* ssp. *parvula* D. Donati & C. Zanovello, *Mammillaria lasiacantha* Engelmann, *Neollodya conoidea* Britton & Rose, *Astrophytum capricorne* (A. Dietrich) Britton & Rose, *Echinomastus mariposensis* Hester, *Lophophora williamsii* (Lem. ex Salm-Dyck) J.M. Coult. This plant grows on small hillocks and is abundant in the area; more, their distribution seems to be very broad.





***Epithelantha greggii* (Eng.) Orcutt ssp. *potosina* D. Donati & C. Zanovello**

Locality: Huizache, Guadalcazar, San Luis Potosí.

Grows along *Astrophytum myriostigma* Lem., *Lophophora williamsii* (Lem. ex Salm-Dyck.) J.M. Coult., *Leuchtenbergia principis* W. J. Hooker and *Stenocactus* spp. In this locality the plants were over collected for illegal sale and populations are scarce; some specimens can be found next to the beds of small dry creeks.





***Epithelantha ilariae* D. Donati & C. Zanovello**

Locality: Bustamante, Nuevo León.

It grows along here with *Coryphantha salinensis* (Poselg.) A.D. Zimmermann ex R.F. Dicht & A.D. Lüthy and *Wilcoxia poselgeri* Lem. This is a population with only a few specimens, growing on a small hill. Highly likely there are more populations in the area, but I have to investigate this during future trips. However, but I've seen more specimens in Candela, Coahuila.



distribution of the trifid disease of cacti in habitat



Malcolm Grant, Auckland, New Zealand

Abstract

A literature survey of habitat photographs indicates that the trifid disease in cacti occurs naturally in part of South America: Bolivia, Uruguay and northern Argentina and Chile. Up to 1% of plants are infected.

Introduction

Trifids were identified by Rowley (2006) as di- and trichotomies of the apex. A population explosion of trifids within the author's collection established that this is a communicable disease, spread by contaminated soil or by sap contact, eg grafting. (Grant 2009, 2013). Subsequent observations have further established that the infective agent is not killed by alcohol, as previously observed by Mattijetz (2002) in respect of virus infections of epiphytic cacti. Mattijetz' summary accurately applies to the trifid infection:

"Mechanical transfer can be by insect bite, touching or scraping, or by artificial means, such

as grafting, or transfer from cutting tools. Once infected, the new plant cannot be "cured" of this plant virus... it must live with it, or be destroyed to eliminate the virus. Chemical disinfection of these plant viruses on cutting tools is also not entirely possible.... the viruses can still survive after the application of alcohol or other chemicals. The only effective means to eliminate viruses from cutting tools, etc is by the heat method.... heating the surface to a high enough temperature to sterilize the surface, thereby destroying the virus."

The author has observed in cactus literature and online galleries the occasional trifid, leading to the conclusion that the disease is widespread but uncommon. To quantify this observation, a survey was made of readily available journal literature, to establish the frequency of occurrence. The survey was restricted to occurrence in habitat, because of the possibility of transference in cultivation.



The survey

A survey was made of available published journals, paper or online. The journals were surveyed for habitat photos of globular cacti in South America. The tritid disease is only known to create symptoms in globular cacti, although cereoid grafting stocks do apparently carry the disease with no apparent symptoms. Observations in habitat are also found only from South America.

A photograph was included in the survey if the apex was visible, so that it could be seen if growth was normal. Many images were marginal for this purpose but in case of doubt the photo was

1 - *Parodia mammulosa* (Garbarini 2014). 2 - *Lobivia bonniae* (R. Kiesling, *Cactus & Succ J (US)* 73 (4), 2001). 3 - *Gymnocalycium spegazzinii* (Delladio & Delladio 2011).

included in the tally. The journals were surveyed are listed in Table 1 below.

In addition, there is reported in *Cactus & Succ J (US)* v81 no3, p112, observation in Eastern Brazil of *Uebelmannia gummifera* developing "a strange

	v27(2009)
CactusWorld	v30(2012)
	v32(2014) no.1
Cactus Explorer	Nos. 1-11
Xerophilia	Nos. 1-9
	1999no.3
	2004no.3
Cactus&Co	2006no.1
	2008 nos.3&4
	2010 nos.1-4
Succulentopi@	Nos. 1-9
Boletín Informativo de la SLCSS	Nos. 1-10
	v65(1993)
Cactus & Succ. J (US)	v75(2003)
	v79(2007)
	v86(2014)no.2



Table 1 - Journals surveyed.

4 - *Eriogyne napina* ssp. *challensis* (Carlos Alonso Hidalgo Villa) (*Xerophilia* 6, 2013).

Journal	Volume	No	Page	Fig	Genus	Species	Country
CactusWorld	32	1	17	13	Parodia	mammulosa	Uruguay
	27	1	36	8	Lobivia	famatimensis*	
Cactus Explorer		2	51	9	Gymnocalycium	spegazzinii	N. Argentina
Xerophilia		6	42	10 (lower left)	Eriogyne	napina challensis	N. Chile
		9	64	8	Gymnocalycium	spegazzinii	N. Argentina
Cactus&Co	2008	4	258	Lower	"Weingartia [Sulcorebutia]"	purpurea santiaginis	Bolivia
Cactus & Succ J (US)	73	5	257	5	Sulcorebutia	mentosa	
		4	182	4	Lobivia	bonnieae	N. Argentina

Table 2 - Identified trifids: There were analyzed a total of 750 photographs. Of these, 8 were trifid.

* *Lobivia famatimensis*, N. Argentina = Photo is in cultivation but identified as collected in that form



5 - *Lobivia famatimensis* (Damsma & Damsma 2009).
 Photo in cultivation of habitat collected plant. 6 -
Gymnocalycium spegazzinii (Aldo Delladdio, 2014)
 (*Xerophilia* 9).

three-angled pattern of areoles or crests at the apex" but without a photo.

No survey was made of plants in cultivation but the author has observed the occasional specimen within photo galleries. It is widespread but uncommon, and possibly more frequent in European collections than American.

Conclusion

These cases show that about 1% of the wild stock of globular cacti is infected with the trifold virus, in a band across South America including Bolivia, Uruguay, northern Chile & Argentina, and possibly extending into Brazil.

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anthophagy

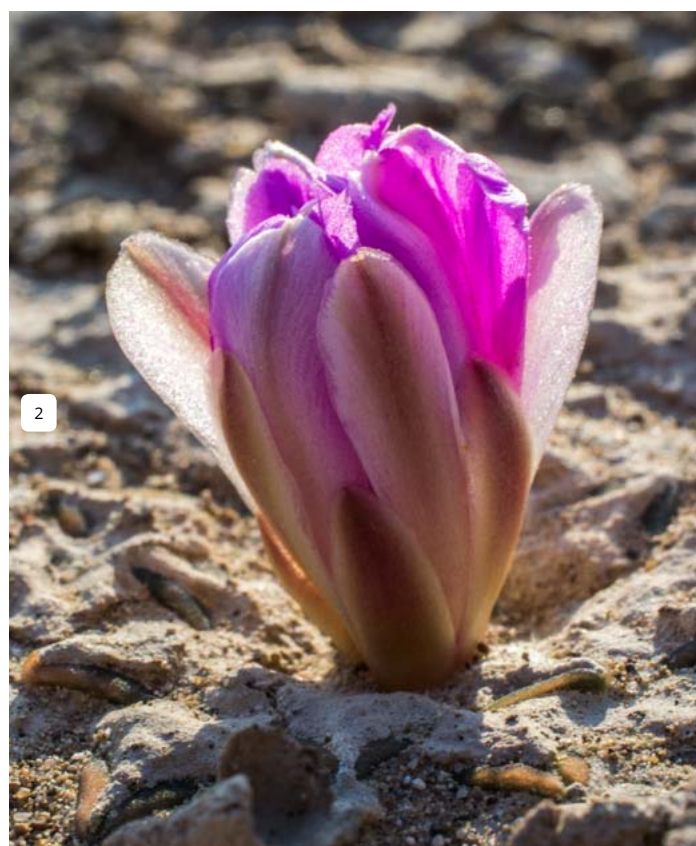


Miguel Angel González Botello, Guadalupe, Nuevo León, Mexico. e-Mail: gonzalezii@gmail.com
President of *Sociedad de Cactáceas y Suculentas del Estado de Nuevo León, A.C*

1 & 2 - flowers sprouting from the ground

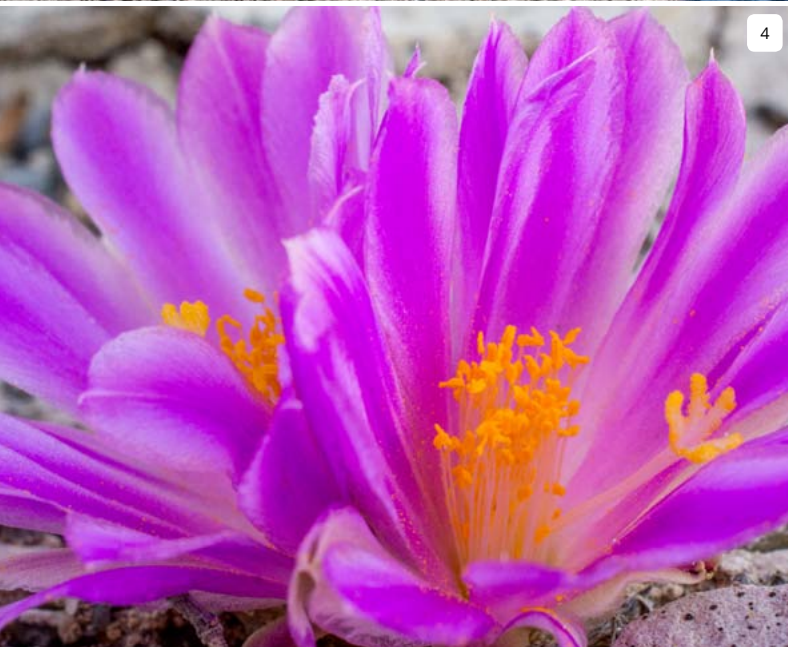
An invitation to attend, as a spectator, a sporting event in the town of Mina, was the perfect excuse to look for *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus*, but unfortunately it was already 5:30 pm, too late to find any open flowers.

The next day I invited my wife Margarita to accompany me in a quick tour to catch the show





3



4



5



6

3 - Margarita searching and photographing *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* plants - shown in the photo by round dark circles. 4 - Flower detail. 5 & 6 - The blister beetle from the species *Megetra cancellata* makes its appearance in front of the camera.

which was of course just 50 minutes away using the toll motorway. Arriving at the site, a few minutes before 4 pm, I must admit that I have come, fearing that plants flowers were already closed. Undoubtedly, seeing the first specimen was a great relief.

My wife and I were amazed by the show provided by the so abundant flowering and, more, by the so uncommon sight of the flowers



7

"emerging directly from the soil". But another being immediately caught my attention and although the beautiful plant remained the protagonist, however, the aiming of my camera's lens at the scene was hijacked by a specimen of *Megetra cancellata*, a beetle of the Meloidae family, which I saw year last in exactly the same place, but this time feeding from an *Ariocarpus* flower.

The blister beetles of the *Megetra* (*) genus are widespread in arid and semiarid areas of Mexico and the United States, but mainly in the

7 - The blister beetle attacks and devours an *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* flower. In this photo and in the next one, you can easily notice that the pollen grains on leaves a golden dust on the insect's body. By eating the plant's pistil, as you can see in the photo of the flower after the attack, and in the film made by the author, the insect cannot play an active pollinator role.



8



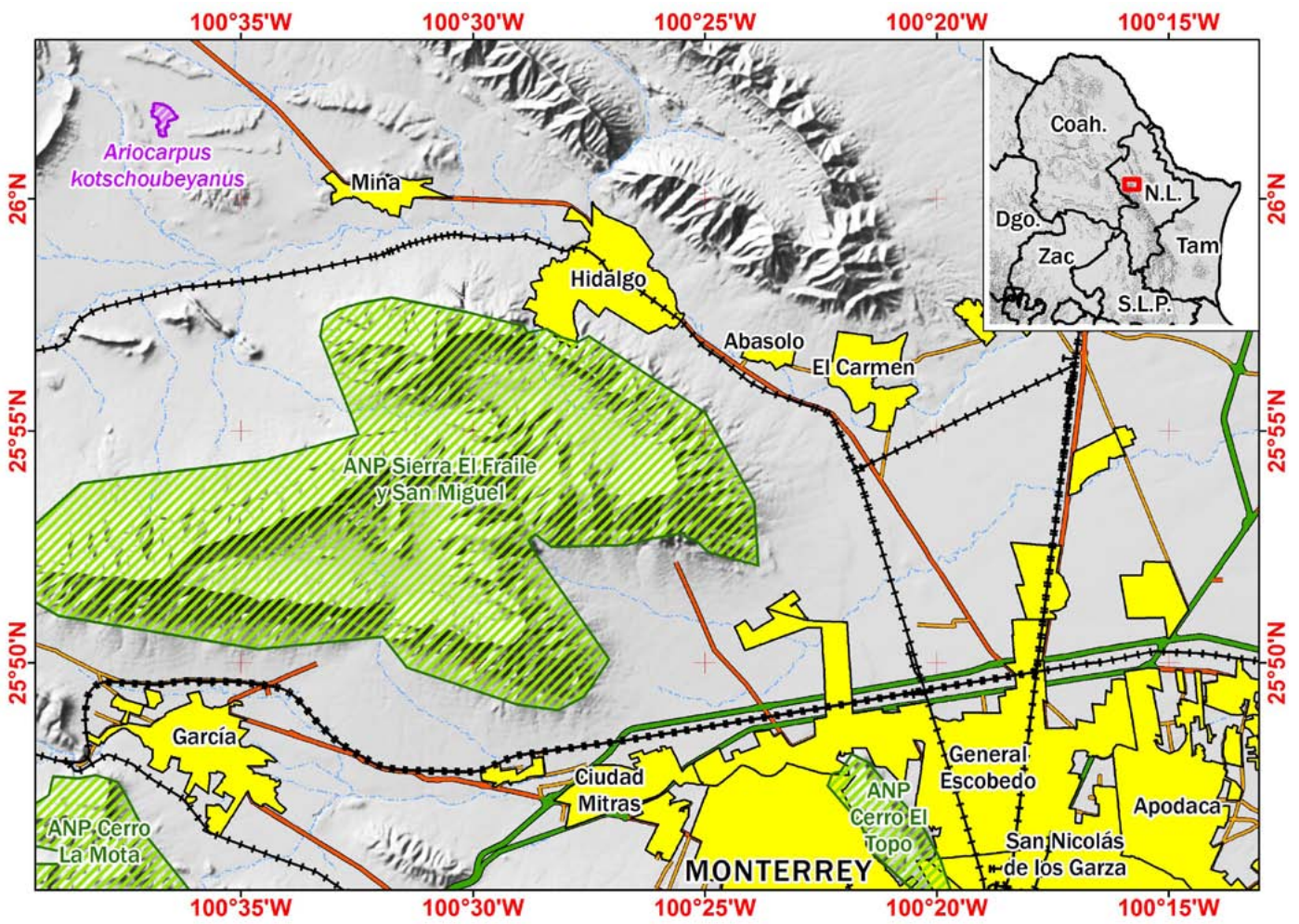
9

8 - The blister beetle continuing to devour the flower of *A. kotschoubeyanus*. 9 - The plant's flowers after the attack; it is quite visible that one of the pistils was eaten and therefore the plant will miss out a valuable fruit..

Chihuahuan Desert. These insects produce a toxin called cantharidin (**), which can become as toxic as cyanide or strychnine. Cantharidin causes inflammation, colic, fatigue, fever, depression, rapid heart rate and accelerated breathing, dehydration, sweating and diarrhoea. Only 10 mg is enough to cause the death of a human.

So now, having peculiar story of beetle, I think it might be interesting to share some photos and a short video, in which you can see how, in less than two minutes, the insect could eat half of a flower; unfortunately, the film is a bit underexposed and slightly out of focus – but still worth seeing.

The location is situated approximately 3 km south east of Boca de Potrerillos archaeological area, known for its petroglyphs dating back nearly 8,000 years.



Location map of *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* population, Mi Mina, municipality, northeastern Monterrey, Nuevo León - map by the author.

According to some observations in the field and based on satellite images, the *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* local population is estimated to cover at least 60 hectares. Considering the plants have uniform distribution and the distance between the individuals would be of 10 m, on one hectare would be 100 plants, which would mean something like 6,000 plants in total; however, if this distance would be 5 m, on 60 ha the population would reach 24,000 plants; however, in most populations, the distribution is clustered and in order to estimate the population size systematic collection of data and remote sensing technologies have to be employed, the results of such estimation will be released soon in this magazine.

Xero-notes

(*) The “blister beetle” (genus *Megetra*, fam. Meloidae) is a beetle that, when alarmed or crushed, gives off a substance called cantharidin, a highly toxic chemical that causes blistering upon contact with skin and mucous membranes. The larvae are typically parasites of other insects.

(**) Cantharidin (C₁₀H₁₂O₄) is a toxic substance extracted from ash tree beetle known as cantharide in French (*Lytta vesicatoria* - fam. Meloidae). The ash tree beetle contains about 5% cantharidin. The liquid is produced and then secreted by its abdominal glands, it is a substance that - in contact with skin or mucous membranes - is causing irritation, burning, blistering and sometimes, if ingested, even death. Cantharidin is the oldest local aphrodisiac substance known in Europe, being used from ancient Rome to ... China. The aphrodisiac action of cantharidin is due to local effects produced by it, through long-term irritation and inflammation of glands and genital mucosa, which generates a higher and faster afflux of blood to the sexual organs. Cantharidin is produced and insect males of the family *Meloidae* during copulation and has a stimulating effect on the female. (adapted from Wikipedia)

ATTENTION!

Do not use cantharidin - danger of injury or even death !!

a cultivation experiment

Copiapoa cinerea



Federico Centenari, Italy.

Previously classified as *Echinocactus*, plants of the genus *Copiapoa* are native to desert areas of the coastal regions of northern Chile. Particularly resistant to drought, in habitat *Copiapoa* is obtaining the necessary water by absorbing moisture from the persistent fogs covering the coast of Chile during their growing season (the period corresponding to their winter). The dry season is characterized instead by extreme drought, intense heat and merciless sun. To protect themselves from the strong sunlight *Copiapoa* species develop a white / greyish waxy layer (bloom) covering the entire stem: this is in addition to the spines, which are ranging from black to gray and are thick, conferring to these plants a typical aspect, very appreciated by collectors. The phenomenon is particularly evident in habitat plants, but it also occurs in some specimens in cultivation, although to a lesser extent and after a much longer period of time.

Typical for this genus - and emblematic in regards to the production of the waxy layer

1 - Plant from the author's collection



protecting the plant from the sun - is *Copiapoa cinerea*. A slow-growing plant, *Copiapoa cinerea* is initially spherical (perfectly spherical from the seedling stage to 4-5 years old plants) and becomes only with time elongated, slightly cylindrical, even up to a meter in height in habitat. The spines, straight and shiny black, are sparse and vary in number („The radial ones to 6-7, rarely absent, the central 1 or 2“; cit. Giuseppe Lodi (2001), “Le mie piante grasse”, ed. Edagricole). They flower in old age, not earlier than 15-20 years: yellow flowers appearing at the apex, about 3 centimetres wide.



The experiment

The experiment was conducted in cultivation, over four years, on two young specimens of *Cylindropuntia cinerea* grown on different substrates. The plants were bought from the same grower and are part of a single sowing batch carried out in 2005. Both were purchased at the same time, in the spring of 2009: the experiment therefore involved two identical four years old specimens, at the time potted in 5.5 cm round pots.

2 - Comparison before being repotted for the first time. 3 - *Cylindropuntia* in marl, top view. 4 - *Cylindropuntia* in standard soil, top view. 5 - *Cylindropuntia* in marl, frontal view. 6 - *Cylindropuntia* in standard soil, frontal view.



7



8

7 - Copiapoa in standard soil, roots. 8 - Copiapoa in marl, roots.

Once purchased, the plants were immediately repotted. Their „original” soil was common: up to about half consisting of peat, while the other half was a mix of lapilli and pumice. However, the roots of both specimens appeared to be healthy. They were not particularly branched, but still in good condition. After the roots were completely cleaned from the previous soil, the plants were left in the shadow, bare rooted, for a couple of days.

The potting mix

Subsequently I proceeded with repotting, placing both specimens in square 7 cm wide and 8 cm high plastic pots. For the first plant my choice was to prepare a substrate that is similar to its original environment, only with a minor change in the additional peat. In detail: one-third peat moss, one third lapilli (sifted) and third pumice (also sifted), thus adopting the formula considered by cactus aficionados the „standard” for a growing Cactaceae.

For the second specimen I used instead clay marl containing elongated small quartz particles (3-4 mm). In this case the marl was extracted from Emiliano Apennines, ranging from fine particles, in fact powdered clay, to coarse parts of one to two centimetres. Around the base of both specimens, once repotted, was placed sieved lapilli.

Insolation

The two *Copiapoa* spent the next four years side by side, so as to ensure their identical exposure to sunlight, in a greenhouse exposed on three sides, getting direct sun from about 10.30 am until sunset (during March to September: we find ourselves in Lombardy). For filtering the sunlight there is only the polycarbonate roof, since the front part of the greenhouse is made of glass that wasn't treated. Occasionally and without any precise schedule, both plants have been turned over the years, so as to ensure insolation on all sides.

Watering

Watering, identical in frequency and generous in quantity with both specimens, was made once a month from April to September, from above, but taking care not to wet the plant in order to prevent the impact of water on the plant's body and prevent washing out the thin layer of bloom. Additional to the watering, there was some occasional misting in the late afternoon or in the evening. Since the end of September, a complete stop on watering and misting.

Fertilization

There was little fertilization, carried out twice a year except for 2013 (the last year before being repotted again) when fertilization was avoided altogether.

Temperature

From 2009 to January of 2014 the two *Copiapoa* have remained in the same place in the greenhouse, coming to withstand temperatures of up to 40 °C in summer and winter minimums of three and a half degrees below zero, with humidity levels tending to be rather high, sometimes exceeding 80%. In winter, the



greenhouse is closed (although it was aired once every two weeks or so) but I relied on a fan to move the air inside.

Comparison at repotting

In January 2014, the two *Copiapoa* have been repotted: they have spent together a little less than five years since the beginning of the experiment, and the plants are almost nine years of age. Both are in good health: no cold damage or sunburns, and the growth is proportional in both cases.

Both specimens have a good root system, healthy and well branched. Once removed the soil particles from the dry roots, there is a greater branching in the sample grown in standard potting soil, although for the one grown up in marl the primary roots appear to be more consistent and robust (as it actually should be for this kind of plant).

Differences

After nearly five years of growing in two different soil types, the *Copiapoa* were looking substantially different. The first and the most apparent was the difference of size: the plant grown in standard potting mix (peat) is considerably larger than the one grown in marl. More in detail, diameter of the two plants differs by at least one centimetre. The second noticeable difference is in regards to the colour of the stem: green for the specimen grown in standard potting soil; light grey for the plant grown in marl. The reason is higher production of bloom in the plant grown in marl, although a slight waxy layer is also noticeable in the specimen grown in peat.

Finally, differences can be seen also in spination, denser in the specimen grown in standard potting soil (especially towards the apex). Both specimens have well-formed spines (five radial, one central), shiny black, robust, and not yet lapsed at the bottom, as it happens in adult plants.

9 & 10 - Both specimens after being repotted for the second time.

New repotting

Once cleaned the roots of the two specimens from the old soil, we proceeded with the transplant in 7 cm wide and 10 cm high square pots. Even for this new repotting different soil types were used. For the plant grown in standard potting soil it was used a well-draining but nutrient rich mix consisting of peat, lapilli, pumice, zeolite, perlite and a little added fertilizer (bone meal). The plant grown in marl was further kept in a potting mix based on marl, however, supplemented with the addition of inert materials such as pumice, lapilli, zeolite and quartzite.

Conclusion

The photos speak better than any description. It is sufficient to note that, for this type of plants, a lean substrate, lacking peat and almost completely inert as may be the marl, promotes a more growth „natural“, allows to obtain specimens similar to those from habitats, compared to the results that are obtained with the use of a peat-based potting soil. The appearance of the plant grown in marl is similar to that observed in habitat, especially thanks to the higher production of bloom induced by a significantly slower growth (as evidenced by the different size of the two specimens), compared to that provided by a standard soil. Even the slightly sparser spination of the specimen grown in marl ensures a more „natural“ look, contributing to the overall result.

The *Copiapoa* are, moreover, slow-growing plants, perfectly prepared to withstand long periods of drought (between Cactaceae, as far as I was able to observe, are among the least likely to „deflate“ during the winter doldrums) and able to thrive well only with a limited supply of nutrients. Undoubtedly, the marl favours these conditions, supporting growth rates similar to those achieved by *Copiapoa* in nature.

a huge

ariocarpus retusus



Antonio Ibarra Pecina, San Louis Potosí, SLP, Mexico.

Specimen of *Ariocarpus retusus* with multiple heads and a diameter of 50 cm, which was found during a walk with my best friend Edgardo Jimenez, in the municipality of Soledad de Graciano Sanchez SLP, Mexico.

The habitat is located about 1800 meters above sea level, on a slope formed by colluvial sand and limestone gravel hardened by carbonate beds, known as “caliche”.

The plant is associated with other cacti such as: *Thelocactus hexaedrophorus*, *Echinocactus horionthalonius*, *Mammillaria formosa*, among other *Mammillaria* and different kinds of *Opuntia*.

Xero-Notes

Caliche - a hardened natural cement of calcium carbonate that binds other materials—such as gravel, sand, clay, and silt. It occurs worldwide, in aridisol and mollisol soil orders—generally in arid or semiarid regions, including the High Plains of the western USA and the Sonoran Desert. (Wikipedia)



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a textile metaphor of cacti and succulents

inert rooting

Xero-Arts



Linda Cecilia Muñoz, Monterrey, N.L., Mexico. e-Mail: lindacecilia.artwork@gmail.com
<http://inertrooting.tumblr.com/>
<http://lindaceciliam.wix.com/lindacecilia>
<http://lindacecilia.tumblr.com/>

My artwork is an introspection that addresses the rooting of oneself into the Earth; it is a personal reflection on being a part of a certain place and system. Being attached to the Earth a link is created to develop mechanisms to adapt to the environments established by nature, by society and by individual factors that are introduced to us in our life time.

When the rooting lacks an inert feeling is generated and it becomes difficult to adapt and to be part of a social system where change is the only unremitting reality.

My artwork is a metaphorical textile representation of cacti and succulents native to the deserts of Mexico and includes also one Bromeliad species native of Brazil. I carry these species out of their context to insert them in a synthetic essence that makes them lifeless objects, using fabric as a flexible material that allows multiple possibilities. It is through my journey in the contemplation of the deserts that

comes my reflection and identification with the concept of rooting.

These pieces seek to generate a representation of my personal search and take something natural and get out of context in order to transmute them into something artificial, and therefore it loses its roots to become something inert, drained of the essence, of the life, and leaving only the aesthetic. Through the aesthetic of the pieces I intend to reveal feelings in narrative form and features, the representation of spines as aggressive symbols that generate a contrasting hostility to the fragility that exists behind the beautiful appearance of a cactus, allowing them to survive, to adapt.

Each piece is unique and is currently available for sale.

[To the prices list Annex](#)

contents →

en ro or

contents →



Metaphor of Opuntia lindheimeri 30 × 35 cm.



contents →

en ro or

contents →



contents →

Methapor of Peyote
20 cm diam.



*Metaphor of
Pachycereus marginatus 19 × 50 cm.*

contents →



contents →



Metaphor of Biznaga mancaballo 30 cm diam.



Metaphor of Agave lechuguilla
35 × 40 cm.



Metaphor of Zebra Plant 45 × 45 cm.



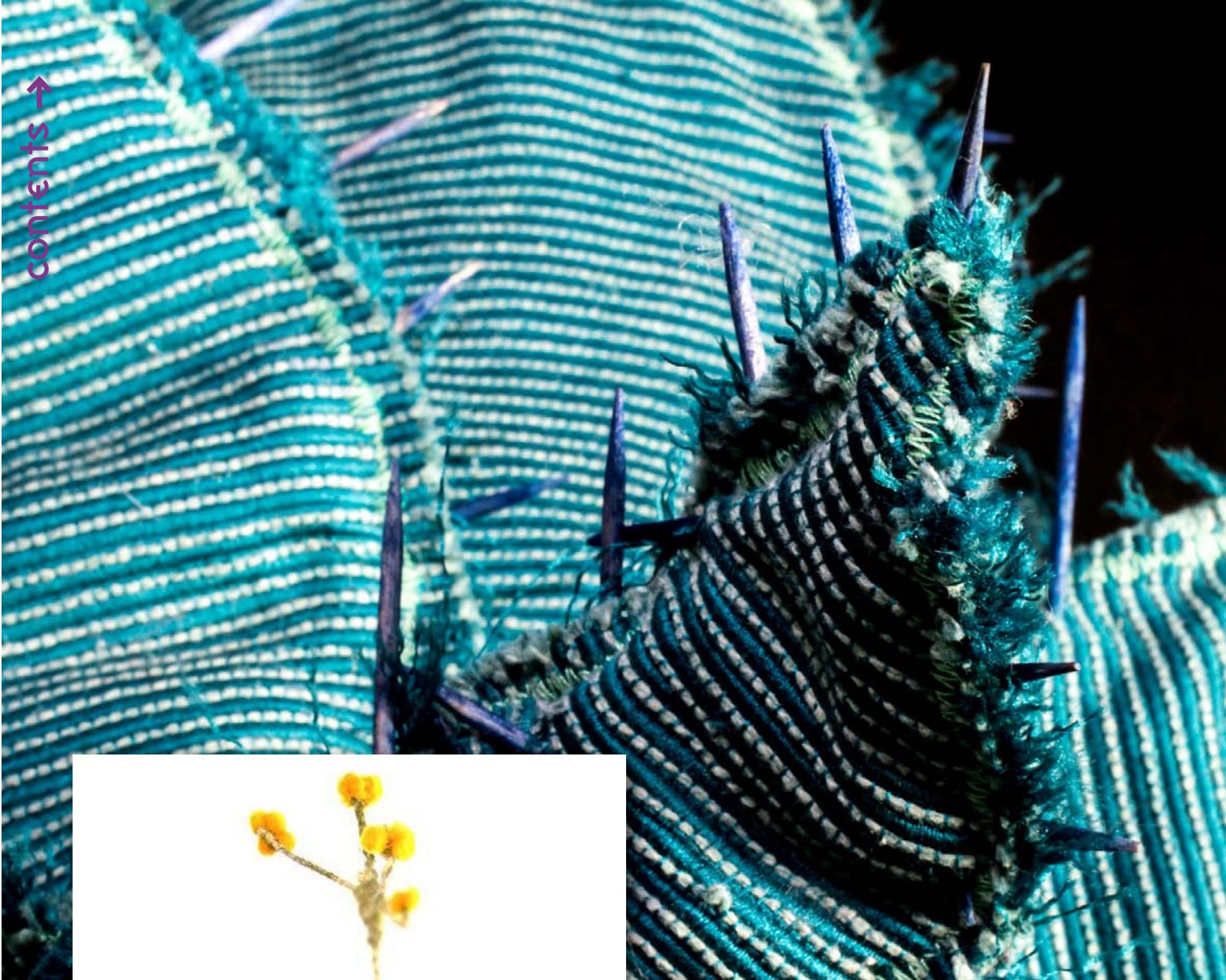
Metaphor of *Opuntia microdasys*
"Red Glochids" 16 × 25 cm.



Metaphor of *Opuntia microdasys*
"Yellow Glochids" 16 × 25 cm.



contents →



contents →

Metaphor of *Agave salmiana*
40 × 40 cm.

en ro or

contents →



Metaphor of Biznaga Roja 30 cm diam.

contents →



a new adventiv succulent recorded in new zealand

beschorneria yuccoides



Eduart Zimer, Auckland, New Zealand

Although mentioned in a brief species list (Zimer, 2014), I failed to acknowledge at the time that this was also a new recorded species for the New Zealand additional flora.

***Beschorneria yuccoides* K.Koch (Agavoideae in Asparagaceae)**

Location: Napier south, along the railway line that runs parallel to and between SH2 and Te Awa Avenue / Waitangi Road; few thickets towards the southern third of the stretch.

Date: July 2011

Category: Casual (Garden discard?, Intentional release?)

Origin: Mexico (Hidalgo, Puebla, Veracruz) at relatively high elevations: 2,700 – 3,000 m above the sea level.

Comments: Xeric Agave and Yucca relative with sub-succulent leaves. Vernacular names are: Mexican Lily, False Red Yucca, Flamingo Glow, Sisi, Amole (not strictly applied to *B.*

yuccoides only) and possibly few other names. The small genus was named in honor of the German botanist Friedrich Wilhelm Christian Beschorner. This species seems not to be very popular in contemporary New Zealand gardens, possibly due to its messy stand when unchecked and invasive behaviour, but still it is relatively common in open, old fashioned gardens. Snails damage prone especially in winter; as you can see in the pictures, the leaves are pinched in many places leaving unsightly marks.

Hard to control as it propagates locally by rhizomes forming dense stands and smothering or replacing less energetic vegetation forms. Reportedly hardy to -4 °C and recovering after damage after -10 °C frost and probably the hardiest species in this genus. It is monocarpic (main rosette dies off after flowering), but masses of offsets take over. The bluish-green foliage and the nectar laden flowers are attractive for many birds. I have no idea if New Zealand plants form seed, and there's no literature to check this detail.

In this area intentional plantings were made in the past, it also was (or still is?) a stretch where garden waste is disposed of; therefore any of the



two sources seem to be plausible. It is another of the many alpine plants doing just well in New Zealand's coastal climate. Reportedly it does well in deep sandy to heavy, loamy soils. According to www.landcareresearch.co.nz in New Zealand this species is present in captivity / cultivation / culture only. However, our account proves it is established as a cultivation escape on unchecked public land.

In October 2014 cultivation relicts of the same species were discovered in Papanoa, Northland, growing along other succulents / xerophytes, such as *Agave americana*, *Opuntia ficus-indica*, *Sedum praealtum*, *Aloe maculata*, *Sedum spectabile*,

1 - A dense stand of *Beschorneria yuccoides* (Napier).
2 - An invader abusing another invader: *Senecio angulatus* smothering an *Opuntia monacantha* 3 - *Beschorneria yuccoides* buds (Napier)



Beschorneria yuccoides buds (Napier)



5



6

5 - *Beschorneria yuccoides* flowers (*Paparoa*).
 6 - A reviving *Sedum spectabile* with *Aloe maculata* garden waste (*Paparoa*)

etc. on a seemingly abandoned section crossed by a driveway. Garden discard was also observed, so there's no wonder that some species have successfully established here.

Bibliography

Eggl, E. (ed.) (2001) Illustrated Handbook of Succulent Plants: Monocotyledons. Springer Verlag. 354 pp.
<http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/>
 San Marcos Growers <http://www.smgrowers.com>
 Zimer, E. (2014) New first records for New Zealand naturalized and casual succulent flora. *Xerophilia* 8: 95-106;

the worm: from pimps, to the luxury customers



Dag Panco, Tegheș, România.

All photos are screenshots from Facebook public pages, except for photos 10 and 11 which are screenshots of www.cichlidae.com site editorial.

Until now, I was only insisting on the actions of the habitat looters, illegal collectors and unscrupulous merchants selling what they themselves or others were stealing, shamelessness of who little care about the consequences of their actions, and you will find another set of revealing pictures.

Truth is that I uncovered and struggled only against the tail...

Yes, only against the tail, because for some time, I am amazed by the striking similarity between this string - looter, smuggler, seller, buyer - and the image of a long, complicated, soft, slippery and slimy body meandering along and among us, leaving traces of brownish mucus on everything it touches.

Eventually, looking with disgust to discern this vermicular embodiment, I found that its body swoops from habitats where its confounded tail is, to its head having many mouths, active selling points to be more specific, vents nourishing the

beast and allowing to defecate at the same time, backed by a strange and sophisticated set of oral-anal apertures: the buyers.

Being so switched on the ones I've always attacked in our pages, I was amazed to realize that I can, at least mentally, for a moment, imagine myself being in their skin: these collectors, traffickers and suppliers, these adventurers, bandits, pirates, looters - exactly like and no worthier than tomb robbers. Consequently, I managed, if not to accept - because acceptance seems impossible, at least to find a human motivation for their actions at their end of the worm: greed. I virtually shrugged my shoulders: we actually talk about the engine, not excusable, but real and present, driving all horrors, large and small, man has committed throughout its history; and, not incidentally, the Romanians name money the "devil's eye".

Is it that simple? Does the worm's tail thrive only because of its greed? Nope!

Writing these lines, which may seem bizarre to some, and to others perhaps too virulent, I decided not to keep away any words and any representations. I have decided, therefore, to



draw and portrait the worm's head as well, in all its petty misery.

The head is not only "the other end of the worm," but is its more spineless end, lacking any adventure, not the end where some money are earned, that alone could be justified by needs or simply by greed, coupled with ruthlessness. It is the end where stuff is only gathered, monopolized, hoarded, accumulated, and especially, the acquired possessions are only exhibited.

How proud can be insolence of someone who knows he is untouchable and almost beyond any punishment! How sick is the mind of someone parading such trophies, thereby divulging himself the same way, in our not so distant and honourable past, people of other colours were put on a display as oddities in museums.

The head of the worm is actually the vicious end of this grimy creature, that seemingly cannot be eradicated to any further extent.

The head end of the worm is the one which, if destroyed, would lead to the death of the entire embodiment, killing the other end, the tail, as

1 - Habitat stolen Copiapoa cinerea plants - pictures have been posted without any specifications by Jürgen Kracht and aroused the indignation of members of the Facebook group "Copiapoa - Friends", being deleted later on. 2 & 3 - Several species of the genus Copiapoa and three Geohintonia mexicana (bottom left picture), old habitat specimens are now for sale in Thailand.

We wonder what the officials and the authorities who see these pictures just as we see them, actually do?! Are they content to eat the taxpayers' money? Or waiting for the thieves apublic servants, closing your eyes?! If not, you are incompetent! If yes, you are corrupt! In both cases, you are a disgrace!

contents ↑



Fernando Manik
February 10 · · ·

With Adly Havendri and Chaiwat Rukthanakul in Nonthaburi, Thailand.

Like · Comment · Share

👍 Dumbraian Marius, Leo González, Beatriz Figueroa and 41 others like this.

🗨️ 2 shares

 **Omid Pak** I love you very very beautiful
April 28 at 6:32pm · Like

 **Tino Berni** peccato che le copiapoe siano tutte di derivazione cilena, troppo facile no ?
See Translation
5 hrs · Like · 🔄 1

Thailand Nursery Trip 2014 2 of 273 Tag Photo Options Share Send Like

4 5 6



Fernando Manik
May 27 · · ·

In Thailand

Share

Thailand Nursery Trip 2014 197 of 273 Tag Photo Options Share Send



Fernando Manik
May 27 · · ·

In Thailand

Share

Thailand Nursery Trip 2014 203 of 273 Tag Photo Options Share Send

4 - Two visitors and the Thai nursery owner, bragging with a habitat extracted plant. 5 & 6 - Same nursery, several old caudiciforms, also extracted from habitat.

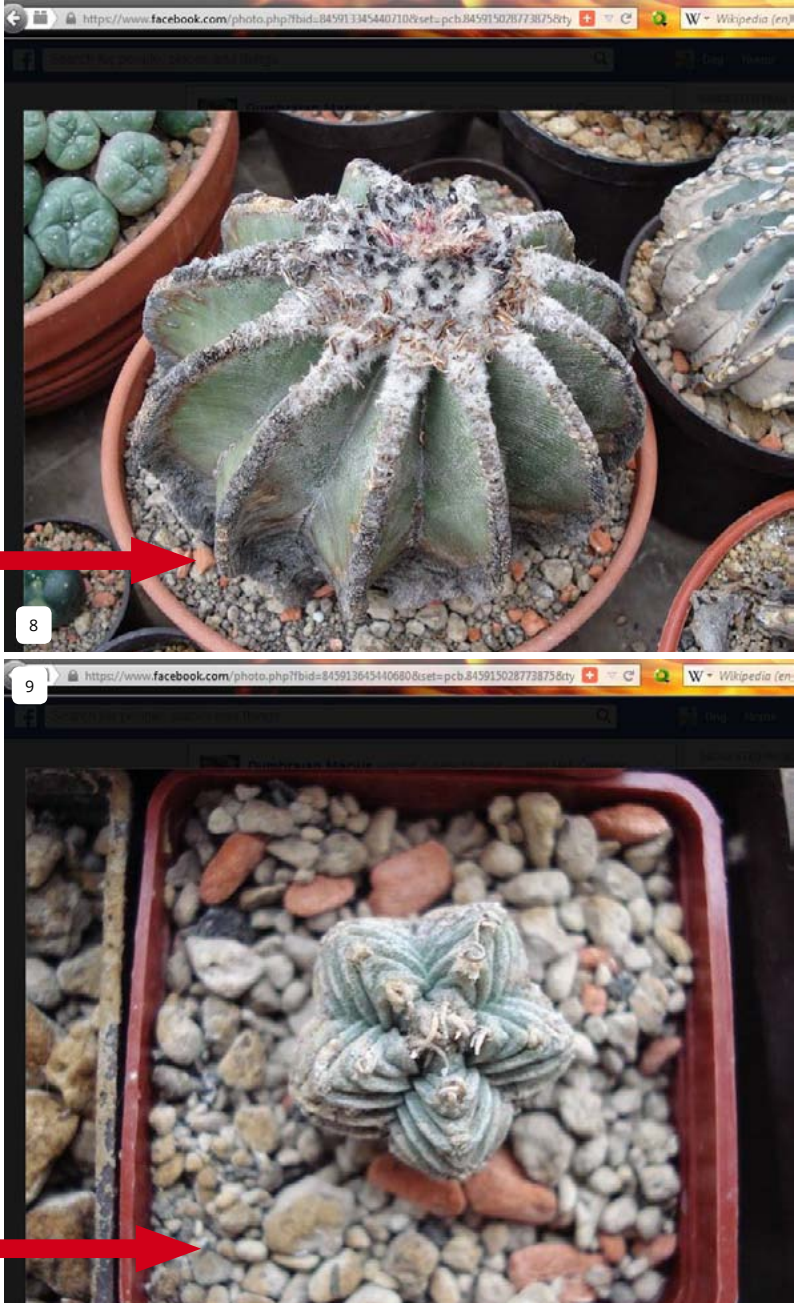
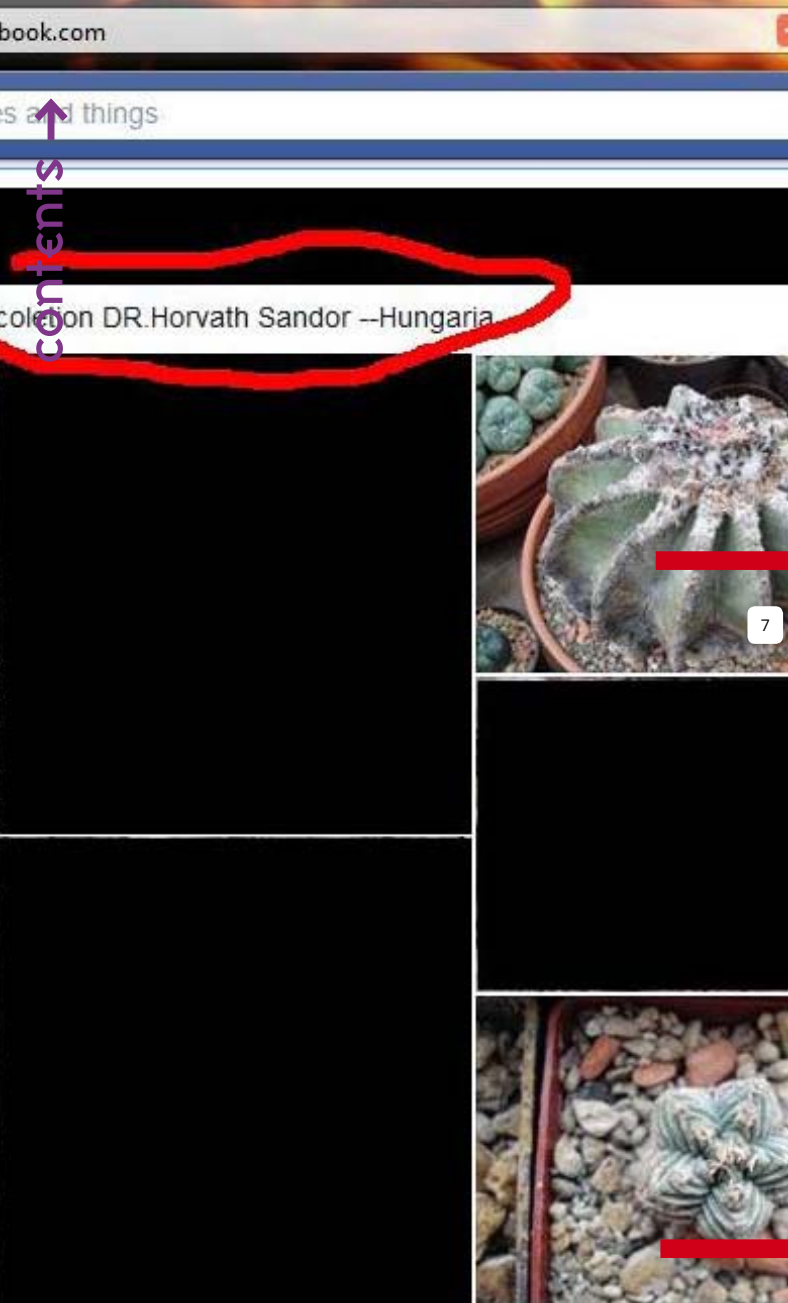
well, because without an existing demand, the offer would fade away while the risks involved during such operations, would not be worth the effort and ingenuity put to good use. This would stop the feeding-defecation mechanism, leading to the final death of the monster.

Yes, but sadly the head of the worm, as the head of any earthworm or planarian, always regenerates! ...

I've been wondering which may be the drive that makes one to want and seek, relentless, particularly creatures originating from the habitats. In their febrile search, they get to bid openly - on e-Bay, or underground - in rather closed insider circles, and finally paying

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We wonder what the officials and the authorities who see these pictures just as we see them, actually do?! Are they content to eat the taxpayers' money? Or waiting for the thieves to jump in their bag? What do you do, dear public servants, closing your eyes?! If not, you are incompetent! If yes, you are corrupt! In both cases, you are a disgrace!



exorbitant amounts. These are amounts no normal mind would consider a legitimate spending for establishing a collection. These are amounts recklessly spent. These are, above all, amounts paid only to brag they are the first or among the first to own them. These are amounts paid by those who, being no-one, will still be admired, as they would be someone. These are amounts paid by vainglorious up starters!

Yes, up starters, because, usually, these greedy "wormhead mouths" are people who can afford large extra bugetary expences without battling an eyelid, presumptuous high end hoarders, not real experts and plant lovers. Only that such buyers have always so many other options available and could choose any solution they would like, no matter how moral and, especially, lawful it actually is, in order to build up large and impressive collection, as everyone else does. And yet, no, they do not buy seeds; they are not sowing seeds; they don't look for species in high demand offered by nurseries; amazingly, even if they have the means, they don't buy old specimens from various established collections

7, 8 & 9 - Two habitat plants, *Aztekium hintonii* and *Aztekium valdezii* - from the collection of dr. Sandor Horvath from Hungary, as shown in these screenshots of photos posted on Facebook.

We wonder what the officials and authorities who see these pictures just as we see them, actually do?! Are they content to eat the taxpayers' money? Or waiting for the thieves to jump in their bag? What do you do, dear public servants, closing your eyes?! If not, you are incompetent! If yes, you are corrupt! In both cases, you are a disgrace!


10

Contents ↑

The Cichlid Room Companion

duction efforts for *Pseudotropheus saulosi*

guel...ngas Azas, 2014. d on ...ov-2014



has taken place the second re-introduction of captive bred individuals of *Pseudotropheus saulosi* to their depleted reef. 92 aquarium raised specimens now swim in their home waters."

ated in this document: *Pseudotropheus saulosi*



11

rial - Reintroduction e... x

The Cichlid Room Companion <http://cichlidae.com>
Pseudotropheus saulosi. Photo by Ad Konings

Pseudotropheus saulosi is a small mbuna cichlid endemic to a very small area in Lake Malawi in some 7 km northwest from Chizumulu Island in Mozambique, just at the border with Malawi. The reef boulders can be seen from the surface, making difficult its location without GPS equipment. Ad Konings discovered this species in 1988 because of the advice he got from local fishermen.

The species name *saulosi* has been given by Ad Konings, who also described the species, to honor Saulos Mwale (Stuart Grant's most skillful diver), who led him on many trips. Saulos has unfortunately passed away. The beautiful Saulos cichlid, one of the smaller in Lake Malawi, is represented by solid yellow females and juveniles and beautifully colored adult males with blue and dark bars, face and fins. The great beauty of this cichlid has made it a very popular aquarium fish after its discovery.

This popular species has been widely bred in the aquarium even from the beginning of its debut. Even so, during the frequent visits by Ad Konings to its habitat he contemplated with worry how the population decrease since, due to the pressure posed by aquarium fish collectors who then knew about this fish, to cover the great existing demand for wild specimens. On a visit Ad made in September 2010, he was surprised to find a plentiful species at Taiwanee Reef. It was time to react!

To this end, and with funds gathered by the Stuart M. Grant Cichlid Conservation Fund and the Ocean Reef Foundation, a captive breeding program was initiated with the intention to reintroduce stock of this species. The population reached a critical number.

David Nkhwazi of Stuart Grant Ltd. took the responsibility to raise this fish in aquarium facilities in Mozambique. 32 aquarium bred specimens were released at Taiwanee Reef. This past September, 92 specimens were released in a second event during a safari led by Larry Johnson. Before the release, Larry and three other divers counted 40 fish. While in 2013 they had counted 40 fish under similar circumstances, this time in 2014 they counted 92, an increase, although this is still a critical number, particularly when you consider that a genetically viable population must count with at least 300 specimens that interbreed.

"This popular species has been widely reproduced in aquariums even from the very beginning. Even so, during Ad Konings' frequent visits (discoverer of the species - Xero.n.) in its habitat, he notes with concern as the number of specimens began to decline significantly due to the pressure of aquarium fish collectors who had heard about this fish and where here to catch it and sought to cover the huge existing demand for wild specimens. In a visit in September 2010, he barely managed to see some of the species that once inhabited the Taiwanee Reef."

And I come back and ask rhetorically: If the species was bred in captivity anyway, if specimens were already adapted to the captivity, why have the "wormhead mouths" deliberately captured wild fish leaving the habitat almost empty...? WHY!?!

We thank and show our respect for the team that began to repopulate this habitat corner!

Unquestionably is, that they want to show everyone "they can", and because "they can", they boast how "great" they are, the elite, clearly defined from "the others", from the humble mob; while the "others" will look up at them with envy and jealousy with a mouth full of drool ... and their glances, and their envy, and their drool will rejoice "wormhead mouths".

In a chill, the last image, suggested me a comparison that gives me shivering. I confess that the "deja vu" impression was also enhanced by the pictorial, containing wonderful miniatures prepared by our editorial colleague, Ionuț Mihai Floca, published in this issue. Let me explain: Ionuț always loves everything he does, from his

10 & 11 - And yet, "wormhead mouths" will NOT accept "everything"! They want "original" specimens! But why? Please read the lines outlined in picture 11 by clicking on it or in translation in the box place below to it!

being sold, wholesale or retail - although there are plenty of sources - from people of certain age, who sell or give away plants they no longer are able to take care of, to nurseries specialized in specimens, such as Mondo Catus, which is offering for sale even if not cheap, absolutely superb plants and, more important, identical almost to confusion, to specimens illegally collected from nature.

And yet, the "wormhead mouths" don't accept "anything"! They only want "original" specimens! But why?

Because not "everyone" can have them! Because they are the most expensive and hard to come by. Because this stuff is not available to "anyone", but only for "some", making them feel as being part of an elite. Because they want to be among the first who own the fashionable novelty, which just came out and sports such an expensive price tag, since it is nowhere to find! For that reason alone they act like lecherous old people - men or women - who buy the otherwise unaffordable virginal young body they desire, since they have money to pay. The "wormhead mouths" seek always be among the very few who get to have such a "gemstone" - not because they are beautiful but because they are rare and precious. Why would they not settle for a beautiful plant or even an old and spectacular plant, like everyone else? Because they dislike them? I don't know what to think.

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Living Flowers, Trees & Plants > Cactus & Succulents > Plants

078 Aztekium valdezii, 2,7 cm!!!, Mexico, Extreme rare, big & old!!!

Item condition: --

Time left: 2d 01h Saturday, 10:52PM

Current bid: **GBP 410.00** [30 bids]
 Approximately US \$653.58

Enter GBP 420.00 or more

Place bid

[Add to watch list](#)

[Add to collection](#)

Located in United States

Shipping: **GBP 13.00 (approx. us \$20.72)** Standard Int'l Postage | [See details](#)
 International items may be subject to customs processing and additional charges. ⓘ
 Item location: Üllő, pest, Hungary
 Ships to: Worldwide

Delivery: Estimated between **Wed. Nov. 12 and Wed. Nov. 19**
 This item has an extended handling time and a delivery estimate **greater than 14 business days**.
 Please allow additional time if international delivery is subject to customs processing.

Payments: **PayPal** | [See details](#)

Returns: 14 days, buyer pays return shipping | [See details](#)

Guarantee: **ebay** MONEY BACK GUARANTEE | [See details](#)
 Get the item you ordered or get your money back.
 Covers your purchase price and original shipping.

Aztekium v..... 2,3 cm Sämling WE Pelecyphora

Artikelzustand: --

Restzeit: 5T 05Std (21. Dez. 2014 21:00:21 MEZ)

EUR 250,00 1 Gebot

Bieten

[Auf die Beobachtungsliste](#)

[Zur Kollektion hinzufügen](#)

100% positive Bewertungen

Versand: **EUR 6,90** Standardversand | [Weitere Details](#)
 Artikelstandort: Paderborn, Deutschland
 Versand nach: Europäische Union

Lieferung: **Zwischen Mi, 24. Dez. und Sa, 27. Dez. bei Zahlungseingang am Tag des Auktionsendes** ⓘ

Zahlungen: **PayPal**, Lastschrift, Kreditkarte, Überweisung |

12 & 13 - No surprise that *Aztekium valdezii* is being sold now on e-bay even in Hungary, but to see it in sell in Germany, this days, is shocking!

work as a biologist who brushes with bacteria his microscope slides to his tiny seeds he is sowing waiting for years, anxiously, to come the day when, for the first time, his seedlings will thrive and bloom; he, Ionuț, embodies the regenerating power of his seedlings. He does not need facades. He does not need surrogates. He does not need to show off and make-believe. Ionuț is 100% face value!

However, the portrait of the "compound wormhead mouths" as I see it, becomes - by

analogy and regardless of the actual age of the anonymised people we are talking about - the portrait of impotent pervert who, unable to arouse one's desire, is considering buying it, only to be believed by others attractive, charming and virile; so he can boast "of his splendid accomplishments" ... why not *Mammillaria bertholdii* or *Aztekium valdezii*, to mention only the last two huge findings, the last two children - a girl and a boy - promoted by pimps on the market.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, buyers of illegal novelty species and habitat specimens, if I may consider pimps being of the same kind with traffickers, then you are their luxury customers! In deep within, you are of the same ilk and just as miserable, as all sick bastards who encourage trafficking people, accepting to pay at any time, no matter how considerably, for the sexual services of painfully exploited human beings. Carry in you the hideous seed of those who would buy a toy only for lust, from a slave fair! Woman, man, girl, boy, child, you buy whatever you want, because you can afford and because you can ... In anticipation of the moment when the law will find how to eradicate such behaviour, without any leniency - because the law knows no mercy, which moreover you don't even deserve - I hope at least you'll be driven away from us, by the public disapproval!

contents ↑

We wonder what CITES officials in Germany do? What the authorities who see these pictures just as we see them, actually do?! Are they content to eat the taxpayers' money? Or waiting for the thieves to jump in their bag? What do you do, dear public servants, closing your eyes?! If not, you are incompetent! If yes, you are corrupt! In both cases, you are a disgrace!

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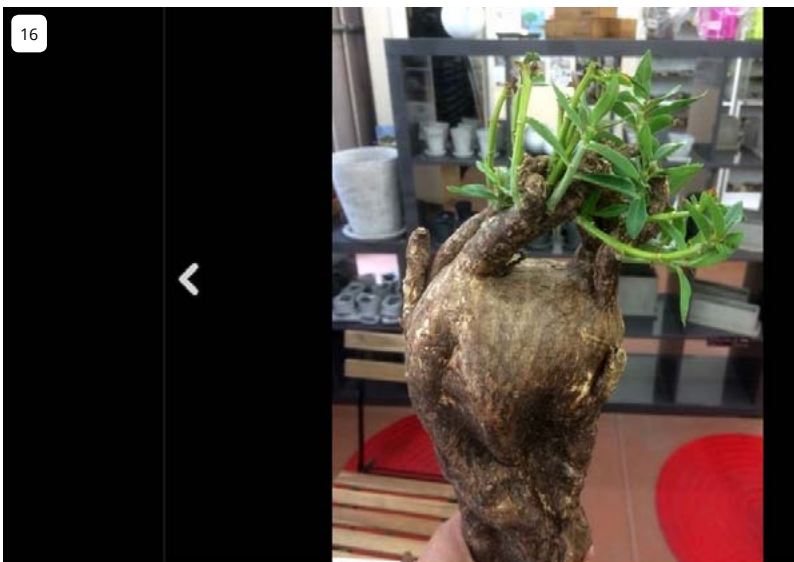
13



14



15



16

The pictures above need no explanations! There are obviously plants looted from habitat without even having roots!! However there is good news: there are increasingly more people who understand and who rebel against "wormhead mouths". Here, on the right, two public messages of indignation, give us courage for tomorrow!

Fiore Rosso >>> *Let's stop them!!*

Patrizia Teresi >>> *Few are those who possess true culture and love, not allowing habitat destruction only to satisfy their own selfishness.....*

The Xerophilia editorial team thanks you both, on behalf of all those who possess the necessary culture and love, sharing their beliefs publicly with such a courage! Meanwhile, however, officials are asleep... or turn a blind eye guilty of culpable misconduct!

contents ↑

Fiore Rosso and 2 other friends shared a link



本店(駒込)入荷情報! & お休みのお知らせです。2014/11/23



Fiore Rosso via **Stefania Ranieri**

2 hrs · 🌐

Fermiamoli !!

Fermiamoli!!! (Translated by Bing)

Unlike · Comment · Share

You and Stefania Ranieri like this.



Patrizia Teresi

6 hrs · 🌐

pochi hanno la vera cultura e amore per non deturpare un ambiente per il proprio egoismo....

See Translation

CSSNZ auckland show 2014



Eduart Zimer, Auckland, New Zealand CSSNZ Auckland Show 2014

As usually in early November in even years the CSSNZ Auckland Show 2014 took place, a much anticipated event for exhibitors (members of the Auckland branch) and for many C&S enthusiasts and buyers as well. The exhibition was organized as usual at the Mount Albert War Memorial Hall, at the same premises that host the monthly branch's meetings. It was a good opportunity for me as well to see many hundreds of plant specimens – cacti, succulents and other xerophytes – grouped in over 100 classes and subclasses and chat with few fellow cactophiles.

I don't know if the show was a success or not ... it was actually quite quiet in the opening hours, but being on a weekday this is not necessarily relevant, people coming in mostly during the weekend. I hope it was because of the ailing finances and falling membership of the society. However, being around for a decade I have some perspective ... not that 10 years (6 editions) is a lot of time, but still enough to notice some trends.

Before the invasion of the Japanese cars in

1 - *Didierea madagascariensis*.





2



3



4

3 - *Mammillaria melanocentra* ssp. *rubrograndis*. 4 - *Haworthia cymbiformis* var. *cymbiformis* 'Grey Ghost'. 5 - CSSNZ Auckland Show 2014.

the 1980's, New Zealand was known as a land of classic cars; similarly I find that New Zealand collectors are still into classic cacti. There were even specimens in the Show I've known for 10 years now... And essentially, nothing has changed during this period of time. This is not necessarily a bad thing. Now, when everyone is chasing novelties as a purpose in itself, it becomes really refreshing to see classic cacti having already



5



6



7

6 - *Calibanus hookeri* and *Haworthia 'Emerald Cream'* of Maribel & Martin Walker (both runner up for Best Succulent in Show). 7 - *Astrophytum 'Kabuto'*. 8 - *Astrophytum 'Super Kabuto'*.

reached a honorable age and still being grown with passion and dedication by young and not so young enthusiasts. It does not smell snobbish. Here, downunder, you can still admire "old fashioned" plant specimens gone extinct in large and important collections of the world, out of the spotlight and the commercial mainstream ... only to be forgotten anywhere else. Of course, geographic isolation and the bioprotection

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8 - *Astrophytum ornatum*



9 - *Stenocactus vaupelianus*.



10 - *Tillandsia punctulata*.



11 - *Haworthia limifolia*, Mozaam River form

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12- *Leuchtenbergia principis*



13



14



15

policies have played an important role. But at the same time, lends to the provincial flair a touch of depth and respect for the stable values.

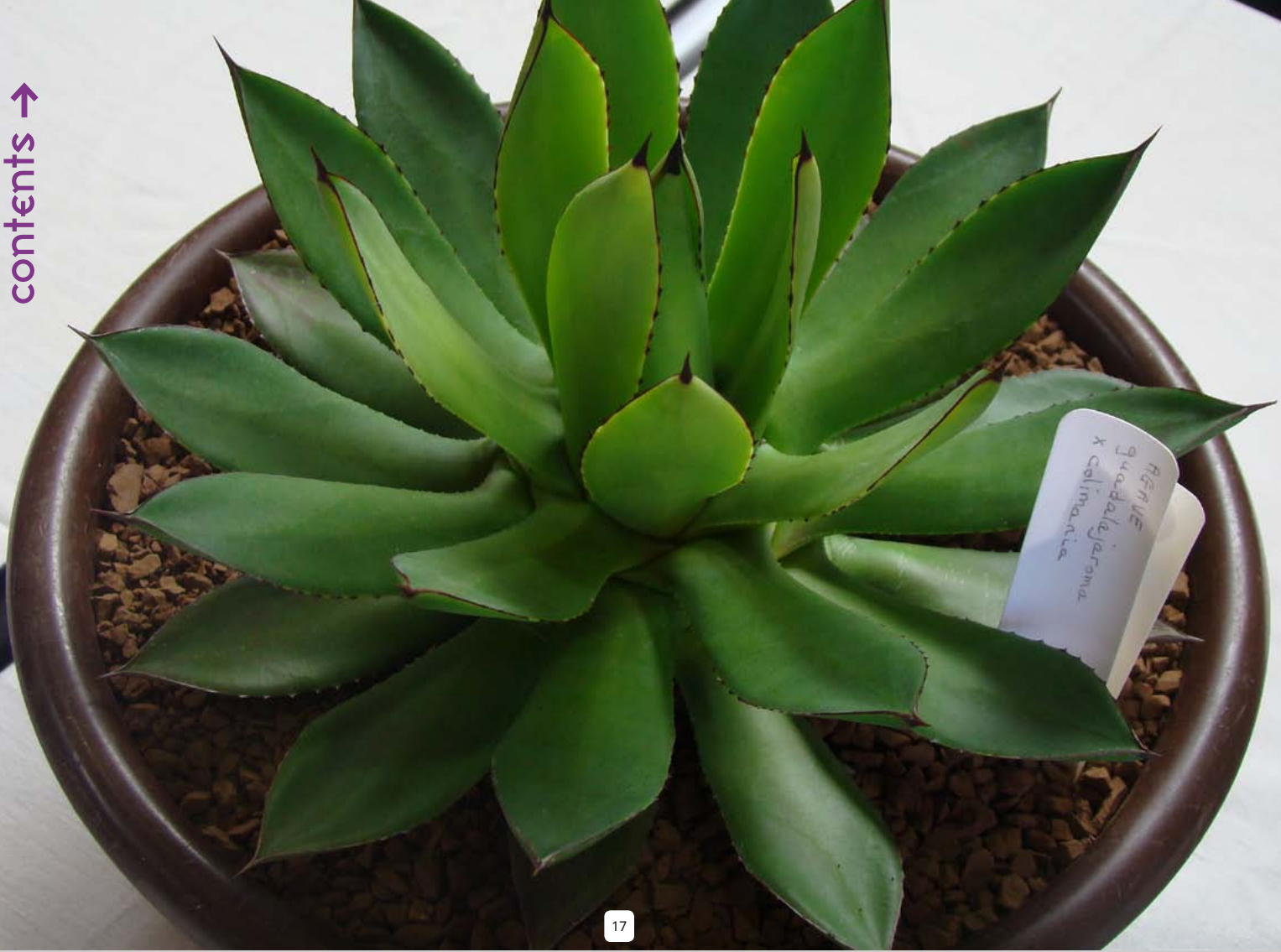
Another trend I observed was that – classic or not – people have shifted slowly, slowly, from cacti to other succulent plants. I’ve travelled on the same path as well without even realizing it for a long time ... in 12 or 13 years I simply morphed from a hard core cactus enthusiast with barely

13 - *Hatiora × graeseri*. 14 - *Crassula ausensis* ssp. *titanopsis*. 15 - *Pseudolithos cubiformis*.



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17



18

17 - *Agave guadalajarana* × *colimana*. 18 - *Cotyledon tomentosa* ssp. *ladismithiensis* 'Variegata'.

any other succulent in my collection into a more versatile plant lover, with interests ranging well over my initial square... I find now delight even in mosses, ferns or lichens. However, looking at the arrangement of the plants at the Show I realized that from roughly 50% back in 2004, cacti were now only maximum 25% of the total number of plants.

There were also many thousands of young plants on sale (another traditional attraction of the show), raised and grown by society members ... but this time, to be honest, I was rather disappointed by the limited offer (or maybe I should have returned during the weekend). I leave you now in the company of few of my favourite plants this edition, focusing more – in order to prove a point – on pictures of classic but otherwise lovely plants.

online magazines

Xerophilia



Acc Aztekium Journal (Romanian).

We have been notified that, at least for the time being, this journal will appear bi-monthly. Last issue seen by us (October 2014) includes articles on *Mammillaria* by Victor Copacescu, *Astrophytum* cultivars by Melchior Lévai, and cultivation advices by Gavril Szabo. Next issue is due in December.

Acta Succulenta (English, Italian and French)

It comes out with the third issue of 2014, from the very interesting summary we mention: Travelogue of a photographer and a naturalist, Part three (by Stefano Baglioni) – spectacular illustrations; Peru: land of deserts, ice, cacti and oxygen deprivation (by Håkan Sönnermo), ; *Cochlearia officinalis*, the Cape Horners' succulent (by Gérard Dumont and Antoine Mazzacurati),

Sempervivum thompsonianum, the Houseleek surrounded by confusion (by Josef Ježek), The biological crust of the soil: much more than sand (by Gabriel Millán), and more.

Avonia-News (German).

October and November issues include, as usually, a very interesting selection of articles by John Pilbeam, Giuseppe Orlando (Socotra), Ernst van Jaarsveld & Uschi Pond (*Welwitschia mirabilis*), Michele Rodda & Jacqueline Henrot (*Hoya wallichii*), and much more!

Echinocereus Online-Journal (German with English abstracts)

Vol. 2, No. 4, October 2014 features an in depth analysis of two taxons: *Echinocereus milleri* and *Echinocereus schmollii* (both by Dieter Felix).

Sansevieria Online (German with English abstracts)

It contains few remarkable articles by Peter A. Mansfeld (*Sansevieria forskaliiana* – a new name for *Sansevieria dawei*), Heinz-Günter Budweg and Friedrich Hauser.

The Cactician (English)

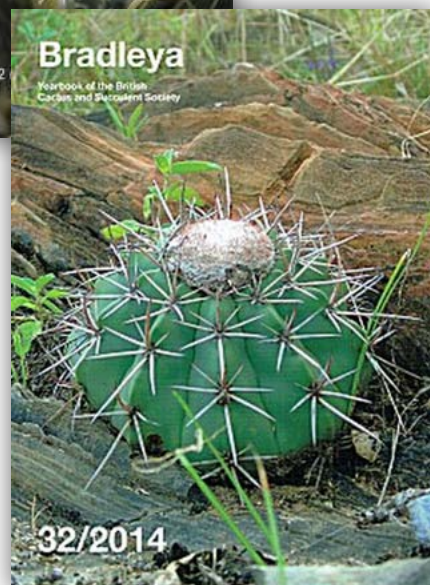
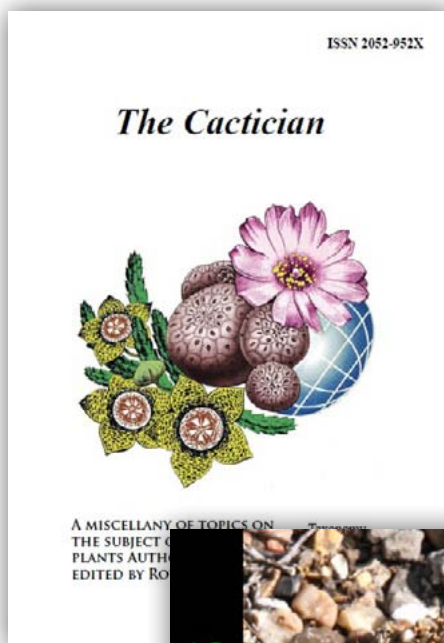
It was a busy summer Roy Mottram who published two issue almost back to back: Curt Backeberg: A history and evaluation of his work on cacti (No. 6), and Reinstatement of *Cactus kagenekii* C.C.Gmel. (No. 7).

No new issues

We did not see new releases since our last review: Boletín electrónico de la SLCCS, Crassulacea, Schütziana, Succulentopi@ & The Cactus Explorer.

Bradleya

However, we would like to mention also a printed publication, the new *Bradleya* 32/2014 edition, the flagship of BCSS periodicals, which just has been distributed (it is the second edition edited by Graham Charles). A delightful set of 180 pages of high level but fascinating articles: N. Taylor & al - A remarkable new *Rhipsalis* (*Cactaceae*) from eastern Brazil; G.F. Smith & E. Figueiredo - Notes on the reproductive morphology and phenology of *Agave felgeri* Gentry (*Agavaceae*); G.F. Smith & E. Figueiredo - Typification of the names *Agave xpeacockii* Croucher and *A. warelliana* Hort. ex Baker; E.J. van Jaarsveld & A. Harrower - *Aloe liliputana*, a new grass aloe from Pondoland, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa; S.E. Rakotoarisoa & al. - A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of the genus *Aloe* L. in Madagascar; E.J. van Jaarsveld - *Aloe andersonii*, a new cliff-dwelling aloe from Mpumalanga, South Africa, and much, much, more. Absolutely beautiful content and presentation, and a wealth of information!



FdC & CITES



After the last edition of *Festa del Cactus* were collected observations and criticisms in relation to the presence of some nurserymen and inferences on their activities with regard to CITES regulations.

Our event has always been devoted to supporting those who engage in the conduct of their business healthy, responsible and in full respect of nature and regulations in force, which we consider essential tools to support policies for the conservation of the species.

However, *Festa del Cactus* is also organized on the basic concept of good faith, for that reason no nurseryman who requests it is excluded from participation in our event, as we do not exclude the access to any visitor.

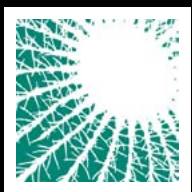
Given the tightening of the trade of plants and seeds whose legality is sometimes questionable, starting from the edition of 2015 we decided to make it compulsory, by nurserymen, the issue of a written declaration of CITES conformity, with which each participant states to be aware of the existing Community rules and duties in the course of trade in plants and their derivatives.

contents ↑



FDC Declaration of CITES conformity

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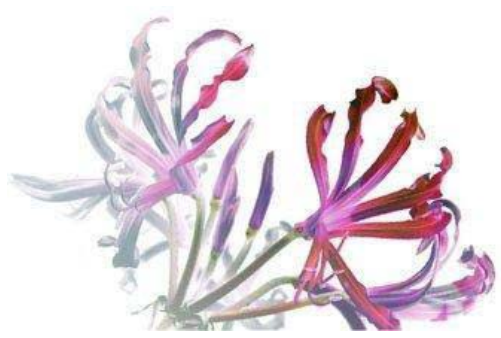


"Avonia", the quarterly member journal of the German Society for other Succulents, written in German with English summaries, non-German manuscripts in original language too, containing colour photographs, excellent drawings and articles on all aspects of the other Succulents.

Annual subscription:
Germany: 30 € incl. PP
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Free available coloured online journal "Avonia-News", annual seed list for members and many more. Stakeholders for Aloe (incl. Haworthia a.s.), Ascleps, Euphorbia, Mesembs and Yucca/winter-hardy Succulents.

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