

ON THE DRY SIDE

CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

APRIL 2020

STAY AT HOME ISSUE

While we regret that we'll not be meeting next Sunday, we hope you are staying safe, and finding ways to make the best of staying at home more. It's times like this when our shared passions for gardening, cacti, and succulents can really pay off — such great therapy for our bodies, minds, and souls.

Please enjoy this newsletter, and we'll see you soon!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Our usual Plant of the Month feature (it's Tylecodon)*
- *Some great seed-propagation info from Bill Findley*
- *Updates on events, including our own Show & Sale*
- *A dormancy table to help with your succulent care*



Tylecodon schaeferianus pic by Rob Skillin
for our plant of the Month (next page)

OUR APRIL MEETING IS CANCELED.

We regret we won't be seeing you this month. Please enjoy this special issue of our newsletter and we hope to see you again as soon as possible. Stay safe!

APRIL PLANT OF THE MONTH: TYLECODON



Tylecodon are found within the Crassulaceae family. The genus of around 46 species is very diverse in habitat and quite variable in form ranging from dwarf single leaved to large thick-stemmed plants ten feet tall.

The distribution of Tylecodon is restricted to the Northern, Western and Eastern Cape provinces of South Africa and Southern Namibia. The most typical vegetation type in which Tylecodon species are found is Succulent Karoo. The plants occur quite abundantly in habitats that vary from the rocky coastal shores, rock crevices in mountainous terrain and in sandy, hilly terrain. In very hot and dry environments plants are usually confined to the cooler south facing slopes.

Tylecodon exhibit great variations in adaptive strategies. For coping with a dry environment, succulent plants store water in fleshy roots, stems and/or leaves. Some species occur on sheer precipices well out of reach of game and browsing stock. Others adapt to simultaneous water and herbivore stresses: a few geophytic species protect themselves during the dry season hidden underground, thus surviving both water and grazing stresses.

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Photos top to bottom (Rob Skillin):
Tylecodon hallii
T. pearsonii
T. reticulatus

TYLECODON: CONTINUED

Tylecodon species are also adapted to avoid livestock and human predation, being poisonous with cardiotoxic and cumulatively neurotoxic Bufadienolides. Krimpsiekte (shrinking disease) is an economically important disease of livestock caused by the consumption of Tylecodons and related plants. Sometimes Tylecodons and the like are grubbed out by South African farmers to protect livestock and are therefore endangered in their habitat.

Their deciduous succulent leaves, arranged in a spiral manner, are produced during the Winter. In cultivation the plants require watering through Winter and Spring then should be allowed to dry out. Flowers are produced after the leaves have dried and fallen during the dry summer months, though in cultivation the leaves may persist longer if the plants are occasionally watered.

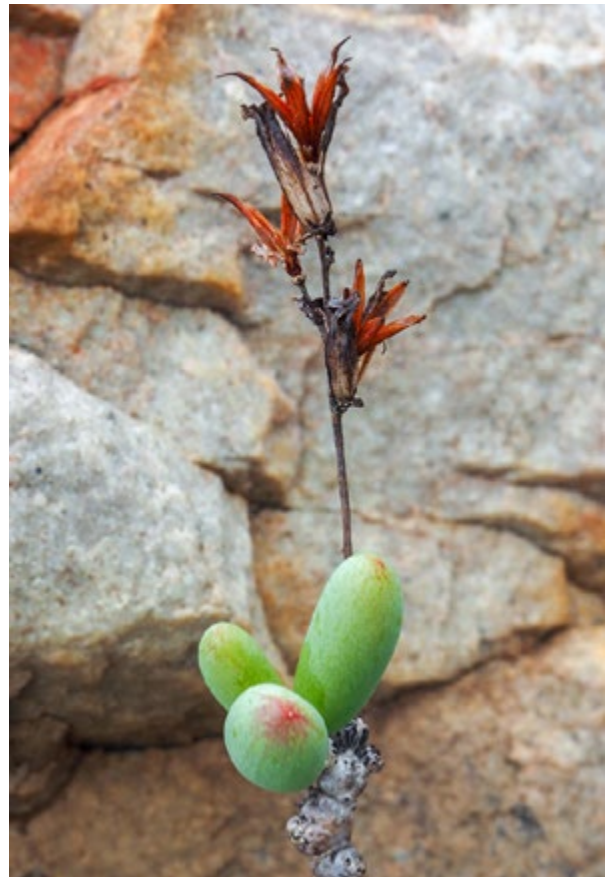
Plant of the Month by Markus Mumper.



Photos at right, top to bottom (Rob Skillin): *Tylecodon pygmaeus*
Tylecodon occultans
Tylecodon fragilis

Photos directly below, left to right (Loring Manley):
Tylecodon species in Loring's collection, and *T. wallichii* in habitat.

Bottom photo:
Paul and Kathie Matsuyama's Tylecodon collection,
in their beautiful garden.



CLUB BULLETIN BOARD

GARDEN GATHERING NEWS

All upcoming Garden Gathering events have been postponed until further notice in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Garden Gathering event originally planned for Sunday May 3rd at Ann Erb and John Kopp's garden in Nipomo will be rescheduled for a later date. Details of all future Garden Gathering events will be available in the CCCSS newsletter or at our club meetings.

We are looking forward to resuming Garden Gatherings as soon as it's completely safe to do so for all our hosts and participants. Thank you for your patience, and please stay well, take good care of yourself, and enjoy this time to learn more about your wonderful cactus and succulent collection!



Here's some inspiration from the Matsuyama garden (and view)!

Kathie Matsuyama: luvbigdogs@earthlink.net | **Susan Ross:** susanrosscra@yahoo.com



STIR CRAZY YET?

Looking for inspiration in your cactus and succulent garden? A great place to find motivation is on the “**Laura Eubanks**” **YouTube channel**. Laura Eubanks of Design for Serenity is a celebrity succulent garden designer in Southern California whose “Succulent Tips of the Day” have had more than 4 million views on YouTube. Laura is knowledgeable, entertaining and charismatic. You’ll have fun (and are guaranteed to learn something!) watching Laura transform underwhelming gardens into breathtaking succulent works of art.

From Kathie Matsuama



By CoolCactusKid, aka Bill Findley

Propagation is the method of reproducing a plant either through cuttings or by seed. Our (CCCSS) propagation working group is exploring and sharing methods of propagation and we are working with our favorite plants in the succulent realm.

In our last propagation workshop (Late January 2020) we discussed repotting seedlings as well as how to pollinate Aloe flowers. At this workshop, Gene Schroeder showed us the parts of the flower including the stamen (the male part of the flower that includes the pollen — see pic #1, note the stamen with pollen sticking out) and the stigma (the top of the female part of the flower and where the pollen needs to go — pic #2). The point Gene shared, was that the pollen in the flower is ready much earlier than the stigma is ready to receive the pollen. So pollen needs to be moved to the stigma of a flower that is further along in its development so that it can be pollinated. In habitat, pollination is accomplished by insects and to a lesser part, birds.

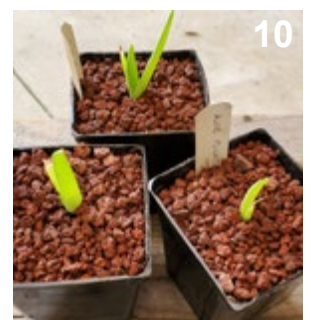
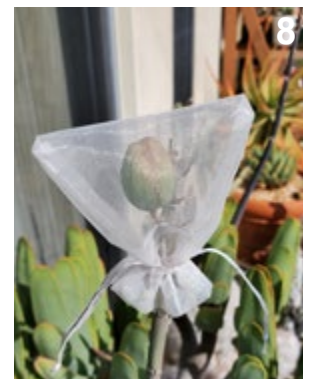
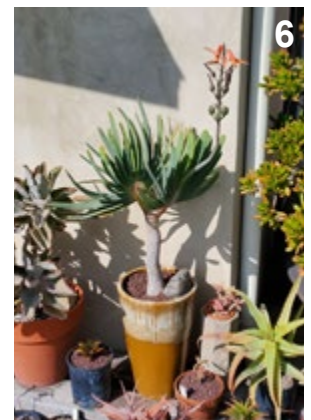
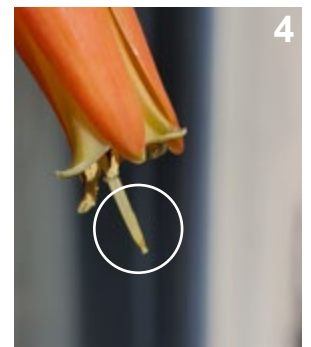
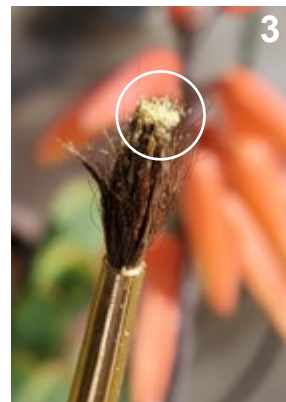
After the workshop I started pollinating my Aloe plicatilis (aka Fan Aloe, or Kumara plicatilis) with a clean paint brush. The pollen seemed to stay on the paint brush (pic #3) and it was easily moved to the stigma of the flowers (pic #4, the part sticking out is the stigma). I did notice that even though I was moving the pollen to the stigmas of the flowers, no seed pods developed until I had a second plant blooming, and cross pollinated the two plants. My observations indicated that the plant is unable to pollenate itself and needs a second plant to grow seeds. In other words, in my observations, the Aloe plicatilis is not self-fertile.

I have three mature blooming Aloe plicatilis plants in my garden (see pics #5 & #6) and they don't seem to all bloom at the same time. Fortunately there is an overlap of the blooming of these plants, which allows me to grow seeds.

I currently have several seed pods developing (pic #7) on two of my blooming Aloe plicatilis plants. I will wait a few months to allow these seed pods to ripen (they will dry and open up). To save the seeds I will use a wedding seed bag (a small mesh bag that can be purchased in a hobby store) to keep the seeds from getting lost as they ripen (pic #8).

I planted several Aloe plicatilis seeds in late August 2019 (pic #9). There were poor germination rates but I did have three that germinated. In picture #10 the seedlings are seven months old and are growing strong and healthy. They are slow growing and it will take some time (several years) for these new seedlings to develop into flowering plants.

If you are interested in growing plants from seeds and cuttings (propagation) join the **Propagation Group** when we return to our regular meetings. **If you would like seeds from the Aloe plicatilis, contact me and I will share: coolcactuskid805@gmail.com.**



PLANT DORMANCY

Thank you to Barbara Brooks, who has shared this succulent dormancy table with us. This is from an educational display that she entered in a past Show & Sale. Use this guide to care for your collection and it may come in handy for planning for this year's rescheduled Show & Sale (August 29th & 30th).

SUCCULENT DORMANCY TABLE

| WINTER DORMANT | | SUMMER DORMANT | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>This group is generally regarded as the “summer growers”. They have adapted to our northern hemisphere cycle and are dormant from November through February. Many of these will also enter a pseudo rest period for a few weeks during the hottest part of the summer before putting on a final burst of growth in September and October.</p> | | <p>Usually referred to as the “winter growers”, these genera are dormant during the warmer months of May through August. Their primary growth actually occurs during autumn and spring while slowing considerably during true winter. Many will exhibit marginal growth during the summer months as well especially in the Lily and Crassulaceae families.</p> | |
| <p>Adenia Adenium Agave Alluaudia Brachystelma Bursera Calibanus Ceropegia Cissus Cyphostemma Didieria Dorstenia Echeveria Encephalartos Euphorbia Ficus Fockea Huernia Ibervillea</p> | <p>Ipomoea Jathropha Lithops Monadenium Moringa Operculicarya Pachypodium Pedilanthus Plumeria Pseudolithos Pterodiscus Raphionacme Siningia Stapelianthus Synadenium Tillandsia Trichocaulon Trichodiadema Xerosicyos</p> | <p>Adromischus Aeonium Aloe Anacampseros Astroloba Avonia Bowiea Bulbine Ceraria Conophytum Cotyledon Crassula Dioscorea Dudleya Fouqueria Gasteria Gibbaeum Graptopetalum Graptoveria</p> | <p>Haemanthus Haworthia Kalanchoe Neohenricia Othonna Pachycormus Pachyphytum Pachyveria Pelargonium Peperomia Portulacaria Sansevieria Sarcocaulon Sedeveria Sedum Senecio Stomatium Talinum Tylecodon</p> |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our April 12th Meeting is canceled as we continue to avoid large gatherings. We will advise regarding the status of the May meeting as we get closer to that date, via email and our Facebook page.
- Our annual CCCSS Show & Sale is postponed, and rescheduled for August 29th & 30th.
- The Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale has been postponed to September 5th & 6th, at the Fresno Fairgrounds.

San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden: A Call For Artists ART IN THE GARDEN SHOW AND FUNDRAISER

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – Art in the Garden is an opportunity for artists to show and sell their work to community members. This juried art event will be held at the Garden's Event Pavilion on November 6th, 7th, & 8th.

Last year over 1000 people visited the Art in the Garden event, and this year we expect more! Artists will be selected to give visitors exposure to a variety of art mediums. We invite you to submit an application to participate in this Fall's Art in the Garden.

To participate in this art show and sale, please visit slobg.org, review the **Call for Artists** document, then complete and email the **Artist Application** to heather@slobg.org. Scholarships are available thanks to our sponsors at The Coastal Awakening. Please contact heather@slobg.org for a scholarship application.

The art show fundraiser will feature 20 local artists. This juried show will include jewelry, glass, paintings, graphics, wood, ceramics, and textiles. All art will be for sale and a portion of all sales will benefit the SLO Botanical Garden.

The event is free to attend and will be held in the Oak Glen Pavilion at the SLO Botanical Garden.

All art will be for sale and a portion of all sales will benefit the SLO Botanical Garden.

For more information visit slobg.org!

Please note: Scheduled events may change, please be sure to contact the venue for more info and updates.

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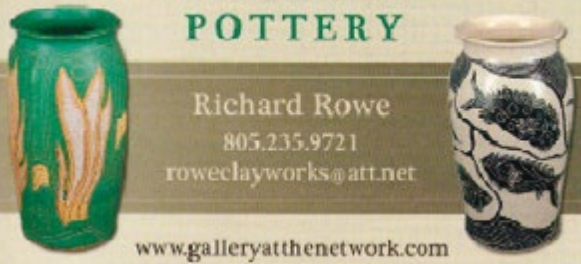
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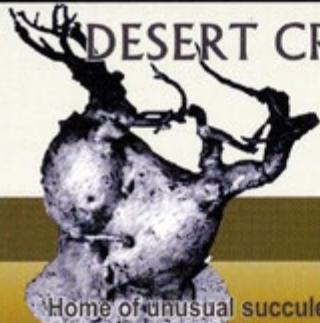
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