



Echinocereus reichenbachii subsp baileyi in the Wichita Mountains NWR, Oklahoma. Mount Scott in the background. Photo by Michael Douglas

Webpage <https://sites.google.com/site/cocssok/>

THE OFFSET

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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MEETING At Will Rogers Garden Center at 3400 NW 36th in Oklahoma City, the third Thursday of every month at **7:00 pm** (except in January, the month of our show, picnic and December).

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CLUB NEWS- FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members;

I am writing this message on behalf of our president Niki Furrh who at the moment is recovering from a nasty cold.

Spring is almost here and the year is moving along very fast, at this rate the time for our Show & Sale will come before we know it. On March 23rd we have scheduled a meeting at the Will Roger Gardens. This meeting will start at 9 AM and we will discuss a variety of items including the Show & Sale. Another important item will be the 15th Mid-States Biennial Cactus and Succulent Convention that our club will be hosting next year. As you can imagine there are many things to plan related to a big even like the Convention. Our club will need as much help from all our members to make this a successful event. So if you have the time on the 23rd come and join us at this meeting.

Soon it will be time to start preparing your plants for the Show & Sale so now is the time to start thinking about which plants you want to consider for this.

As you know by now our programs are now starting a bit earlier, at 7 PM instead of 7:30 PM. We tried this for the first time last month and it worked well. There was enough time for the program and for the discussion of all the miscellaneous items that followed. Members also had enough time to check out the plants they wanted to buy or exchange.

Hope all of you are enjoying this mild winter and we hope to see you at one of our regular meetings, or on Saturday March 23rd at 9 am. Don't forget to turn your clocks forward this Sunday as daylight savings begins.

Rosario Douglas



TIME TO RENEW YOUR DUES

Don't forget that it is time to renew you dues. It is \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families. You can mail the check to Peggy Anglin or you can pay at the next meeting. Let Peggy know if you have a new email address or a new address.

COCSS March 21st Program
“Getting to know your library”

by Tony Furrh and Mike Douglas



Where: At the Will Rogers Garden Center-
Oklahoma City

Time: 7 pm

Also

- Book reviews by Peggy Anglin and Mary Kaser
- Show and tell. Bring a plant or two and share your thoughts about this plant with the members.
- Don't forget to check out a book if you want to volunteer to review it for the April meeting.

Refreshments by: Mary Kaser



Top left *Senecio barbetonicus*.
(Wikipedia commons). Bottom
right flower of *Senecio
saginata* by Mike Douglas

CLUB NEWS

Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society Minutes of Meeting 02/21/2013



The meeting began at 7 pm with the program for the evening given by Michael Douglas. Mike presented the program

“How to make the most of your South Florida vacation”

Meeting called to order at 8:10 PM CST

13 Members present. 1 new person attending: Joseph Harrison

Treasurer’s Report - Year-to-date, 19 Paid Members. Treasury total: \$4, 353.35

Librarian report: Presented by Tony Furrh. We have 7 new books added to the library

Old Business:

- The minutes were approved by members from the Board Meeting held on January 26th.
- National Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention April 30th – May 3rd, 2014. We will provide 8 of our plants in exchange for advertising of our club and Mid – States conference to be held in June, 2014. Niki Furrh said that Joyce Hochtritt would be interested in being a possible speaker at this convention.

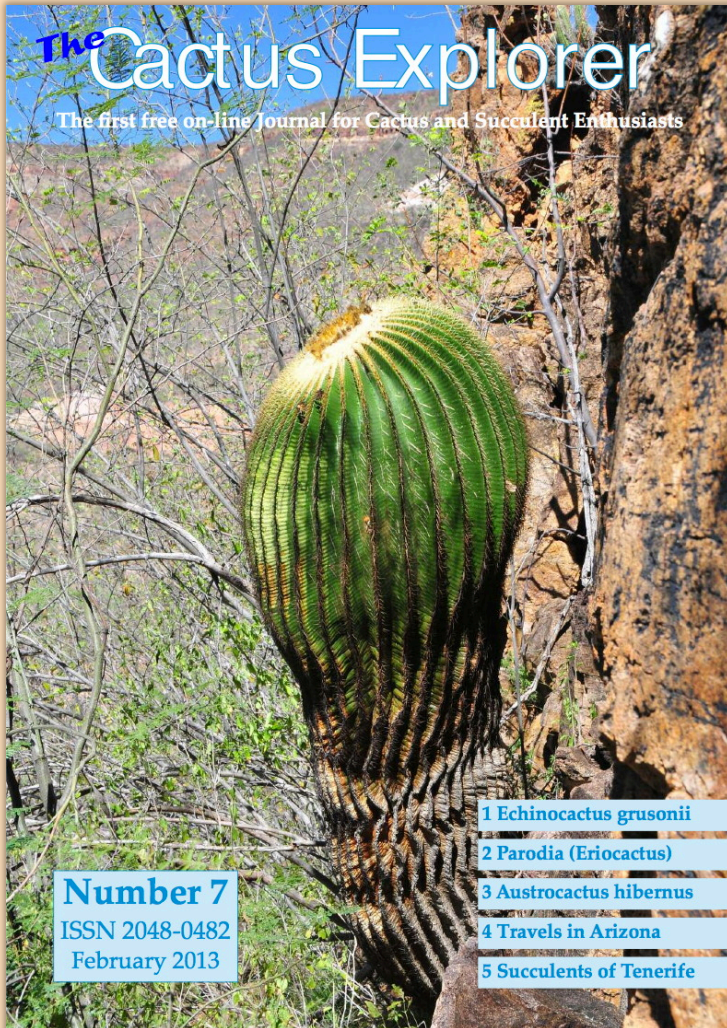
New Business:

- *******PLEASE NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS:** We will have an all member meeting on March 23rd at the Will Rogers Center beginning at 9:00 AM. This is to begin the discussions of our June 1st & 2nd, 2013 sale and our 2014 Mid-States Show and Sale. We will need multiple volunteers for your June, 2013 show and sale, so please come join us if you can. We will also need a logo and Theme for the Mid-States 2014 show and sale. Put on your creative thinking hats and come help us determine our Theme and Logo for 2014!
- It is time to renew our dues for the succulent Society of South Africa. Dues are \$58.00. Niki will get with treasurer to send our dues.
- Fred Hill has volunteered to be the club spokesperson at the Open House for the new Patience S. Latting Northwest Library in Oklahoma City on April 20th, 2013. Also attending may be Tony and Niki Furrh.
- Refreshment list completed. Book review will begin in March with Peggy Anglin and Mary Kaser signing up for the book review. We still need additional members to sign up for Aprils book review.

- 2013 Garden Tour for the public will be held on June 8th. Members included on the tour will be Mike & Rosario Douglas, Fred Hill and Robert Millison.
- Member's only garden tour of individual homes will be May 11th. Fred Hill, Robert Millison, Mike and Rosario Douglas will participate; with the possibility of Tony and Niki Furrh participating also.
- 2013 Garden Tour for the public will be held on June 8th. Members included on the tour will be Mike & Rosario Douglas, Fred Hill and Robert Millison.
- COCSS will be participating in the Garden party, located at the Norman, OK fairgrounds on April 13th from 8 am to 1 pm. This is an outdoor event to present our club information to the public. If any members would like to participate, please let Rosario Douglas, Fred Hill or Mary Kaser know. This event also has a flea market & farmers market for anyone who would like to volunteer and shop! This is free to the public.
- COCSS discussed the possibility of participating in the Festival of the Park event located at the Will Rogers Center on May 18th, 2013. It is a club representation event and will need volunteers to host. Mike & Rosario Douglas, Fred Hill, Mary Kaser and possibly Niki and Tony Furrh have already volunteered. We are determining whether we want to have a table outside and inside this year. We participated last year with much success as people came to our show and sale after talking to club members at this wonderful event. There is outdoor garden shopping (plants, gardening implements etc..) available to those volunteers who wish to participate. This is free to the public.
- Member, Ed Vermillion announced that the Ada, Oklahoma Gem, Mineral and Fossil show and sale will be held at the Pontotoc County Agri-plex in Ada, Oklahoma on March 8th & 9th. All are welcome to attend and admission is free! Bring the kids for a Kids Fossil Dig and the Petting Zoo.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM CST.

FROM THE EDITOR

Rosario Douglas

There are some excellent articles at the Cactus Explorer Journal issue #7 that recently came out. If you get the chance check them out at:

http://www.cactusexplorers.org.uk/Explorer7/Cactus%20Explorer%207_Complete.pdf

I would like to take this opportunity to thank member and secretary Mary Kaser for kindly printing and mailing our newsletter to the 4 or 5 members who presently don't have internet available to view the electronic version of the newsletter.

Mary did this all of 2012 and has continued to help with this task.

Book review list: Every month we would like one or two members to share with rest of the attendees their comments about a Cactus and Succulent related book. We have our volunteers for March but the rest of the year is open. If you want to do a book review just let us know at the meeting or via email and we can put your name down in the newsletter. Next month's book reviewers are Peggy Anglin and Mary Kaser.

Finally don't forget that we are always happy to get any contributions for the newsletter. If you find some interesting article or information online don't hesitate to share it with us.

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT HAPPENINGS IN THE REGION *By Joyce Hochtritt*

March 16 – 17, 2013- Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society's Annual Show and Sale, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, CO.



March 21, 2013 – 7:00pm **COCSS Monthly meeting**

At the Will Rogers Exhibition Center, 3400 NW36th St., OKC, OK.

Program: **Get to Know the COCSS Cactus and Succulent Library** by Tony Furrh and Mike Douglas

Extra Activity: Book Review plus Show & Tell

Refreshments: Mary and Joe Kaser

April 13 – 14, 2013 - Austin Cactus and Succulent Society's Spring Show and Sale, Zilker Botanical Gardens, Austin, TX.

April 18, 2013 – 7:00pm **COCSS Monthly meeting**

At the Will Rogers Exhibition Center, 3400 NW36th St., OKC, OK.

Program: **Wacky, Weird and Wild Plants -show & tell.** Extra Activity: Book Review

Refreshments: Peggy Anglin.

April 25-26-27, 2013- San Antonio Cactus and Xerophyte Society's Annual Show and Sale, San Antonio Garden Center, San Antonio, TX.

May 16, 2013 – 7:00pm **COCSS Monthly meeting**

At the Will Rogers Exhibition Center, 3400 NW36th St., OKC, OK.

Program: **Getting Show Ready. Show preparation/potting workshop.** Hosts Joyce Hochtritt and Fred Hill

Extra Activity: Book Review

Refreshments: Fred Hill

June 1-2 No meeting - **COCSS Show & Show and Sale.** Will Rogers Exhibition Center

June 15-20th CSSA 35th Biennial Convention in Austin, Texas

July 18, 2013 7 pm **COCSS Monthly meeting**

At the Will Rogers Exhibition Center, 3400 NW36th St., OKC, OK.

Program: **Deserts of North America** by Mike and Rosario Douglas

Extra Activity: Book Review

Refreshments: Pegy and Helen Hill

2014 Cactus and Succulent Happenings

The 15th Biennial Mid-States Cactus and Succulent Conference Hosted by the Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society in Oklahoma City, OK. More information to come!

If you know of any plant happenings, please send me the information. Thank you, Joyce

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

by Rosario Douglas

ALOE VERA AND ITS MEDICINAL USES

Aloe vera is a species belonging to the genus *Aloe*. The name derives from the Arabic word "Alloeh" meaning "shining bitter substance," while "vera" in Latin means "true."

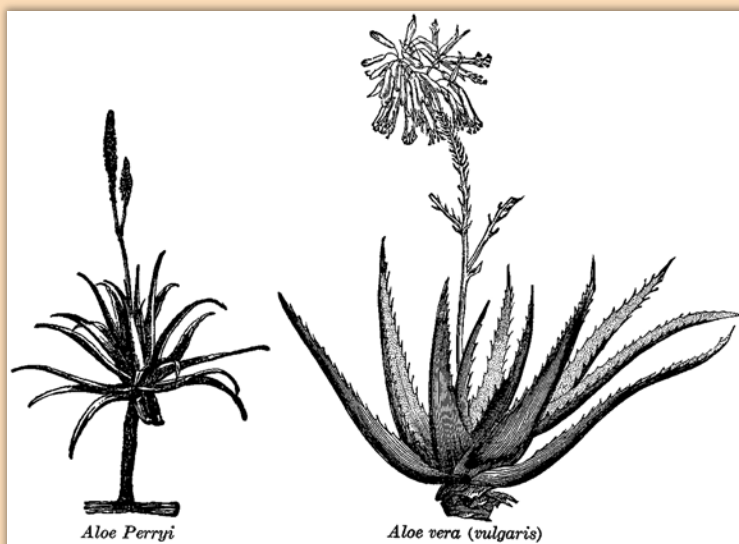
(from: **Aloe vera: a short review** by A. Surjushe, R.Vasani and D.G. Saple; Indian Journal of Dermatology v53, pp163-6, 2008)

(see

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2763764/>)

The genus *Aloe* contains about 500 species of succulent plants. Aloes are natives of Africa and are also found in Madagascar and on the Arabian Peninsula. It is believed that *Aloe vera* originated in northern Africa and although there are no plants in the wild, the plant survives because it has been in cultivation for thousand of years.

Aloe vera was introduced to southern Europe and China in the 17th century and today it is found worldwide. It has been suggested that its present distribution is due to human cultivation. Some researchers have stated that the lack of native populations of *Aloe vera* indicates that this plant may be a hybrid.



Recent DNA sequencing studies suggest that *Aloe vera* is closely related to *Aloe perryi* - an endemic *Aloe* from Yemen. Other studies using similar techniques also identify *Aloe forbesii*, *Aloe inermis*, *Aloe scobinifolia*, *Aloe sinkatana*, and *Aloe striata* as close relatives of *Aloe vera*. These Aloes, with the exception of *A. striata* from South Africa, are found in Socotra (Yemen), Somalia and Sudan.

Upper left, *Aloe vera* from Wikipedia commons. Bottom left, a comparison between *Aloe vera* and *Aloe perryi* from Drug plant engravings from "Materia Medica and Pharmacognosy" by David Culbreth, M.D. (1927) and Kings American Dispensatory (1898), with a few other odd sources.

Aloe Vera and its medicinal uses Cont...



Aloe vera has been cultivated for ornamental and medicinal use for a long time. There is evidence that this plant has been used as a medicinal plant since the beginning of the first century AD (from Wikipedia). Greek scientists called *Aloe vera* a true panacea 2000 years ago and the Egyptians considered it “the plant of immortality. (from Surjushe et al, 2008).

Quoting verbatim from Wikipedia: “Preparations made from the plant *Aloe vera* are often referred to as “aloe vera”. Scientific evidence for the cosmetic and therapeutic effectiveness of *Aloe vera* is

limited and when present is frequently contradictory. Despite this, the cosmetic and alternative medicine industries regularly make claims regarding the soothing, moisturizing, and healing properties of *Aloe vera*. Aloe vera gel is used as an ingredient in commercially available lotions, yogurt, beverages, and some desserts, although at certain doses, it has toxic properties when used either for ingested or topical applications. *Aloe vera* juice is marketed to support the health of the digestive system, but there is neither scientific evidence nor regulatory approval to support this claim”.



There are contradictory studies about the success of using Aloe vera’s sap in treating wounds. A 2007 study concluded that there is enough cumulative evidence to indicate that the sap of *Aloe vera* is beneficial for treating first to second degree burns. (Source Wikipedia).

Besides its laxative properties and its usefulness in the treatment of burns, there is little scientific evidence to supports claims that *Aloe vera* is useful for the many other purposes claimed by various industries. (from the NIH National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) -

<http://nccam.nih.gov/health/aloevera>

In summary, Surjushe el al’s 2008 article concludes that: “Though *Aloe vera* has wide spectrum of the properties and uses, some of them could be myths and some of them could be real magic. In future, controlled studies are required to prove the effectiveness of *Aloe vera* under various conditions.”

Upper left: *Aloe vera* grown as an ornamental plant, (from Wikipedia commons). Lower photo: *Aloe vera* from the web.

WEBSITES REVIEW

<http://www.cactiguide.com/>

CactiGuide.com

Search by Habit: Home, Cacti or Not?, Cacti Articles, Growing Cacti, Sources, Terminology, Places, Cacti Tools, Pests & Disease, About

Search by Genera: Acanthocalycium, Acanthocereus, Acharagma, Ancistrocactus, Ariocarpus, Armatoocereus, Arrojadoa, Arthrochrysum, Astrophytum, Austrocactus, Austrocylindropuntia, Auxekium, Bergerocactus, Blossfeldia, Brachycereus, Brasilicereus, Brasilopuntia, Browningia, Calymmanthium, Carnegiea, Cephalocereus, Cereus, Cholla, Cipocereus, Cleistocactus, Cochamiea, Coleocephalocereus, Consonia, Coplapoa, Coryocactus, Corynopuntia, Coryphantha, Cumulopuntia, Cylindropuntia, Dendrocereus, Denmoza, Discocactus, Disocactus, Echinocactus, Echinocereus, Echinomastus

Welcome to CactiGuide.com!

Below are some of the great things you can do on this site:

Cacti Name Search
New - Search for either the Latin (Scientific) name or the common name of a cactus using this name search.

Advanced Search
Search multiple criteria using the CactiGuide.com Advanced Search.

Geographic Distribution Search
The CactiGuide.com Distribution Search allows you to search by region, country, state, province or other political divisions to check for cacti that grow in that area. If you were visiting cacti in the wild, this feature will help you narrow down the potential species from that area.

Cacti Forum
The CactiForum is a great place to share and learn with other Cactus enthusiasts. We've got a great group of members already and always welcome new members. Cacti knowledge is not a requirement here, it is a result! [Click here to go to the cacti forum.](#)

- Epiphyllum
- Epithelantha
- Eriocye
- Escobaria
- Escontria
- Espositoa
- Espositopsis
- Eulychnia
- Facheiroa
- Ferocactus
- Frailea
- Geohintonia
- Grusonia
- Gymnocylidium
- Haageocereus
- Harrisia
- Hattoria
- Hylocereus
- Isolatocereus
- Jasminocereus
- Laslocereus
- Leocereus
- Lepismium
- Leptocereus
- Lauchterbergia
- Lophophora
- Mahueña
- Mahueñoopsis
- Mammillaria
- Mammilloidya
- Matucana
- Melocactus
- Micranthocereus
- Micropuntia
- Mila
- Miquelipuntia
- Myrtillocactus
- Neobuxbaumia
- Neolloydia
- Neoralmondia
- Neowerdermannia
- Notocactus
- Obergonia
- Opuntia
- Oreocereus
- Oroya
- Ortegocactus
- Pachycereus
- Parodia
- Pediocactus
- Peleciphora
- Peniocereus
- Pereskia
- Pereskioideae

CactiForum

That's Not a Cactus!
All cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti. If you are having a hard time identifying your "cactus" plant, be sure to use the [Cacti or Not?](#) page to rule out other succulents. You might be surprised when you find out that your very cactus-looking plant turns out not to be cactus at all.

Updated Terminology Page
Check out the all new [Glossary of terms](#) that is full of useful words and definitions that are related to cacti. Also find out "What's in a name" by visiting the Cacti Etymology pages. Learn how a cactus plant got it's name or what the name means. One page covers the different [genera](#) while the other handles the [species](#) names.

Habit Search
If you are not familiar with Cacti names, "[Search by Habit](#)" groups each cactus by it's shape!

Pictures By Location
See all images on CactiGuide.com from a particular location or a particular photographer by using the [Directory of Cactus Picture Locations](#)

Cacti List
ID your cactus plant by browsing the Nav-Bar on the left. This is organized by Genus then species alphabetically.

More Great Info
Visit the [Articles](#) page for a more in-depth look at the cactus family! Learn growing tips, cacti classification, and more! Along with the [Places](#), [Sources](#), and [Growing Cacti](#) pages, the [Articles](#) page will help you explore cacti beyond this site. Tips on growing cacti, cactus book reviews, links to other web-sites on cactus, and garden/nursery locations are some of the things you find here.

Upuntia, Oreocereus, Oroya, Ortegocactus, Pachycereus, Parodia, Pediocactus, Peleciphora, Peniocereus, Pereskia, Pereskioideae, Pierrebraunia, Pilosocereus, Polaskia, Praecareus, Pseudocanthocereus, Pseudorhipsalis, Pterocactus, Pygmaocereus, Quiabentia, Rauhocereus, Rebutia, Rhipsalis, Samalpicocereus, Schlumbergera, Sclerocactus, Selenicereus, Stenocactus, Stenocereus, Stephanocereus, Stetsonia, Strombocactus, Sulcorebutia, Tacinga, Tephrocactus, Thelocactus, Tunilla, Turbinicarpus, Uebelmannia, Weberbauerocereus, Weberocereus, xPacherocactus, Yavia, Yungasocereus

More Great Info
Visit the [Articles](#) page for a more in-depth look at the cactus family! Learn growing tips, cacti classification, and more! Along with the [Places](#), [Sources](#), and [Growing Cacti](#) pages, the [Articles](#) page will help you explore cacti beyond this site. Tips on growing cacti, cactus book reviews, links to other web-sites on cactus, and garden/nursery locations are some of the things you find here.

CactiGuide.com Book Recommendation
For book purchases, visit: [ExoticPlantBooks.com](#)

CactiGuide.com Primary Objective:
The overall function of this site will be simply a cataloging of the different species in the family Cactaceae. The primary purpose is to include detailed photos as accurately as possible for the positive identification of a particular species. As a cacti enthusiast, I found that sometimes identifying a particular cactus species can be very difficult. Many sources have a limited number of photos or the photos are mostly close-ups of flowers. To add to the challenge, many sources have conflicting information on [nomenclature](#). Therefore it is my hope that this site will not only be a rewarding hobby for me, but also serve as a useful resource for other cacti enthusiasts.

Note: I try not to post a picture unless I am relatively positive that I've identified it correctly. This does not mean that this site is free from mistakes. If you see a mistake, please don't hesitate to [send me an e-mail](#) and I will fix it.

Fun Feature: We have cactus picture contests on the [CactiForum](#). Be sure to at least take a look at the first place winners [on this page](#).

Site Statistics:
There are currently **1349** different species pictured on this site under 121 genera. An additional 629 subspecies, varieties, and forms are also listed under the species level.

There are approximately 1821 total possible species under 122 genera. Over 8804 images are available for use in identification. All may be enlarged to 600 pixels either height or width.

**All images of cacti pictured on this site are those taken by me (Daly Freeman) unless otherwise noted.*

Hosted by [cactus-mail.com](#)

Site Map

This is a nice website with a lot of information about cactus and succulents.

You can search by genera as you can see in the left column.

Cacti articles, information about growing cacti, sources, terminology, plant diseases are some of the subjects you can select to start your exploration.

WHAT IS BLOOMING?

Photos by: Mike Douglas



Upper photo is *Mammillaria deherdtiana* (according to the label).

Bottom photo is a *Cheridopsis* sp.

Both photos taken in the greenhouse by Mike Douglas



SUCCULENT PLANTS

By Rosario Douglas

The Genus Senecio



According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary the word Senecio comes from the Latin senex which means old man . First Known Use: 1562.

The name probably refers to the flowering varieties that produce white, wispy seed heads which resemble beards.

The genus Senecio is a member of the Asteracea or sunflower family. A large genus of flowering plants, Senecio has about 1250 species.

Plants in the genus Senecio cover a wide array of plant types including leaf, stem and tuber succulents, aquatic, climbers, shrubs, annuals, perennials and even small trees.

cover a



Rauh.



Flowers are clusters that form at the top of the plants. Some species of Senecio are important food plants for a variety of butterfly caterpillars. (from Wikipedia).

The genus Senecio is found worldwide and many succulent species are popular plants in cultivation. From the "Wonderful World of Succulents" by Werner



Upper left *Senecio saginata* seeds by Mike Douglas. Bottom Left an 1885 illustration of *Senecio vulgaris*, from Wikipedia creative commons). Middle right, flower of *Senecio saginata* by Mike Douglas. Lower right *Senecio wootonii*. (from Wikipedia creative commons)

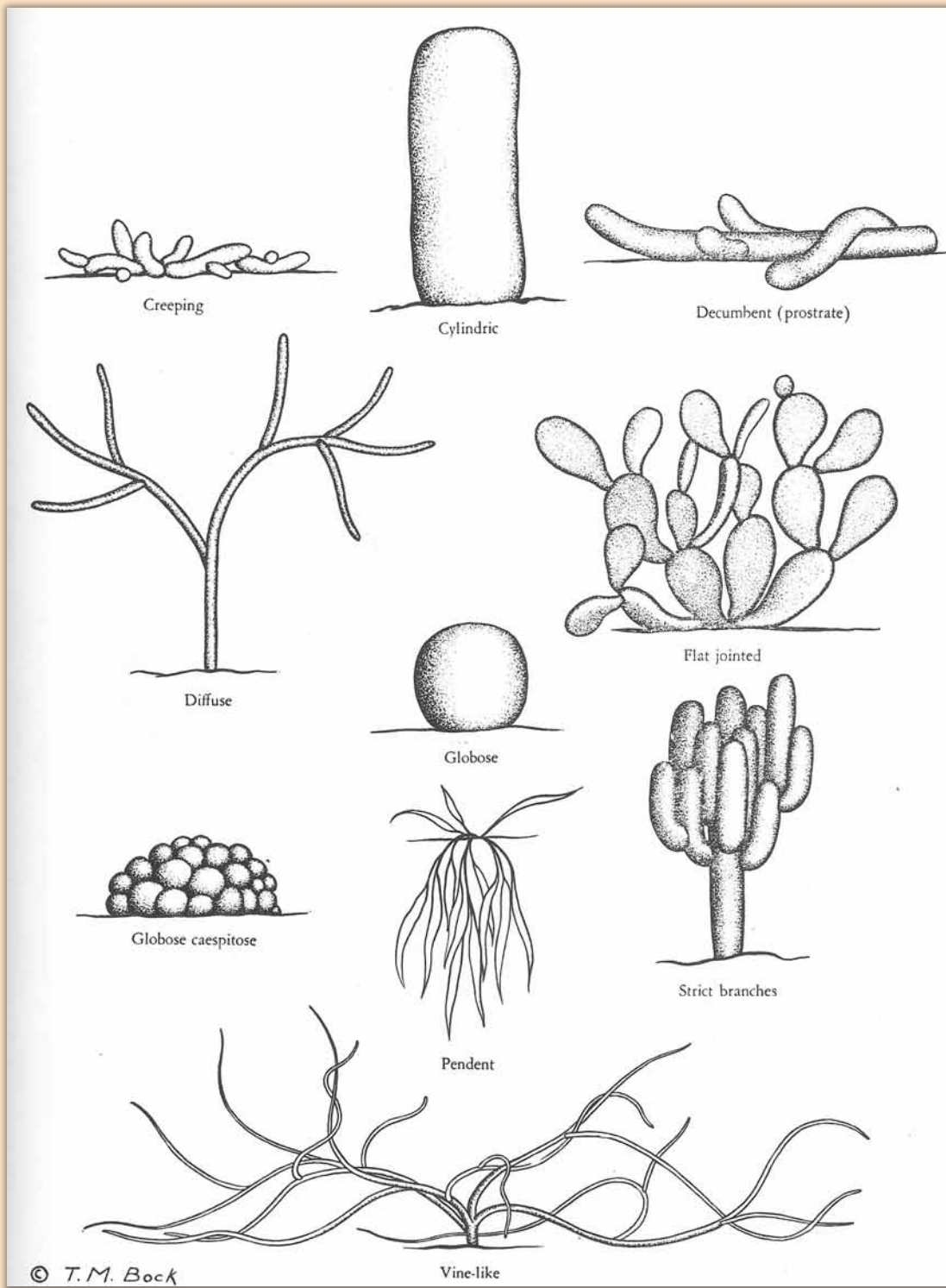


First photos at the top are a sequence of photos of *Senecio saginata* taken by Mike Douglas in the greenhouse. The flower lasted a long time and the photo on the previous page shows the last stage in this sequence, the white seeds.

Bottom left *Senecio Haworthii* by Winfried Bruenken. (from Wikipedia creative commons). Lower right: *Senecio keniodendron* in Kenya. (from Wikipidea creative commons).

THE BOTANICAL CORNER

by Rosario Douglas



A variety of cactus forms from the book
"Cactaceae" by W. Taylor Marshall and Thor Methven Bock, 1941