

British Cactus & Succulent Society

Southampton & District Branch Newsletter

April 2010



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Editorial

Weather-wise, the Easter weekend was rather disappointing, but at least the days are now noticeably longer, and the temperatures are slowly beginning to climb – although I've still got the central heating on.

In the garden, things are slowly beginning to wake up. The daylilies seem to have got off to a good start and are doing a good job of preventing any weeds from taking hold. Most of my Acers look like they survived the harsh winter, and the colourful leaves should start to unfurl over the coming weeks. However I was surprised to notice that a couple of Phormiums had died. These are supposed to be able to tolerate our winters but perhaps this winter was too severe. It might be down to the specific variety, since three other Phormiums (even quite a small one) survived OK.

Announcements

Tony Grech has had some **keyrings** made using the design from our branch badge and these are available from the front table, for £2 each. Enamel branch badges are also available for the same price.

Last month I mentioned that **Northampton & Milton Keynes Branch** would hold their annual auction at Nether Heyford Village Hall on 24th April. Unfortunately, not enough plants have been submitted, so the event has been cancelled.

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Next month's meeting will be a **Cultivation & Propagation Workshop**. Please bring along any problem plants that you have. And if you have plants which require identification, bring those in, and our experts will attempt to name them for you. We also intend to discuss soil mixes, so if possible, please bring along a pot full of the soil mix you use for your plants.

The branch will be attending **Sparsholt College's Countryside Open Day** on Saturday 15th May and we will put on a display and have some plant sales tables there. Further details will be confirmed next month.

On the front table, there are some **colour A5 posters** which are designed to publicise the branch and attract new members. If you know of local garden centres or recreation centres which would be willing to display the poster, please take one and put it up.

Last Month's Meeting

Plants of Interest

It was Ivor Biddlecombe's turn to bring along some *Plants of Interest*. He mentioned that most of his plants were dormant at this time of the year, and the only plant in flower was a *Crassula mesembryanthemopsis*. This has characteristic wavy clumps of leaves and forms clusters of tiny starry flowers.

He had also brought along plants that tend to grow in the winter time. *Mitrophyllum* is one such genus. The leaves die down and in the summer months, the dried skin forms a cone. Some species form leaves from the base, and others form leaves on the end of stems. The examples he had brought along were *M. grande*, *M. clivorum*, *M. latibracteatum* and *M. roseum*.

Next was a plant he had obtained from Margaret Corina – a *Monilaria*. One of the common names for this is “string of pearls” – and this is due to the fact that each year’s growth leaves a white ball on the stem and after a while you get a series of these dots on the stem.

Next was *Phyllobolus tenuiflorus* which has pink flowers. All the slender leaves fall off in the summer and you get left with just a stump. *Sceletium tortuosum* has leaves which dry up and stay on the plant as skeletonised leaves. The plant goes by the common name of Kanna and it is grown commercially because it has numerous uses as a herbal medicine.

Cyphostemma betiforme is a caudiciform and it forms large leaves on top of a tapering stem. This particular plant had made a lot of new growth in the last fortnight

Although his favourite genus amongst the mesembs is Lithops, he does also grow Conophytums and he had brought along several of these plants. He thinks they look their best at the end of the year, when the new bodies have formed and the markings are well developed. The three species *C. pellucidum*, *C. pellucidum v. rubrum* and *C. pellucidum v. neohallii* were similar with small variations in markings. We also saw *C. truncatum*, *C. hermarium* and *C. sulcatum*. In the various books which discuss this genus, there are some beautiful pictures of forms with nice markings.

The final plant had been brought in by Dot England, and this was *Mitrophyllum tenuifolium*, bearing yellow flowers. This was another plant obtained from Margaret Corina. Dot mentioned that she had recently repotted it.

Succulents from the Winter Rains

Our talk in March was given by Terry Smale. He is normally accompanied by his wife Jennifer, but unfortunately she was ill and unable to come along. He mentioned that when he came down to give talks at our branch, he would usually spend some time with Margaret Corina, and it was a sad loss for both the Branch and the Society that she was no longer with us.

The talk was a digital presentation. All of the featured plants came from the areas in South Africa which he was going to talk about. The plants which grow in winter rainfall areas occur in various parts of the earth, usually described as areas with a Mediterranean climate. These are found 30° - 40° degrees north and south of the equator and also along the western side of continents – this included the western part of South Africa. The climate here is quite different from the areas of summer rainfall and dry winters where cacti grow.

Terry showed a map of South Africa, with a diagonal line separating the winter and summer rain areas. In

the summer rain areas, you get thunderstorms from the weather that comes in from the Atlantic Ocean. Cape Town gets 40 inches of rain in the winter but as you go further north, the rain drops off. However, in the hills you tend to get fogs and moisture condenses from this. Somewhere in the middle you get areas where there is rain in the summer and the winter, and most of the plants found in these intermediate areas tend to grow in the winter too. The winter-growing plants respond in the autumn to rainfall starting and the temperatures going down.

Terry explained that in the Southern hemisphere, the summer months were counted as October to March. The temperatures could get as high as 40°C and rain was uncommon, although there was some in the eastern regions. Winter was considered as April to September, and the temperatures generally ranged from 20°C in the daytime to close to freezing at night. In Cape Town, the minimum was 5°C but in the hills you could get frosts and snow and the temperatures could go as low as -15°C.

He listed the plant families he was going to talk about: Asphodelaceae, Eriospermaceae, Geraniaceae, Apocynaceae, Crassulaceae, Asteraceae, Portulacaceae. These names are from a couple of years ago, and the botanists do keep changing things around. There were other plants such as the mesembs, Gasterias, Haworthias and Euphorbias in these regions, but he did not intend to cover those since some are the subjects of his other talks. At the end, he would spend a few minutes on cultivation. The pictures he was going to show were slides from his collection, one or two taken at shows and others from habitat.

From the first family (**Asphodelaceae**), we saw *Bulbine lamprophylla*, with yellow flowers which illustrated the distinctive feature of hairs on the stamens. Some bulbines are evergreen and have a fibrous root system (most of these come from summer rainfall areas) and others from the winter rain areas have below ground tubers and produce leaves in the winter period. The shape of the tuber varies quite a bit. Most of them lose their leaves, but some such as *Bulbine mesembryanthoides* do retain their leaves. With *Bulbine fallax* from the Richtersveld, we could see the quartz pieces on the ground. The plant had a 3 inch leafspan and had been photographed in the spring when it was about to go into dormancy. It has its best colouring at this time, consisting of greens and reds and browns. We also saw the silvery green leaves of *Bulbine haworthioides*. When he first found it in the wild, he did indeed think it looked like a Haworthia. The rosette was about 1 inch in diameter rosette. Quite a few of these are short lived and maybe will

live for 5-10 years, so it is advisable to propagate them from time to time. You rarely get cuttings, so have to use seed. You need two different plants and have to cross pollinate, so he tends to grow three different plants in each pot.

Bulbine alveolata is a striking new introduction from the Knersvlakte, with green and silver leaves. It is small, and the plant we saw was in a 2 inch pot. *Bulbine vitrea* is from Augrabies and gets more moisture due to the fogs. The leaves have horizontal ridges and look like a concertina. This effect is even more pronounced in *Bulbine bruynsii* from the Knersvlakte. Steven Hammer likened the leaves to a chinese lantern. You only get 2 leaves on each plant so he had planted 3 in a pot. This plant was discovered by Peter Bruyns who is a mathematician from Cape Town. If raising from seed, most are no trouble and will germinate in a few weeks. This one and some others are not so easy, and take a year or longer. A hint from Steve Hammer was to sow in the spring, leave the sown pot baking in the summer, and then after watering in autumn you will get germination.

Bulbine striata is from the Bushmanland area and was described from only one hill, although he has found it in 3-4 places. The leaf span is 6 inches. Unlike the other Bulbines, it has never flowered for him. Most bulbines are grown for the leaves rather than the flowers, but *Bulbine vittatifolia* does have a showy yellow flower spike. He found it growing by the thousand on a flat quartz plain. Others have visited the same spot at the same time of the year and not seen anything, so the flowering might be weather dependent and if there is insufficient rain, the plants may decide not to flower at all.

The next species, Trachyandra has a white flower with no hairs on the filaments of the stamens, but vegetatively it is similar to Bulbine, and has underground tubers and succulent leaves above ground. The plants can form stolons, so sometimes you get young plants coming up at a distance from the main plant. The tubers tend to have more thick roots than Bulbine, and can be propagated from root cuttings.

Eriospermaceae contains just one genus, Eriospermum, and it might now be lumped with the Asparagus family. The name means hairy seed and the rounded seeds are covered all over with hairs. The plants have below ground tubers. We saw an example of *Eriospermum dregei* which he had bought with the tuber above the ground. He's since repotted this with the tuber below ground. In the winter rainfall areas they have a single leaf blade which produces antler like protuberances called enations. Most have plain

leaves without these enations, but the most attractive ones do, e.g. *Eriospermum dregei* and *Eriospermum proliferum*. His favourite is *Eriospermum folioliferum* which was collected by Anthony Mitchell (from Isle of Wight) in the 1980s. Anthony gave him some seed a few years ago. Most species only form one tuber, but some form multiple tubers. Commercial seed does not germinate well so he believes the seeds may be shorted lived.

Geraniaceae contains members of the geranium family. The ones we grow in the garden have regular flowers, but Pelargoniums have different upper and lower petals, i.e. a zygomorphic flower. The zonal geraniums used in gardening are derived from *Pelargonium zonale* which is from the south. In the northern areas you get plants which are stem succulents or which have tubers. *Pelargonium crithmifolium* is from Steinkopf. The thorns on the stems are actually the woody remains of where the flowers grow. In cultivation the plant tends to grow elongated. Next we saw *Pelargonium cortusifolium*, photographed at Oxford Show. It is very slow, growing $\frac{1}{4}$ " per year so this must have been a very old plant.

Pelargonium grandicalcaratum has thinner stems and it was raised from seed from Margaret Corina, who had a fantastic collection of plants from this genus. The tuberous ones mainly belong to the Hoarea section. In the wild tubers are below ground and all the foliage is produced in the winter months. The plants flower in the spring and summer as the leaves are dying off. *Pelargonium oblongatum* was another obtained from Margaret it produces nice large flowers and we could see the guidelines for the insects. The stamens have orange red pollen and Terry explained that on many, as the flowers open, they first shed pollen and then the stigma becomes receptive. Because of this, individual flowers will not self pollinate, however if you have a plant with flowers in different states of growth then you can transfer the pollen from one flower to a ripe stigma on another.

Pelargonium incrassatum has rather fine crimson flowers. It grows at altitudes up to 1000m in the Kamiesberg mountains, and gets frost and snow in the winter. Next was a plant from Port Nolloth, with much reduced petals. He didn't know which species it might be. Next was *Pelargonium curviandrum* which had been collected by Derek Tribble. The leaves were covered with short hairs and there was banding on the upper petals. The plant bore flowers in different states so this is one which can be pollinated. *Pelargonium schizopetalum* has split petals, and the flower is pretty impressive. Terry mentioned he was once selling seedlings of this, and no one was buying any - but

they sold quickly once people realised what type of flowers they would have.

Sarcocaulon has now been merged into Monsonia but Monsonias do not have thick succulent stems. We saw the white flowers of *Sarcocaulon vanderietiae* and he considered this the best Sarcocaulon to grow because it does grow well – the others do not seem as easy to establish, and he found them difficult to grow. In the wild they are winter growing but in cultivation they can adapt and grow in summer or winter. In *S. crassicaule*, the bases of the flowers form thorns. These shrubs can get to a metre across in the wild. *S. multifidum* was from Beauvallon at the Orange River. There is only 5cm of annual rainfall in this area, but there are fog clouds almost every night. The little points on the leaves all initiate condensation from the atmosphere. David Neville recognised the locality and mentioned there are ostrich farms there, and Terry agreed that these may have expanded and obliterated the plants.

Apocynaceae is now a merger of the original Apocynaceae family and the Asclepiads. This means that Madagascan plants such as periwinkles and pachypodiums are now mixed with stapeliads and hoyas. Plants from both families produce seeds in horns and with parachutes so perhaps the merger may be reasonable.

He encountered *Sarcostemma viminale* with quite tall stems some 3-4 feet high, and these formed dense thickets. He has seen it many times, but only once in flower. The flowers do show some similarities with other genera such as Hoya. *Microloma* was found growing as a thin stem twining around stick Euphorbias. The 3 foot tall plants have attractive starry red flowers. He found it on the Silverhill seed list and ordered seed which germinated well. After 5-6 months he pricked them out – and they all died! If he tries again, he would not bother disturbing the seedlings and would just move the whole clump into a bigger pot. *Hoodia gordoni* was impressive and can form stems 3 feet tall with flowers up to 5 inches in diameter. He has seen it a lot, but not often in flower. The seed horns can be harvested before they split – just leave them in a dry place and they'll eventually ripen. This species is grown commercially since it forms the basis of an appetite suppressant. The native bushman had known this for years and they used it to allow them to endure long periods without food.

Crassulaceae contains Crassula which is a very big genus. However 95% of these are not worth growing in cultivation. *Crassula columella* is one of the more desirable ones, and we saw 2 distinct forms in the picture with different coloured bodies and slightly

different leaf arrangement. *Crassula cornuta* is a common plant in Namaqualand. The example we saw had grey leaves, but it does tend to be variable. The plant had some lesions on the leaves and this was maybe due to too much humidity in the winter. *Crassula suzanneae* grows in the quartz flats. He used to grow it, but had lost the plant. He hadn't seen it on sale for quite a while, although there happened to be one on our sales table this evening.

Crassula mesembryanthemopsis occurs in Bushmanland and also grows in quartz. When dry it pulls itself down into the ground. He has grown it, but it's not easy. He had got a cutting from Bill and Yvonne Tree who had a large plant but he found it to be slow growing. *Crassula alstonii* from the Richtersveld is also slow to build up groups of stems. *Crassula exilis* ssp. *sedifolia* was a tiny plant in a two inch pot. It forms green leaves dotted with red spots, and the flowers do look like sedum flowers. In the wild it always found in shady spots, never in sun, so he grows it in shade. *Crassula pseudohemisphaerica* is monocarpic, meaning that when it flowers, the centre forms a terminal flower spike and the plant dies after flowering. It does not offset so it has to be grown from seed. *Crassula tomentosa* also dies after flowering but it does form multiple heads, so some of these will continue even if the main head dies. *Crassula columnaris* is also monocarpic. His plant formed offsets so he didn't mind the main stem flowering, but now the offsets have flowered so they'll die off too.

Some Crassulas have tuberous roots, for example *Crassula saxifrage*. In the autumn it forms pink flowers. The plant only forms two leaves which grow larger during the winter. It does form tuberous offsets. *Crassula nemorosa* was obtained from Margaret. It forms small tubers and produces lots of offsets. The leaves are interesting, with little pin prick marks near the edges. These structures are termed hydathodes and they are used by the plants to exude water from leaves, carrying away salts that the plant doesn't need. Many Crassulas have this structure but it's particularly obvious in this species.

With Adromischus, in his view, only a small proportion are worth growing, and the rest are weedy. *Adromischus nanus* has maroon flowers on short stems. *Adromischus mariane* is gorgeous in all its forms, but particularly so with *Adromischus marianae* 'Herrei' which was a clone found by Peter Bruyns – the leaves are an inch and a half long and have coarse growths on them. *Adromischus schuldtianus* has various forms, but the grey-leaved variant with brown edges is really nice – he had got this from Suzanne Mace.

Tylecodon is a group of around 50 different species, all of which grow in the winter rainfall area. *Tylecodon paniculatus* forms mounds which can reach several feet high. The area is grazed by goats and these are the only plants left – because they are toxic to stock. *Tylecodon pusillus* is one of the smallest, only $\frac{1}{2}$ inch across and with a tuber below ground. He managed to find one only because he spotted a dead flower spike and cleared away some of the gravel. Growing close by was a two headed plant of *Conophytum devium*. *Tylecodon wallichii* is a medium sized plant with bright green leaves – it grows to a height of 1 foot. He saw some nice plants, but the farmer he was with kept kicking them because they were poisonous to his animals.

Tylecodon reticulatus is quite variable and the featured plant had long stems, some of which had lichen growing on them. Reticulate means netted and the dead flower remains do tend to grow into each other. *Tylecodon racemosus* has nice pink flowers. *Tylecodon sulphureus* has thick tubers and forms leaf rosettes - and in summer the leaves die off, then flower spikes with sulphur yellow tubular flowers appear in the dormant period. *Tylecodon bayerianus* has some of the nicest flowers. In the wild, the tuber would be below ground.

Tylecodon buchholzianus is devilishly slow growing, maybe putting on $\frac{1}{4}$ inch on the stems each year. It is very variable in its growth but a 1 foot tall plant in habitat must be some age. *Tylecodon decipiens* is a succulent shrub in cultivation, but is more compact in habitat. *Tylecodon singularis* forms a single leaf and it was rediscovered by Bruyns 10 years ago. *Tylecodon grandiflorus* has unusual flowers - all the other species have pastel-coloured insect-pollinated flowers, but this produces red flowers on really tall spikes (to clear other vegetation) and their shape suggested they must be pollinated by birds.

Plants from the **Asteraceae** include *Othonna euphorbioides*. This grows in granite rocks and has spiny stems, and forms groundsel flowers. *Othonna herrei* has attractive knobbly stems but is slow growing, but he got one to 9". It is prone to botrytis in the tips. The compressed version of this plant is *Othonna armiana* which only grows on one hill and is on the verge of extinction. With *Othonna cremnophila* the upper part of the stem is covered in lovely wool. *Othonna lepidicaulis* has scales on the stems. *Othonna hallii* has a little bit of hair. Some othonnas have below ground tubers and leaves above ground, for example *Othonna heterophylla*.

The last family was **Portulacaceae**. *Portulacaria pygmaea* (*Ceraria pygmaea*) grows in the wild like a

little tree stump, but in cultivation it is a stick stemmed shrublet. The flowers are just 1mm across. Anacampseros and Avonia were the last two genera he was going to cover. They used to be grouped together but were now separate. Anacampseros tends to produce flowers on long stems and the leaves are obvious. *Anacampseros retusa* v. *parva* was quite dark in colour but another form of retusa *Anacampseros retusa* ssp. *lanuginosa* has white wool and grows in white quartz patches and is very hard to see. Most are self fertile but they are very difficult to grow. *Anacampseros comptonii* was tiny at 1-2 inches across, but it was likely to have a fat caudex below the ground, and is very slow growing. *Anacampseros scopata* from Augrabies is very small and had half a dozen growing points. It is relatively easy to grow, but not easy from seed.

In Avonia the flowers are produced at the ends of the stem, with no stalk, and the leaves tend to be covered in white scales. The plants often branch at the base. *Avonia albissima* is typical and has glistening white stems. *Avonia prominens* occurs in the Richtersveld, and the branches re-branch above the ground. These can get to 6-7 inches across. *Avonia mallei* is named after Steven Hammer (mallet) - it forms thin stems branch above ground but these are self sterile. The flowers are pale yellow. *Avonia recurvata* ssp. *minuta* has scales which are more open, so one can see the leaves. The flowers barely get past the tip. *Avonia dinteri* from Namibia is larger flowered and one could see a fat caudex beginning to form. Although Avonias are slow growing and it would take ages to get a plant to match the size of those in habitat which have caudexes several inches across, they are easy from seed and can flower in 18 months. *Avonia quinaria* ssp. *alstonii* had white flowers and these are larger than the pink flowered *Avonia quinaria* ssp. *quinaria*. These are also self sterile.

Terry finished with some advice on cultivation. The plants he had shown were all winter growing in the wild, and will remain so when brought into cultivation. However Avonia and Anacampseros and the Asclepiads can become summer growers. The other things would just rot off if watered incorrectly. He starts watering around August and for those which produce leaves, would stop in April, when the leaves start to die off. For those which are deciduous just a splash of water in the summer is enough. For those which keep their leaves in summer, such as Crassula and Adromischus, he gives them a little bit more during the summer, to keep leaves in good condition. Since these plants are being watered in the winter, overnight frosts can be a problem so you need a compost which drains easily. He uses a mix of $\frac{1}{2}$ John Innes number 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ 4mm crushed granite grit. One

other item to bear in mind is that the light they would get in South Africa would be much better than what our winter provides, so give them as much light as possible, even consider giving them artificial lighting.

Despite growing in the winter months, they do not have to be kept warm. He lets most of his plants get down to 3°C. In the wild, some of these would get frozen. Don't try and keep them warm since they react to the falling temperatures. Similarly, seed has to be sown cool – do not use any heat. The best time is September to December, any later and the seedlings will be too small by the time of summer dormancy. If anything has thick roots, try taking a root cutting. The best time for this is at the start of the growing season, in August. They should root by the autumn.

Vinay Shah

Table Show Results

There were 9 entries in the table show at the March meeting.

	Cacti – Echinocactus Group	Succulents – Agave Group
Open	(1) B Beckerleg Echinocactus grusonii	(1) B Beckerleg agave titanota
	(2) -	(2) T Grech Agave verschaffletii
	(3) -	(3) -
Intermediate	(1) B Beckerleg Ferocactus sp.	(1) B Beckerleg Agave striata nana
	(2) -	(2) J Burnay Agave striata nana
	(3) -	(3) J Burnay Agave victoria-reginae

Ivor Biddlecombe

I had neglected to include February's results in the March newsletter, so here they are :

Table Show Results (February)

There were 14 entries in the table show at the February meeting.

	Cacti – Neoporteria & Copiapoa Group	Succulents – Adromischus Group
Open	(1) B Beckerleg Copiapoa longistaminea	(1) B Beckerleg Crassula suzannae
	(2) T Smith Copiapoa humilis	(2) -
	(3) -	(3) -
Intermediate	(1) B Beckerleg Neoporteria villosa	(1) B Beckerleg Adromischus marianiae
	(2) T Smith Copiapoa lauui	(2) J Burnay pachyphytum viridia
	(3) T Smith Copiapoa barquitansis	(3) J Burnay Echeveria tolimanensis

Ivor Biddlecombe

Branch Committee Meeting

A Branch Committee meeting was held on 22nd March. The meeting was held at a meeting room in St. Winfrid's Church in Totton, this had been arranged for us by Peter Down. Ivor provided supplies to make tea and coffee and had also brought along his famous cakes.

Mark Jakins mentioned that our accounts had been submitted to the National Society. The committee reviewed the accounts. We had made a profit, all the more creditable since our interest income had dropped sharply in 2009 (and this year's interest would be even lower). Mark had caught up with any outstanding payments which were due.

The branch has produced some A5 publicity leaflets, and Jim said he would get these laminated and get them put up at various locations.

David mentioned that a member had mentioned to him whether the branch would consider getting some sort of memorial for Margaret Corina. In the past we had named show trophies after members but right now we don't hold shows so we would have to think of something else.

The branch will be taking part in an extra event – this is at Sparsholt College's Countryside Day on Saturday

15th May. We will probably have a sales table and a display there, full details are still awaited. With Hilliers at Ampfield, we had been unable to get them to allocate us a date when we could use their education centre, so we will not be holding an event there this year. Details of the New Forest Show and Romsey show are also awaited.

David had not heard from any members who might have lent us a gazebo, so he would go ahead and buy one for the branch. This would be needed for Whiteley Village and possibly Sparsholt.

Topics for the Cultivation and Propagation workshop in May were discussed. We'd want a wide selection of topics, and as much audience participation as possible.

Vinay Shah

Snippets

Dot England pointed me to an article she found on the Internet, which lists many useful gardening tips :

<http://www.finegardening.com/how-to/articles/thirty-five-pest-disease-remedies.aspx>

- Test homemade sprays
- Add a few drops of liquid soap
- Apply sprays early
- Wear rubber gloves when using sprays
- Examine your plants
- Deterrents for deer
- Simple ways to keep rabbits at bay
- Moles be gone
- Barriers and baits for slugs and snails
- Japanese beetle busters
- Red-pepper powder repels pesky critters

- Tricks for removing aphids, mites, and other small insects
- An herbal brew to combat troublesome creepy crawlers
- Chamomile tea is a cure-all for fungal diseases
- A tonic for black spot and powdery mildew on roses
- Garlic helps thwart noxious diseases
- Aspirin is the remedy for fungal headaches
- Vinegar wreaks havoc on weeds
- Corn gluten stops weeds before they start

Next Month's Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on the 4th of May and will take the form of a cultivation and propagation workshop

The May table Show will consist of the **Opuntia** group (cacti) and the **Haworthia & Gasteria** groups (succulents). Please note that members are allowed to submit more than one entry in any of the classes, and that points will be earned for each placed entry.

The Opuntia group contains *Opuntia*, *Airampoa*, *Austrocylindropuntia*, *Brasiliopuntia*, *Consolea*, *Corynopuntia*, *Cumulopuntia*, *Cylindropuntia*, *Grusonia*, *Maihuenia*, *Maihueniopsis*, *Marenopuntia*, *Micropuntia*, *Nopalea*, *Pereskia*, *Pereskiopsis*, *Pterocactus*, *Puna*, *Quiabentia*, *Rhodocactus*, *Tacinga*, *Tephrocactus* and *Tunilla*.

The Haworthia and Gasteria groups contain *Haworthia*, *Astroloba*, *Chortolirion*, *Poellnitzia* and *Gasteria*.

Forthcoming Events

Sat 10 th Apr	Isle of Wight	"India Na Doug" - Doug Donaldson
Sat 17 th Apr	Portsmouth	Bring and Buy Sale
Tue 4 th May	Southampton	Cultivation & Propagation Workshop
Sat 8 th May	Isle of Wight	"Southern Peru" – Cliff Thompson
Sat 15 th May	Portsmouth	"Travels in Southern Patagonia" - Martin & Anna-Liisa Sheader
Sat 15 th May	Sparsholt	Display / Plant Sales @ Sparsholt College Countryside Day
Sat 29 th May- Sun 30 th	Whiteley	Display / Plant Sales @ Whiteley Village nr J9 M27
Tue 1 st Jun	Southampton	What I saw last winter (Paul Klaassen)
Sat 5 th Jun	Portsmouth	Summer Show @ Wickham Community Hall, Dairymoor, Wickham
Sat 12 th Jun	Isle of Wight	Morro Do Chapeau, Brazil (John Hughes)
Sat 19 th Jun	Portsmouth	"Southern Peru" – Cliff Thompson

Branch website: <http://www.southampton.bcss.org.uk>