

# British Cactus & Succulent Society

## Southampton & District Branch Newsletter

August 2015



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Editorial .....	1
Announcements .....	1
Table Show Results .....	6
Bookworm Corner .....	7
Next Month's Meeting .....	8
Forthcoming Events .....	8

## Editorial

Summer has continued to be a bit of a mixture and after a long spell of hot and dry weather we had some heavy rain, but that only lasted a couple of days. At least the need to cut grass this year has been minimal, but some garden plants have suffered from the dry conditions. I suppose there's still a chance that there may be some hot days ahead of us, but it was unusually chilly in the evenings last week.

## Announcements

Recent events put on or attended by the Branch include the **Summer Garden Party**, the **New Forest Show** and the visit to **Oxford Show**. Despite dreadful weather, over 20 people attended the summer garden party, but due to the weather most of the event was held indoors and we have to thank Alice for putting up with us! The New Forest Show was apparently a success with record attendances from the public, so hopefully our plant sales did well. Several members travelled up to Oxford Show and we saw a good display of plants, including Haworthias since the Haworthia Society held their annual show at the event.

A reminder that Portsmouth & District Branch has invited all members and friends from Southampton Branch to its **65<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party** on Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup>. The party will take the form of a garden party and open day and will be held at the home of Sandy Wooller (Farlington, Portsmouth). Please let David know if you plan to attend, or need more information.

The Branch will be holding the **Annual Branch Dinner** on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August. Maps are available on the front table – let David know if you wish to attend.

## Last Month's Meeting

### Plants of Interest

David Neville had brought along an example of *Agave albipilosa* - this is a recently discovered fairly small growing agave from Northern Mexico which is unique in producing white fluffy tufts on the end of the leaves, as they mature. His seedling was 4 years and when he left home, one of the leaves had started to form the tuft - but somehow despite being wrapped in newspaper, the tuft had got knocked off during transit! He has been selling this species over the past few years and Peter Down had bought one of these and apparently Peter's now has three tufts. David's second plant was one he had obtained from Stuart Riley of Plantlife - Aeoniums are very popular these days and this was a new American cultivar called 'Mardi Gras' – it's the prettiest one he's seen. Although still young and only just rooted, it looked like it will go on to form a fabulous multi-coloured plant.

Ivor had brought along some Sempervivums - he said these were some of the more interesting ones. One un-named plant was a cristate Sempervivum. Another cultivar, called 'Griggs Surprise' or 'Weirdo' produces leaves which are hollow tubes rather than flat rosettes - the plant has a distinctive smell and also has sticky leaves. Another cultivar called 'Oddity' also has leaves which curl in a hollow shape. The final plant he had brought was *Jovibarba heuffelii* 'Be Mine' - this is one of the prettier ones with very dark leaves and it's better than 'Bronze Ingot' which is also well known but is less dark.

### Our Collection

Kathy said that she and Keith had both been growing plants since the 1980s, and decided to combine their collections in 1995 - and they had to move house as a result. They grow a lot of different types of plants, but hadn't photographed many of their succulents, so apart from Agaves, succulents were not well represented in the pictures. They would show various genera in alphabetical order and we started with some Agaves.

Keith said Agaves had been a passion of his for many years now. You can find something to grow in a variety of sizes from small to very large. The first plant was from the 1990s - *Agave applanata*, which he had grown on from a small plant to a large specimen. It is amazingly dangerous with a sharp spike on the leaf tip. 'Cream Spike' is a variegated form. *Agave bovicornuta* was photographed with a beautiful effect with the sun against the backlit leaves - but it is large growing and can get to three feet across before it flowers. *A. cupreata* is related and is one of the more handsome plants. *A. compacta* is a more manageable size and will be happy in a 1-foot bowl - he hasn't heard of anyone flowering it yet. The leaves are an apple green colour and the variegation varies. *A. guadalajarana* was a plant he had bought from our branch. *A. isthmensis* is bad tempered and doesn't like the cold. It looks like *A. potatorum*, and the pictured plant was obtained from Derek Bowdery. *A. 'Kichijokan'* is a nice form. *A. lophantha* makes a handsome plant, it is cold hardy but flowers quite young. His would do so soon and would need to be replaced! A cross between *A. macrocantha* x *A. applanata*. *A. mckelveyana* has narrow leaves and produces lots of pups when young. *A. montana* is a recent discovery but he has not seen it on sale. *A. parrasana variegata* was cold hardy. It grew well and filled a 60cm bowl. Don't plant it out in the garden or it will take over. *A. parryi* v *huachucensis* and *A. parryi* v *truncata* are nice looking plants, the latter is not as robust as the normal *parryi* and can mark up in low temperatures.

*A. parviflora* is a diminutive plant and is slow growing. *A. potatorum* is available in several forms. On the featured plant, the pups had raised edging to the side of the leaves, and this is only present for the first three years when they are juvenile. With *A. salmiana* v *ferox*, he just puts a cover over it for the winter. *A. stricta* is a handsome looking plant when young. *A. subsimplex* doesn't like being outside - it can get sunburn and also mark up in low temperatures. There's a lovely colour to the young teeth on the leaves. *A. titanota* marks up in low temperatures. We saw some of the plants he was growing outside - *A. quadricolor* is a form of *A. univatatata* - if you take the pups off, it forms more. *A. utahensis eborispina* is sought after by collectors but is painfully slow. The leaf colours vary, depending on where they were collected. *A. utahensis kaibabensis* is one he's not seen for sale. *A. nevadaensis* has blueish leaves - sometimes some of the leaves die back. *A. victoria reginae* - and *A. victoria reginae* x *A. polyanthoflora* were both nice looking plants. *A. wocomahi* was in a 7 inch pan - he had no idea how large it will grow. A cross between a Manfreda x *A. macrocantha* is called *Mangave*

'Bloodspot' - someone in the society has flowered it. It takes in huge amounts of water and doesn't sun burn and is cold hardy.

*Akersia roseiflorus* was a beautiful plant grown in a hanging basket, but you had to watch it didn't catch your hair. *Aloe distans* likes to grow by creeping along the ground. *Anacampseros alstonii* is now *Avonia quinaria* ssp. *alstonii* and all hers are the pink flowered form. She leaves them alone since she tends to lose them when she repots them. Next we saw various *Ariocarpus* plants - *agavoides*, an *agavoides* cross, *fissuratus*, *hintonii*, *retusus*, and *trigonus*. Next were some *Astrophytum asterias* crosses - these produced an unusual red flower but the best one died after flowering! It's annoying when a special plant does that. With her *Astrophytums*, the flowers change colour during the season - so plants with yellow flowers initially can bloom peach or pink or even red when they re-flower later in the season. A spineless form of *A. capricorne* was 30 years old - it has fantastic flowers. We also saw some of the other *capricornes* from their collection. We saw *A. myriostigma*, including the Japanese cultivar 'Onzuko' - these should have a 'v' shape of flecks on the ribs. Next was a plant which has a different coloured flower every time it flowers - Kathy had seen pink, peach and yellow flowers on it. Some plants from Southfield were crosses with *A. orantum* and these had huge flowers. *Aztekium hintonii* was about 15 years old and was on its own roots. Another plant of the same species was on a graft.

*Copiapoa barquitensis* has an unusual lizard type skin. The featured plant of *Copiapoa cinerscens* was an unusual plant that Derek Bowdery had given to her. We also saw *Copiapoa cinerea* and *Copiapoa columna alba* and *Copiapoa hypogea* obtained from David Neville. Kathy has a large collection of *Coryphanthas* and we saw *C. cornifera* and *C. radians* forms with yellow flowers. *Coryphantha echinus* also has yellow flowers. An old plant had developed brown markings and she wasn't sure what had caused that. We also saw *Coryphantha elephantidens* v *greenwoodii* and *Coryphantha pseudonickelsiae* which has yellow flowers. *C. ramillosa* has pink flowers and *C. runyonii* has feathery flowers, but the plants get sooty (develop black mould). *Echeveria pulvinata* cv 'Ruby' is one of the few *Echeverias* they grow. Next we saw the golden barrel *Echinocactus grusonii* and also *Echinocactus (homolacephala) texensis*. *Echinocereus viereckii* v *morriscalii* has magenta flowers which apparently have the scent of Cadbury's chocolate. We also saw *Echinocereus mohavensis*, *E. boyce thompsonii*, *E. ferreirianus* *E. lindsayii* and *E. knippelianus*. With *Echinocereus*

*pectinatus* ssp *ctenoides*, the flower is huge and is the size of a pudding basin. *Echinocereus pulchellus* v. *sharpii* has white flowers and *E. pulchellus weinbergii*, has pink flowers.

Echinopsis plants are mainly grown for the flowers and there are series of cultivars in a rainbow of colours. We saw Echinopsis Bourne Chance, Bourne Corona, Bourne Emporer, Bourne Explosion, Bourne Golden Petticoats, Bourne Lace, Bourne Lustre, Bourne Mischief, Bourne Peters Pearl, Bourne Splendour (has a darker body colour), Bourne Sun which were all from Southfields. We also saw Echinopsis Bittermilk Pink, Chamaelobivia Lincoln Gem, Echinopsis Cheetah, Echinopsis Dainty Bess (a *Trichocereus* cross), Echinopsis Derek's Pink Sherbert (named by her), Echinopsis Eggy (yellow flowers, named by her), Echinopsis Hishinoo, Echinopsis Hot Lips (red to pink red), Echinopsis Jacqueline, Echinopsis Lilac Beauy, Echinopsis Piece Rose, Echinopsis Snow Storm, (white flowers - floriferous, body goes red in sun and the flowers are perfumed), Echinopsis Wendy's Rainbow (orange, purple/pink and yellow - from Richard and Wendy Edginton), and Echinopsis Westfield Pink.

We saw a two headed seedling of *Encephalocarpus strobiliformis*, and *Epithelantha micromeris* and *Epithelantha polycephala*. With *Escobaria duncanii*, when she calls it *Escobaria sneedii* it doesn't win show prizes, but as *E. duncanii* it does win. The plant was 40 years old. We saw *Escobaria minima*, and *Escobaria robinsorum* which has yellow flowers. The latter is bad tempered, don't overwater it and keep it dry when the weather is cool. We saw *Ferocactus macrodiscus* in flower, followed by *Frailea angelesii* and *Frailea asteroides*, whose flowers open at 4pm and sometimes self pollinate without opening at all. We saw *Gasteria* 'Ghostly Ice' and *Gasteria vlockii*. *Geohintonia mexicana* was discovered in 1992. *Graptopetalum pentandrum* ssp *superbum* has a shocking smell to the flower. *Gymnocalycium cardenasianum* is heavily spined. *Gymnocalycium neuhuber* is beautiful when in flower. *Gymnocalycium oenanthemum* has red or pink flowers. A plant of *Haworthia keegani* has 'Kigazato' written on the label. We also saw a variegated *Haworthia truncata*. *Lobivia miniatiflora* has orange to red flowers, *Lobivia obrepanda purpurea* has deep pink flowers, and *Lobivia acanthophlegma roseiflora* has purplish flowers. *Lophophora fricii* has pink flowers.

*Mammillaria* is another of Keith's passions - it was one of the first group of plants he started growing back in the 1980s. The series *Leucocephala* has

floccose hair in the axils. These are not plants for big flowers, and they are not as dramatic as *Sulcorebutias*. In the main, the flowers in this grouping are coloured soft pink to pink and purple. *Mammillaria albicans* is not the easiest, the plant doesn't like overwatering. *Mammillaria beneckii* is yellow flowered - it likes warmth and has shallow roots so should benefit from being sprayed rather than direct watering it was in a 38cm bowl. It should be kept warm through winter don't let it dry up. *Mammillaria dodsonii* has large purple flowers. *Mammillaria elongata* crossed with something else had yellow flowers. *Mammillaria geminispina* v. *leuocentra* - this was the western form, with shorter spines. *Mammillaria gigantea* v *ocotillensis* has acid yellow flowers. *Mammillaria goldii* is another beautiful sought-after plant - it is reliable with flowering, but only produces one show of flowers, there is no repeat flowering. With *Mammillaria grahamii* v *oliviae* - you might get two flowerings. SB271 is a Steven Brack number and the plant (*Mammillaria albicoma*) doesn't like being overwatered. *Mammillaria guelzowiana* is from Durango in Mexico - you can get about 3 sessions of spectacular blooms in June/July. With *Mammillaria hahniana*, this was the white spined form, you can also get dark-spined variants. *Mammillaria heidiaie* is a touchy plant - if you grow it in a plastic pot, use free draining material like seramis or Tesco cat litter. Keep the soil damp but not soaking wet. The yellow flowers have green stigmas.

*Mammillaria hernandezii* flowers in July and can also want to flower around Christmas time sometimes. You need to clean off any fruits before winter, because the sugars in the fruit can cause rot and damage the body of the plant. *Mammillaria herrerae* is similar to *M. humboldtii* - but is more dense and smooth in its spination. We also saw *Mammillaria humboldtii* being grown in seramis - he advises that for all touchy plants. *Mammillaria insularis* & *M. schumanii* provide a riot of colour and you can't even see the plant bodies - the flowers are pink with a green stigma. Again take any fruits off before winter and miss out some waterings because the plant prefers not to be too wet. *Mammillaria klissingiana* looks like *M. hahniana* - but there's a large physical distance between the two. The featured plant was 30 years old. After the break, we resumed with *M. lasiacantha*. This belongs in one of the larger sections and plants are found in most of the Northern flank of Mexico and the Southwestern US states. You tend to find these in crevices and rock outcrops. The flowers vary from a very soft shell pink to bronze colours. Some plants clump and some remain solitary. *Mammillaria longimamma* is one from the

Dolicothele section - it has a huge parsnip tap root and the flowers have a citrus smell, like freshly cut lemons. *Mammillaria luethyi* has dramatic spination and is often grown on a graft. It has fantastic flowers which are sometimes bicoloured. We had to wait something like 50 years for plant to be re-found in habitat. The crocus type flowers are mainly purple and produced in one flowering period. *Mammillaria magnimamma* v *bucareliensis* forms rings of flowers in shades of pink. *Mammillaria magnimamma* v *crassimammillis* is more variable and was found by Reppenhagen in the 1980s. *Mammillaria melaleuca* is from the Dolicothele group. This was originally a single headed plant which was damaged in the crown and it fasciated and made a multi-headed plant which was now in a 10 inch pan - the flowers have a beautiful perfume. *Mammillaria microthele* v *superfina* is painfully slow growing when young and eventually dichotomises. The seedlings around the base of the plant were plants which had germinated from seed from the plant - the very small brown seeds set easily and produce baby plants readily. The flowers are shell pink or off white.

*Mammillaria napina* is also sought after. The plant has a deep tap root, so it prefers a deep pot. The soil needs to be kept free draining, so use plenty of grit or seramis, and be careful with the watering. *M. sheldonii* f. *monocentra* has the typical pink sheldonii flower but lacks the central spine. *Mammillaria occidentalis* has attractive flowers. With *Mammillaria plumosa* we saw a form which is astonishingly white and floccose - it tends to flower in midsummer. The plant has white flowers and very soft body tissue and is prone to die - but Kathy found can actually root a single tubercle and save the plant. We also saw the pink flowered 'golfball' form - this is relatively uncommon. *M. magnimamma* is very floccose. Their plant of *Mammillaria preissnitzii* died, and although it was replaced, the new plant is not as floccose as the pictured specimen. If you suspect a mealy infection, make up some Provado and tease it between the pups. *Mammillaria rozeckii* is a newcomer to the scene - the flower similar to *M. therease* - but the body resembles *M. saboe*. *Mammillaria rubrograndis* is one of the largest growing of the Mammillarias, but is always solitary in habitat. It will pup eventually in cultivation and can dichotomise with age. *Mammillaria saboae* has an unmistakable pink flower - *M. haudeana* is similar but has a purple flower. *M. sanchez-mejorada* was on a graft although it does grow OK on its own roots as well. *Mammillaria schumannii* was from Baja - it is touchy and will die with careless watering. Use a free draining compost and miss out the occasional watering. We saw the pink flowered form of *M.*

*sempervivi* - the heads had dichotomised. *Mammillopsis senilis* is prone to mealy - water it with Provado when the weather is warm. It needs good light to flower well. *M. supertexta* is quite a large group - these stay solitary for a long time. *M. tepexicensis* was found in the late 1980s and is usually solitary. It has curious seed cases but is easy from seed. *M. theresae* was found in the mid 1960s and is a beautiful plant - if in a 6 inch pan, it has a good chance of winning a show class. We also saw the white-flowered form on a graft, but this is very tetchy. *Mammillaria yaquensis* was very popular 20 years ago - the flowers have a nice perfume. It is now placed with *M. thornberi*. They grew one which suddenly produced a red flower - but on closer examination found that a *Rebutia* seedling was growing in the middle of the plant! *Mammillaria zephyranthoides* is another sought-after plant. A final shot showed several of the Mammillarias.

*Matucana purpureoalba* forms upright pink flowers and *Matucana weberbaueri* has acid yellow flowers. *Navajoa peeblesianus* is now a *Pediocactus*. Their plant of *Horridocactus choapensis* was now offsetting - and it flowers every year, but can be tricky to grow. A *Neoporteria* in flower was unnamed - they liked the flower but had lost the label and didn't know what it was. *Notocactus buiningii* is an old favourite, although rare these days. *N. haselbergii* is another plant you don't see very often these days. The pictured plant of *N. leninghausii* was lost, but they have a replacement. It has beautiful yellow flowers. *N. magnificus* can be grown outside in the summer, it can take full sun. Some forms of *N. ottonis* have the most beautiful flowers. *N. roseoluteus* has a beautiful glossy pink flower. *N. uebelmanniana* has pink or magenta flowers. *Oroya peruviana* is a plant which they have managed to flower now that they have a south-facing greenhouse. We saw *Pediocactus knowltonii*, *P. paradineii* (grafted) and *P. simpsonii* - these are amazingly hardy. The flowers of *Pelecyphora aselliformis* are not quite as dark as they appeared in the picture. We also saw *Pleiospilos nelii* - and the newer variety *Pleiospilos* 'Royal Flush' which has a purple body and magenta flowers. *Puna bonniae* is now regarded as a *Tephrocactus*.

*Rebutia aureiflora* can have yellow to orange flowers. A close up of some *Rebutia* bodies suggested they might be a *heliosa* cross of some type. *Rebutia* 'Carnival' was a hybrid from Southfields. Visiting that nursery in May is fantastic, with benches and benches of these in various colours. They grow their *rebutias* in 3 cold frames. *Rebutia* 'lime & orange' is covered in masses of orange flowers. *Rebutia* 'Dusky Maiden'

was from Pete and Ken's nursery. We saw the pink flowered *Rebutia eos* WR333 and the normal white flowered variant. *Rebutia friedrichiana* and *Rebutia gonjarii* were colourful. *Rebutia heliosa* v. *cajasensis* has red flowers and silver spines, and *R. heliosa* v. *condorensis* has a wine red flower. *Rebutia leucanthema* has white flowers with some pink petals in between. *R. nidulans* has yellow flowers. *R. pallida* in full flower was spectacular, and *Rebutia pygmaea* is attractive too. Next we saw a disease (or potentially false mites) which seems to be affecting some of their plants - it attacks the growing point and kills off the tissue, and you need to cut this off the plant. It seems to target the pygmaea types and the only way to get rid of it is to cut off the affected bodies and wait for the plant to regrow. They have tried dimethoate this year to see if it will get rid of the issue. *Rebutia narvaesensis* is very pretty by itself but it will cross with a lot of other things and pass on the colour and floriferous nature - we saw a plant with candy-striped flowers. *Rebutia pygmaea* v. *canacruzensis* has yellow flowers. *Rebutia torquata* has orange flowers with a pale centre. There are also series of *Rebutia* crosses which are named after female names and we saw *R. 'Mandy'*.

*Stapelia flavopurpurea* ssp. *fleckii* has a lovely star-shaped flower and the smell is not too disgusting. It needs heat. *Strombocactus disciformis* has minute seed and when she takes off the seed pods, she rubs it between her fingers over the pot and the seeds germinate like mustard and cress around the bottom of the plant. There are different forms of this species in circulation.

*Sulcorebutias* used to be the pride and joy of her collection, but due to lack of space she now breaks them up and keeps them small. We started with some different forms of *S. albissima*, which has lovely shades of pink flowers. *S. flavissima* was supposed to have yellow spines but then they found some with brown spines and similarly, *S. mentosa* was supposed to be brown spined and then they found yellow spined forms, so they have all been merged. *Sulcorebutia albissima* HS100a has magenta flowers. *Sulcorebutia arenacea* and *menesesii* may be related - they seem to cross with each other quite easily. *Sulcorebutia canigueralli* is found in many different body forms and the flowers vary from red/yellow to deep magenta. We saw *Sulcorebutia crispata*, *swobodae* and *mentosa*. *S. HS151* has intense magenta flowers. *Sulcorebutia HS264* has distinct red flowers and has not been given a species name. We saw *Sulcorebutia bruchii* HS119, *S. gemmae* and *S. hoffmanniana*. *Sulcorebutia pulchra* has pink/magenta flowers - HS78a has normal spines and HS78 doesn't have the

long spines. *Sulcorebutia purpurea* comes in more open forms or more spiny forms and has deep red flowers. *Sulcorebutia rauschii* occurs in a range of different forms, even though it is supposed to only grow on one hillside. She had one from Southfields with a red and yellow flower, rather than the normal magenta colour.

*Sulcorebutia steinbachii* from Cayacayani had unusual strawberry pink flowers. *Sulcorebutia tiraquensis* v. *bicolorispina* had crested flowers and crested seed pods but none of the seeds seemed to carry this trait. A *Sulcorebutia* labelled 'Toralapa Seco' (might be a location) had pale pink flowers, and it might be a form of *S. steinbachii*. *Sulcorebutia verticillacantha alba* was grown by Derek Bowdery from seed, and she wouldn't like to lose it. *S. vasqueziana* is found in white spined forms (magenta flowers) and yellow spined forms (red flowers).

*Tephrocactus geometricus* is easy to recognise once you've seen it. *Thelocactus bicolor* v. *commodus* was 25-30 years old and was in a 7 inch pot. *Thelocactus conothelos* var. *aurantiacus* was grown from seed and produced different shades of red flowers. *Thelocactus heterochromus* is worth space in anyone's greenhouse. They had a long-spined form of *Thelocactus hexadrophus* this was sat under a drip in the greenhouse - one tubercle rotted and it formed a crest in that area. However the plant still flowers on the side and is growing and has been like that for 3-4 years now. We saw some examples of *T. hexadrophus* seedlings including a long spined form, a fluffy plant and a 'wangy'-spined one. *Thelocactus leucacanthus* v. *sanchezmejoradae* has purple flowers. *Thelocactus phymathothelos* was only in a 4 inch pot but it had flowered 3-4 times this year. *Thelocactus rinconensis* had been attacked by scale and it has been placed in isolation - they've tried various insecticides but it is still infected. *Thelocactus tulensis* v. *bueckii* has glossy pink flowers. *Trichocereus lobiviodes* v. *chilensis* has beautiful flowers, but they don't open up fully, and remain like goblets. *Trichocereus 'Pink Glory'* is a very nice plant producing flowers the size of a tea plate - it also flowers 2/3 times a year and is a fast grower!

Moving on to *Turbiniacarpus*, we saw one that just appeared in a pot, its parentage was unknown. *Turbiniacarpus alonsoi* forms deep pink flowers. *Turbiniacarpus andersonii* used to be called *T. panarottii* and it has white flowers with a pink stripe. *Turbiniacarpus jauernigii* has pink/brown flowers which open late in the year. *Turbiniacarpus knuthianus* has pink flowers but is also found with white blooms. *T. lophophoroides* has white flowers.

*T. valdezianus* is similar to *T. pseudopectinatus*, although the spination is different. These plants were called *Pelecyphora/Normanbokea* but are now in *Turbiniacarpus*. They are quite easy from seed. Keith mentioned it was difficult to keep them clean - the pectinate spines suck up moisture from the soil and this can cause the base of the plant to form a crust or just look dirty. Their plant of *Turbiniacarpus pseudomacrotyle* insists on putting out lumps at the base and these eventually turn into offsets. It was a plant from a friend, so it will stay. *T. pseudomacrotyle* v *lausseri* has a yellow flower. *T. pseudopectinatus*, like *T. valdezianus* is difficult to keep clean. When they flower, they form a whole carpet of colour. *T. roseiflorus* has pink flowers and *T. schmiedickeanus* ssp. *rubriflorus* has purple flowers. *T. subterraneus* forms huge tubers underground. Plants of *T. subterraneus* var. *zaragosae* are variable, with flowers which range from greenish yellow through to pink.

Next we saw an orange-flowered *Weingartia longigibba* - the normal plant has yellow flowers. This was a plant from John Donald. Keith said we as growers tend to grow a lot of *Sulcorebutias* and *Weingartias* past their sell by date - in the wild they would renew themselves via seeds. *Weingartia trolli* can have red, orange or yellow flowers, and we saw some of Southfield's *Weingartia* hybrids with red, purple, and pink flowers. Next was a cross between *Weingartia neumanniana* and *Sulcorebutia rauschii* - it had magenta flowers. We ended with *Yavia cryptocarpa*, which was offered by the Mammillaria society after its discovery. Hers survived for many years, but currently she just has a couple of heads in a rooting tray and hopes that they will take!

Adrian thanked the speakers for the quantity, quality, variety, and beauty of the slides and also for displaying a good memory with remembering all the names.

Vinay Shah

**Table Show Results**

There were 13 entries in the July table show, and 5 entries for "Plants in Flower".

	<b>Cacti – Echinopsis</b>	<b>Succulents – Gasteria</b>
Open	(1) I Biddlecombe <i>Echinopsis intricatissima</i>	(1) B Beckerleg <i>Gasteria lilliputana</i>
	(2) B Beckerleg <i>Denmoza rhodacantha</i>	(2) I Biddlecombe <i>Gasteria variegata</i>
	(3) S Wilson <i>Echinopsis pasacana</i>	(3) S Wilson <i>Gasteria croucheri</i>
Intermediate	(1) B Beckerleg <i>Lobivia famatimensis</i>	(1) I Biddlecombe <i>Gasteria batesiana</i>
	(2) I Biddlecombe <i>Echinopsis deserticola</i>	(2) T Radford <i>Gasteria armstrongii</i>
	(3) -	(3) S Wilson <i>Gasteria ernst-rauschii</i>
Novice		(1) M Stevenson <i>Gasteria nitida</i> v. <i>armstrongii</i>

**Cacti/Succulent in Flower**

(1) B Beckerleg <i>gymnocalycium hybopleurum</i>
(2) S Wilson <i>cleistocactus wendlandiorum</i>
(3) T Radford <i>obregonia denegrii</i>

Ivor Biddlecombe

## Bookworm Corner

The year is shooting by at an alarming rate (again) and before you know it the kids will all be back at school and you will be scratching around the garden shed looking for that roll of spare bubble-wrap you were sure was there! Which reminds me, we really must buy a small paraffin heater as an emergency back up, we have been far too lucky with the electricity thus far (8 winters).....

Continuing my slightly autumnal theme, the first of the wintering waders returning from their foreign breeding grounds arrived down at the marsh last week. We are currently enjoying seeing approximately 80 Black-tailed Godwit which seem quite grumpy with each other, so plenty of interaction to observe. Perhaps someone lost the directions for the trip down from Iceland..? Others include one or two returning Wimbrel (a slightly smaller version of our familiar Curlew) and a couple of Teal.

The garden is in full flower with the different species of Hydrangea looking very pretty with heads varying from 'mop' to 'lace cap'. My favourite species (unknown) has amazing furry leaves and lilac lace caps type flowers which are just coming into their own. The Japanese Anemone is also coming into flower and looks very structural with its branched flowering stems and goes nicely with Verbena Bonariensis. Otherwise, Hosta's well eaten but nice flowers now, King Edwards and Jersey Royals well eaten by us, and Garlic lifted and waiting to be plaited.

The *Parodias* are dominating the flowering stakes in the cacti house, with all the *P. leninghausii* and *P. magnifica* flowering simultaneously (do these two hybridise..?), a few *Turbinicarpus* and continued *Astrophytum* flowering and setting seed. The *Adromischus* are producing a good selection of flowers in various shapes and hues of pink and white, they may be small but are very pretty on closer inspection!

Don't forget to have a look at the **Books For Sale** down in the library corner.

### 'ENJOYED THE LECTURE? THEN ENJOY THE BOOK!'

#### July

Keith and Kathy Flanagan gave a talk titled 'Our Collection'. A book featuring a selection of cacti worth looking at is '**The Cactus Family**' (Anderson E.F). This large book not only gives specific descriptions on each species but has a number of

informative chapters covering subjects such as what are the distinctive features of cacti including some super electron microscope photographs of pollen and seed. Other chapters include ethnobotany, conservation, cultivation and classification. Overall a good read. '**Cactus and succulents in the garden**' (Bell S.A.) is an interesting book which includes ideas on planting them in the garden such as in combination with other garden plants, in containers and used as bedding. At the back of the book is a list of frost resistant plants.

#### August

This month's talk is a new format of '**Ask the Experts**' so in theory and in practise I'm sure, all your questions will have been answered if not by tea break at least by the end of the meeting, so I don't expect a rush to the library this month!! However, just in case a good book on in-depth cultivation including grafting, pests and diseases (although I wouldn't bother taking any notice of the references to DDT – it is an old book!) is '**Cactus Culture – based on biology**' (Buxbaum F.). Another book covering topics of cultivation is '**Cactus and succulents**' (Mace T & S). This covers a variety of topics to including pests and propagation as well of setting up a greenhouse for the collection.

All of these books are to be found in '**Featured Book Corner**' so come on over.

*Sue Wilson*

## Next Month's Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> September and will be a talk by John Hughes on "Cool Customers" – namely plants which can be grown with little or no heating.

The September Table Show will consist of the **Gymnocalycium Group (cacti)** and **Euphorbia Group (succulents)** classes. Please note that members can submit more than one entry in any of the classes, and that points will be earned for each placed entry. In addition there is a class for any flowering cactus or succulent plant.

The *Gymnocalycium* group includes *Brachycalycium*, *Gymnocalycium* and *Neowerdermannia*

The *Euphorbia* Group includes *Cnidoscolus*, *Elaeophorbia*, *Endadenium*, *Euphorbia*, *Jatropha*, *Monadenium*, *Pedilanthus*, *Phyllanthus*, *Stenadenium* and *Synadenium*.

From 2015, the table show classes will now use the classifications from the *Guide to Shows 10<sup>th</sup> Edition*. (contact me if you need a copy of this)

## Forthcoming Events

Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Isle of Wight	Open Evening at Robin & Joan Goodredge (members only)
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Portsmouth	No meeting
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Southampton	Branch Dinner @ The Luzborough
Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	Southampton	Cool Customers (Growing with minimal heating) – (John Hughes)
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Southampton	Display / Plant Sales @ Romsey Show
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Isle of Wight	The Tribe Rhipsalidae and its hybrids (Carl Bullock)
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Portsmouth	Conophytums (Eddy Harris)
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Autumn Show @ Christ Church Hall, Widley, PO7 5BU
Tue 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Southampton	A Plantsman in Southern Peru (Martin Sheader)
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Isle of Wight	Off the Beaten Track 3 (Rodney Sims)
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Portsmouth	Around the Shows - BCSS & RHS Shows (Trevor Wray)

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