

British Cactus & Succulent Society

Southampton & District Branch Newsletter

September 2016



Branch Secretary

David Neville
6 Parkville Road
Swaythling
Southampton
Hampshire
SO16 2JA
davnev@btopenworld.com
(023) 80551173 or
07974 191354

Newsletter Editor

Vinay Shah
29 Heathlands Road
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO53 1GU
sotonbcss@gmail.com
(023) 80261989

Editorial	1
Announcements	1
Last Month's Meeting	1
Table Show Results	6
Snippets	7
New names in Aloe and Haworthia	7
Next Month's Meeting	7
Forthcoming Events	7

Editorial

The evenings are beginning to get shorter, but everything still seems to be growing well. Some of my cacti produced flowers last month and these included *Notocactus leninghausii* and *Borzicactus (Cleistocactus) samaipatanus*. I am hoping some of the mesembs will flower in the coming months.

Announcements

The **BCSS National Show** was held on 20th August at Godmanchester, and the event appeared to be a success, with good attendance from members and the general public.

Our branch will have a display and stand at the **Romsey Show** this coming Saturday. We already have some volunteers to man the display, please contact Ivor for further details.

There is a sheet on the front table for people to register their interest in attending the **Mesemb Study Group** event at Banstead on Saturday 24th September. Please write down your name if you want to attend, and we will try and arrange lifts.

David has some supplies of the **BCSS 2017 Calendar** available for purchase at £5.50 – this represents a saving of £2 on the mail-order price. You can preview the featured images at:
<http://society.bcsc.org.uk/index.php/calendar.html>

Portsmouth will be holding their **Autumn Show** on Saturday 1st October. David Neville can email you a copy of the show schedule, on request.

A provisional date of Friday 18th November has been set for the **Annual Branch Dinner** – please contact David Neville for further details.

Last Month's Meeting

Cultivation & Propagation Evening

I was a little late getting to the last meeting so missed the first few minutes, but arrived in the middle of a discussion on insecticides and how to deal with red spider mite. The aerosol form of Provado does state that it kills red spider whereas the liquid form does not. The aerosol can burn the plant, so spray it from a few inches away. Someone did mention that the aerosol version may no longer be on sale.

Finding effective insecticides are a problem - you used to be able to buy formulations containing dimethoate and malathion - but nothing like that is available now for amateur use, and even commercial use of these chemicals is restricted and banned in some countries. Bruce suggested some headlice treatments contained insecticide, and a weak solution of hydrogen peroxide was also mentioned. Some websites I browsed suggested that 3% to 5% solutions of peroxide were effective against pests, (apart from scale insect), but they did advise testing on a small part of the plant, to ensure it doesn't cause leaf burn. The following link accesses the RHS's latest advice on pesticides for home gardeners : <http://bit.ly/2cDNuGg>

David also mentioned that the late Ken Etheridge from Portsmouth used to use a weak solution of Jeyes fluid as an insecticide. But his greenhouse and some of his plants used to smell rather strongly!

We moved on to discuss some problem plants. Dot had brought in a plant of *Morawetzia (Oreocereus)* which had a brown stem in the centre of the plant, but it had produced offsets which were green and looked OK. Paul wondered whether it might have suffered low temperatures but Dot said her greenhouse was kept at 10°C minimum. The brown stem was unsightly and David advised her to get a sharp knife and cut out this stem, the new growths

would soon cover up the absence of that central stem. Next was *Mammillaria (Dolicothele) longimamma* and this was again Dot's plant. It appeared to have got scorched and was looking pale green when it is normally a dark green colour. David advised repotting it in fresh compost and it will hopefully recover. Next was a weird and non-descript mesemb with bumps on the leaves which no-one could identify. David asked why would one bother to grow this?

Adrian had brought in some plastic sheeting which was in the form of a 1cm mesh. He said that he had tables with rather wide slots and the pots slip through, now he uses the mesh as a support to put pots on, and it avoids them falling through. It is made from semi-rigid plastic and can be cut with scissors. He thought it was UV resistant but hadn't owned it long enough to know for sure. Cheap plastics do degrade, even if not exposed to sun, although in usage, this would mostly be covered by pots. It comes in 1 metre widths. Alec Mant mentioned he had seen similar plastic mesh at the InExcess store in Ringwood. Ivor suggested an alternative was to use the base of punnets - these would work for a few months. David said he grew all his plants in gravel trays - and just flood waters everything. Adrian said he had used trays - but was getting mould and pest problems. One does have to be careful if you are utilising the space underneath the benches and have plants underneath - the surplus water will drip through onto them if you don't use gravel trays.

We moved on Bruce Beckerleg who would demonstrate plant propagation. Bruce explained that having a variety of knives would be useful. First he showed craft knife fitted with an extendable snap-off blade. If the blade becomes blunt you just snap off some segments and you get a new sharp edge. For more serious work you need a proper knife. He said he also had a saw but had not anticipated needing it today, until he saw the large plant Alec Mant had brought in. We wondered if there were knives in the kitchen, and in due course some large knives were produced from the kitchen!

With a small plant like *Sulcorebutia* you can just break off some of the offsets. These didn't have roots on them (sometimes they do), but the wounds were very small. You should allow these to callous over, and they could be planted pretty much straight away. His potting soil mixture is 40% grit, 30% John Innes 2 and 30% peat and he uses that for most things. For trickier stuff he uses the same compost, but puts some silver sand on top of the mix - the plants seem to root easier with that. Paul Klaassen

said that the sand didn't have organic material so tends to discourage rot - Holly Gate used to root everything in sharp sand.

The second plant was *Copiapoa krainziana* - Bruce said that years ago this used to be a very nice specimen plant which even got some firsts in shows but since then it had deteriorated - and he now uses it for propagation. He had cut the head off previously and that had caused the plant to produce some side shoots but the head seemed to be growing again. He took a couple of offsets from the side - you just had to lever them off really. Try and keep the wound small, although in the past he had hacked a large piece off, it did heal up successfully. It's good practice to keep wounds small, but not necessarily a disaster if you don't. In the middle of the year when the plants are actively growing they are more tolerant, but August is getting a little bit late in the year for trickier stuff. He then took the top off, using one of his knives. There was quite a large wound at the cut surface and he tapered the cut section since the stem can contract as it callouses and dries. Ted asked Bruce if he used any sulphur to dress the wound and Bruce said he didn't. He demonstrated chamfering to produce the taper. He mentioned that the top cut was not an ideal shape - it was flatter than he would have liked, but there's a decent chance it will take. He would leave it to callous over in semishade for a few weeks, there's no danger it's going to die of dehydration - rot is the problem. Leave it for a month or longer and hopefully it will start to form roots. With the offsets, give them a week or so and then pop them in the compost.

Next was a cristate plant of *Mammillaria elegans*. He has used this regularly to take cuttings. You just cut a wedge shaped piece from the curly stem. The piece he cut was rather small, ideally you would cut out a larger piece - they do tend to shrivel up a bit. In response to a question from the audience, this would continue to grow as a cristate - it's quite a stable form. Some cristates do revert to a normal form, but most *Mammillaria* cristates are stable. Mike asked if Bruce would stake the cuttings using cocktail sticks to stabilise the cutting - Bruce said he didn't think it was necessary. He waters from above with a lance and although there was a danger of washing small cuttings away, he does push them well into the soil. I asked if there was any care required with this early watering - Bruce said he watered them same as his other seedlings - the trays are shallow and won't hold too much water. David said he reduced his watering by a bit until there were signs of growth.

We moved on to some succulents now. Leaf cuttings can be taken from many *Echeverias*, and with *Echeveria* cv "Perle von Nürnberg", you just pull off some of the leaves and they'll root and produce rosettes in due course. It's the same with *Adromischus* - you just pull off the leaf and it will produce roots and new plants. David mentioned some *Crassulaceae* will start to produce the roots and leaves quite quickly, even while they are drying. Bruce mentioned that some *Echeverias* are trickier and for example with *Echeveria lindsayana* - if you just pull the leaves off and try and root them, the success rate is pretty low. However, if you cut a leaf off with a piece of the stem still attached to the leaf, then the success rate is much increased. However, that will not work on everything - some plants such as *Echeveria* hybrid cv "Dorothy" just won't propagate that way - every leaf he planted formed lots of roots but these didn't go on to ever form rosettes. Sometimes you can try and use the leaves from the flowering spike. This particular plant was getting a bit leggy so it was time to cut it down and re-root it. He cut it near the top, leaving a few leaves on the stem and limiting the length of the stem to just under an inch. The more active growth you have got left, the more shoots it may throw out, but if you cut it lower down, it may not put out shoots very well. Once the offsets do start to form, you can eventually take them off and pot them up. The decapitated part of the plant should also throw up a few offsets. A question from the audience asked how long would it be before the lower section formed new growths? Bruce said he had done one a month ago, and it had already begun to sprout.

Next was a specimen of the cristate form of *Stapelia leendertziae*. He had to try and find a nice section of the leaf to cut off. He also noticed a bit growing on the plant which might revert to normal, so he took that off. Let the wound on the cut part callous over. When you plant it, the leaf won't root from the cut bit, but it will root from round the edge. David Neville mentioned that these will normally start to root in just 2-3 weeks.

If you have plants with caudexes, some will go on to produce caudexes from stem cuttings. With *Monadenium rubellum*, you can just take any piece off the top growth. The stem contains a white sap, and that should be washed away. Use the silver sand technique for these cuttings, and because the cutting is relatively fragile, he plants it right away and also waters right away. *Ceropegia conrathii* also forms a caudex. Here, you need to cut the stem as close to the base as possible - cutting half way up the stems doesn't seem to work well. This is probably a bit late in the year to be doing this, June would have

been a better month. The plant is deciduous, so if it doesn't form a caudex soon, it won't survive! You want to allow a reasonable period of time for the cutting to take, and it might be OK in a propagator. As with the *Monadenium*, put it in the sand/soil mix and water it right away.

With *Euphorbia milii*, when he first started to take cuttings, he used to let them callous over and then pot them up, sometimes they took but most died. He learnt the correct technique from Freshacres - take the cuttings in July, by cutting across the stem or at a joint, and plant them right away and also water immediately, and then put the cuttings in a propagator. With this you can get 100% success. Paul Maddison said he used to place cuttings of this in a jar of water and they rooted in the water. Being a *Euphorbia*, there is again latex in the stems.

Haworthia arachnoidea var. *aranaea* is a nice small *Haworthia* but it never offsets. You could try leaf cuttings and he has tried that, but there's just not enough body to the leaf. So his technique for this plant was to cut the rosette into 4 quarters, trying to leaving a piece of root on each of the sections. If you don't get any root, then the chance of dying is quite high, but with roots 3 out of 4 should make it, and sometimes they can produce more than one rosette, so if you have three which grow, you could end up with 5-6 new plants. He plants the cut pieces right away since they tend to dehydrate. They should be planted with the roots in the soil but the cut surface kept above the soil to prevent infection. He also waters right away. The quarter segments will grow and there's a chance it will also form offsets.

While Bruce prepared to tackle Alec's large *Trichocereus* plant, Ivor mentioned he had brought in two pots of *sedum* and *pachyphytum* cuttings - the roots on these had formed within a week. Bruce now got to Alec's plant - it was 3 feet high and the stem was at least 4 inches across, with fierce spines perhaps adding another couple of inches to the overall width! Indeed getting to the body would involve getting through a network of tough spines. Bruce said it would be hard to get a chamfer on the top cut after cutting it off, so he was going to try and cut the chamfer while slicing off the top cut. Using a large knife as a saw and some protection to hold the plant steady, he succeeded in taking the top off. The lower part of the plant will probably grow offsets and a brave volunteer from the audience did agree to take it. Someone asked if the offsets on that lower section would be better plants? The answer was that the offsets will start off narrow while the top section already has a nice girth on it. The advice was to put

the top cut on its side in sun or semi-shade and wait at least a month until the cut is well calloused over. It may produce roots in 6 weeks. Ivor said the top cut could be supported in an empty clay pot - it might start to produce roots then. There was no need to water the plant at this stage, air movement would help to dry it off. Longer sections of cut stem may start to curve up as they grow towards the light. The important thing was to have air around the base. It might be well into September before the wound has dried. Another suggestion was to put it in a bigger pot and sit it on some cat litter or grit until the roots start to develop and perhaps plant it next year since there was only a short growing period left this year. Given the size of the top cut, there was no chance of it drying out.

Richard started the session after the mid-meeting break and he was going to talk about grits and aggregates. He said he wanted to know what techniques people were using, and what grits they were using. He was building some raised beds in his garden to grow alpines and hardy succulents, so each time he visited a garden centre, he would buy 3-4 bags of aggregate. You can usually request a discount when buying this amount. Arthur Bowers horticultural grit sand is quite fine and can be used to improve drainage for composts. They also do a coarse grit which does not contain any fine particles. This can be used for top dressing and to prevent algae and mosses. He has also tried Bowland horticultural grit, which was available at the InExcess store. Another nice looking type is Vitax horticultural potting grit, which is available in a mixture of sizes.

Richard said he had heard a talk by Paul Cumbleton who was, until recently, the team leader of the Alpine section at Wisley. Paul discussed the role of grit in potting materials when growing plants in pots. One important point he mentioned about mixing grit - unless you get to around 40% grit, you're not doing any good - you are just adding impervious materials but the individual pieces don't touch each other and they just restrict the flow of water. At 40% concentration the particles touch each other and the water can flow through more easily. David Neville said some of the materials we use - like perlite or the cat litter - aren't impervious, so they change the numbers somewhat. Richard said the channels let water drain through and also allow air in - which is important for plants, since they don't have other ways of getting air to the roots. After you water and the water fills the channels, the act of the water draining out sucks air into the pot, and this gets oxygen to the roots. Paul also said there is no point in putting crocks in the bottom of

the pot - due to a "perched" water table. Coarse grit or crocks in the bottom of the pot won't allow water to come out due to capillary action within the compost, and the crocks just have the effect of raising the level of wet compost a few inches further up the pot, which might not be what you had intended. This led on to a discussion about how to line the bottom of a pot to avoid compost falling out of the holes at the base pot and items such as grit, fine mesh, capillary matting, and even j-cloth cleaning cloths were suggested. Finally, putting things like polystyrene into the base of the pot allows one to use a large pot without having to have it full of compost and this would make it easier to lift or carry. And putting something in the base can be used to convert a regular deep pot into a shallow pot.

Perlite and vermiculite hold water as do some of the types of cat litter. David said he incorporates the cat litter in compost mixes and also pure for rooting cuttings. He's used perlite for over 20 years and he doesn't do it to retain moisture - rather it's to replace grit and improve drainage of the compost. The perlite might get wet, but it doesn't absorb much water. Adrian said he uses 25% cat litter and 25% cornish grit and the rest is John Innes 2 or 3. He gets his grit from Roffey Brothers in New Milton. Ivor said he had bought some good John Innes from Roffeys last year, but what they sell now is not as good as what they were selling last year. Paul Klaassen said he used "Bims" - this is a volcanic clay, apparently similar to the UK's "Hortag" granules. His main mix is 1/3 John Innes 3, 1/3 Seramis and 1/3 Bims. The Bims, like seramis, is volcanic in origin but is smaller and is available in different grades. It is similar to the low dust Tesco cat litter which is the type recommended for use by plant enthusiasts. Other materials people use include river clay which is similar to the Japanese Akadama mineral used by bonsai enthusiasts - these can hold water. Paul said his plants have been outside since May and they sit in trays with open bottoms. He doesn't water at all apart from once a month feeding using miracle grow continuous release feed. Growing plants outside seems to stop them growing black sooty mould and they are surrounded by hover flies which he thinks eat any pests on the plants. If you're happy how your plants are growing don't ever make wholesale changes based on something people have said in a talk, because so much depends on your compost mix, watering regime and growing conditions. It is dangerous to make wholesale changes to your growing regime without trying them out on a small batch of plants first.

Roger Labbett asked if the shape of the grit matters? Some grit consists of sharp pieces of stone or gravel others contain rounded stones. David said he preferred the grit to be crunchy and sharp, and Bowlands was a good one. Paul Klaassen said the small pebbles for aquariums were no good at all. When he's used cornish grit it seemed to set - if that's the case you need to thoroughly wash it. Miranda asked Richard about the composition of his external beds and he said it was John Innes 3 and 30-40% grit which was all mixed together. He didn't use any layering, apart from the top dressing. David said whatever succulents are planted outdoors, they are unlikely to survive 10 years since none of them seem that hardy, and we're likely to get a bad winter in that period.

Someone from the audience asked if there were any examples of aqua culture being used for cacti? It is done, but the growing materials are not freely available in this country. Pumice is widely used in Germany and some growers there grow their cacti and succulents in it. Michelle said she grows bonsai and she is now going to grow her cacti and succulents completely in pumice in the future - she is fed up of John Innes and the fact that it varies so much from batch to batch. She has tried growing some difficult plants in pumice and this worked well, so she will switch everything over. Ernst Specks grows all his stuff in it. Bob Potter does import a lot of it and his plants are grown in it as well. The source of these growing materials is important to think about - it's all very well to switch to something nice and exotic but if you have to travel halfway round the world to get it, it may be expensive, and supplies may not be assured.

We moved on to Tesco low dust lightweight cat litter, which is now sold in new packaging (and costs £3.75 for 10L). This consists of baked river clay and the new version doesn't seem to be perfumed. David said "Sophisticat" is another cat litter which uses the same material but the granules are larger. David said he uses these as replacements for grit and he doesn't experience any water retention with the cat litter or with perlite. All the other cat litters are no good - they are made from wood or pulp and they will break down, whereas this clay lasts a very long time. He had discovered a new grit this year - it looks like crushed up sea shells and is very fine and seems to be good for seedlings and small plants - it is sold by Meadowview as "horticultural eco potting grit". It is stated to be lime-free, so it can't be made from crushed shell, and it is suitable for fish aquaria so there can't be any toxins in it. David said it looked like crushed up oyster shell, which Pete and Ken's

cactus nursery used to use many years ago. David said he got it from one of the garden centres (Silversprings) along Titchfield Lane. Richard said he did a pH test with dilute phosphoric acid on all the different grits he had, to see if they were lime free and all seemed to be.

David said he had brought in samples of the new eco grit, cornish grit, normal horticultural potting grit and 2 grades of cat litter, and perlite - he puts in a mix of these, up to a total of 30-40-50%, in all of his plants, along with John Innes. He mentioned that these have different sizes and textures and shapes, and the more different ones you mix up, the more likely they are to suit different plants. If you're growing a bunch of plants, and are happy with how they are growing, there's nothing wrong with trying a new mixture with a few plants, but don't change over the soil for your whole collection in one go. Most of the plants we grow are not difficult or challenging to grow, and if you put them in a nice free draining compost and give them the right amount of water and light and nutrients, they'll be fine, so don't get hung up about it!

The cat litters are fantastic for rooting plants. Paul Klaassen said that in Belgium they have a saying "Seramis is so good you can root stones in it" - perhaps they drink too much beer there! Seramis used to be available in this country and then it disappeared. It is available from sellers on Amazon in small/medium sized bags. Paul said a 30 litre bag cost just over 20 euros in Germany. Richard said there were two disadvantages to perlite - it is light so plants can topple over if the soil is too light, and also people will keep telling you that you've got mealy bag. Roger said he used Hortag when growing large agaves to cut down the weight.

David went on to discuss the plants given out by the branch in previous years and which members had brought in for comparison. Plants of *Echeveria lilacina* were some of the first plants we handed out, and there are fewer and fewer of them each year - just three on this occasion. Of course Sue and Mark who had some good specimens have gone off to the Isle of Wight now. Mike Shaw admitted his was a propagation from the original. Bruce's was the best looking plant. That had been grown hard in full sun and in a shallow pan, and the other one was in a deeper pot and was growing more lush. Bruce said his had got leggy, and he had to re-root it down after removing the dead leaves from the bottom. Ted said he had acquired Philip Clemow's lilacina - and he had been growing it alongside his original, and the two were different forms - he found that one could be propagated from leaves, but the other could not.

Mammillaria albilanata had been handed out at the same time, and there were 4 of these plants present. They are very slow growing, these were 4 years old and still single headed. A few forms do form multiple heads but most remain solitary. It will never outgrow its welcome in the greenhouse. Three or four *Mammillaria microhelias* had been brought in, and none looked very good. Some were leaning to one side and another one looked like it had been grown in low light. They are related to *Mammillaria elongata* and they can form a handsome specimen but they are not easy to grow. Another one had a problem in its midriff - Ted Smith said this was due to it having formed a lot of berries after flowering - the plant lost the spines in the centre area when the berries were taken off. There were 3 plants of *Mammillaria glassii* v. *ascensionis*. These plants form fabulous showy rose pink flowers. The normal *glassii* will form a large clump with small heads, this has bigger heads but remains small, and you will never see it bigger than 6-8 inches across.

The *Frithia pulchra* plants had been given out a year ago - they flower during July and August. One looked nice but it was grown too hard and looked like it needed more moisture. You can water these through the growing season, and although they need to be kept dry in the winter, it does like more moisture than Lithops. Another example had pale green elongated leaves and it was not growing in enough light. The Rebutias had been handed out earlier this year in the spring. One had been potted up and was already filling a 2 ¾" pot. Another one had also grown really well. A third one hadn't grown much and David said it needed more water - the smaller pots dry out quickly, and it's difficult to overwater small plants. Mike Shaw asked about the *Euphorbia obesa* plants which had also been handed out this year - how do you recognise the male and female forms? David said you need to examine the flowers on the plant. The female flowers have the three lobed stigmas and the males have yellow pollen. David proceeded to set seed on one of the plants by demonstrating Euphorbia intercourse. It was all over in seconds and he said you should see seed pods starting to form in 10 days.

Paul Klaassen said he was writing an article on *Mammillaria microhelias* - does anyone have mature plants of it? He himself had never seen one, until Carrie Hands (secretary of Portsmouth branch) received an email saying someone wanted to get rid of plants since the owner was going into a retirement home. On collecting these plants, it turned out that one was a *M. microhelias* and this had been bought as a 1 shilling plant in Woolworths in the 1960s. In the wild it is endangered, being found

in 5 locations and suffering "ongoing decline due to habitat degradation (grazing) and possibly decline of mature individuals caused by illegal overcollecting." Ivor highlighted some pots of "Lithops" seeds which he had bought on the internet. Not one came up as Lithops - the only thing that was growing was some spindly weed-like plant. He had paid £3 for 200 seeds (from Taiwan). This mirrors my own experience of buying seeds from Chinese sellers on Ebay and Aliexpress - they'll use nice pictures to illustrate beautiful specimens of the supposed plants but in reality they'll just ship out some random seeds and you could end up with anything. That isn't to say that there aren't proper growers out there - David said that the Chinese were buying up cacti and succulents by the container load from Holland with a view to propagating them and then shipping back plants like *Melocactus matanzanus* with cephaliums by the thousand to Holland.

Vinay Shah

Table Show Results

There were 19 entries in the August table show, and 6 entries for "Plants in Flower".

	Cacti – Echinopsis	Succulents – Stapelia
Open	(1) I Biddlecombe <i>Parodia magnifica</i>	(1) B Beckerleg <i>Euphorbia valida</i>
	(2) T Smith <i>Parodia scopa</i>	(2) A Bailey <i>Euphorbia horrida</i>
	(3) B Beckerleg <i>Parodia</i> sp.	(3) I Biddlecombe <i>Euphorbia suzannae</i>
Intermediate	(1) B Beckerleg <i>Parodia escayensis</i>	(1) B Beckerleg <i>Euphorbia cylindrica</i>
	(2) I Biddlecombe <i>Parodia maxima</i>	(2) M Stevenson <i>Euphorbia graniticola</i>
	(3) -	(3) I Biddlecombe <i>Euphorbia flanaganii</i>

Cacti/Succulent in Flower

(1) C Weston <i>Adenia globosa</i>
(2) B Beckerleg <i>Adromischus phillipsiae</i>
(3) R White <i>Leuchtenbergia principis</i>

Ivor Biddlecombe

Snippets

New names in Aloe and Haworthia

Having recently purchased a plant called “*Tulista pumila*” I decided to look up the new nomenclature set up within the Haworthia group, and I came across a document titled “A Molecular Phylogeny and Generic Classification of Asphodelaceae subfamily Alooideae”. This is a paper by John Manning and other authors published in 2014 which lays out the new names within the Aloe and Haworthia groups, based on DNA analysis. The paper is very technical, but I’ve printed off a few paper copies for anyone who’s interested in these plants. If these copies run out, you can also download a copy from <http://bit.ly/2cxD5L4>

Vinay Shah

Next Month’s Meeting

Our next meeting will be on the 4th of October and will feature Terry Smale, who will give us a talk about Mesembryanthemums. Terry has given talks at our branch on a number of occasions and anyone who’s attended his talks before will know that that they are filled with information and that we are sure to learn something new!

The October Table Show will consist of the **Echinocereus** group (cacti) and the **Lithops** subgroup (succulents). 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 *Echinocereus* group includes *Echinocereus*, *Morangaya* and *Wilcoxia*.

The *Lithops* subgroup includes *Dinteranthus*, *Lapidaria* and *Lithops*.

Forthcoming Events

Sat 10 th Sep	Southampton	Display / Plant Sales @ Romsey Show, Broadlands
Sat 10 th Sep	Isle of Wight	Dahlias (Ron Tomlin)
Sat 17 th Sep	Portsmouth	Photographing plants (Tom Radford)
Sat 24 th Sep	Southampton	Branch visit to Mesemb Study Group Event, Banstead Community Centre, Surrey
Sat 1 st Oct	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Autumn Show @ Christ Church Hall, Widley, Waterlooville
Tue 4 th Oct	Southampton	Mesembryanthemums (Terry Smale)
Sat 8 th Oct	Isle of Wight	Alpine Plants (Robin Alabaster)
Wed 12 th Oct	Southampton	Branch Committee Meeting (at Dot’s)
Sat 15 th Oct	Portsmouth	Grafting Part 2 / Growing on cactus seedlings (Cliff Thompson)
Tue 1 st Nov	Southampton	South Africa First Class (Alice Vanden Bon)
Sat 12 th Nov	Isle of Wight	Czech Collections (David Neville)
Fri 18 th Nov	Southampton	Branch Dinner - details TBD
Sat 19 th Nov	Portsmouth	Zone 11 Annual Quiz – hosted by Portsmouth Branch

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

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