



The Cactus Explorer

The first free on-line Journal for Cactus and Succulent Enthusiasts

The journal of the
Gordon Rowley
Foundation

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2 Aeonium species on La Palma

3 Matucana names

4 New Schlumbergera hybrids

5 Guanillos Valley, Chile

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Cover Picture: Books on the shelves of the Gordon Rowley Library.
[See page 36](#)

The No.1 source for on-line information about cacti and succulents is <http://www.cactus-mall.com>
The best on-line library of cactus and succulent literature can be found at:
<https://www.cactuspro.com/biblio/en:accueil>

Invitation to Contributors

Please consider the Cactus Explorer as the place to publish your articles. We welcome contributions for any of the regular features or a longer article with pictures on any aspect of cacti and succulents. The editorial team is happy to help you with preparing your work. Please send your submissions as plain text in a ‘Word’ document together with jpeg or tiff images with the maximum resolution available.

The copy deadline is just a few days before the publication date. I will publish an issue when sufficient material is available. Please note that **advertising and links are free** and provided for the benefit of readers. Adverts are placed at the discretion of the editorial team, based on their relevance to the readership.

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1st December 2025

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Friends,

I must apologise for the long time since the previous edition of the **Cactus Explorer**. I have to admit that it takes me longer to complete tasks these days and the number of things I have to do does not decrease! A lot of my time during the last year has been spent establishing the Gordon Rowley library.

Gordon Rowley was probably the most famous succulentophile in my lifetime. He was a botany lecturer, President of the BCSS, *Bradleya* editor and he accumulated a world-class library of books about cacti and succulents.

I used to visit him at his famous house, ‘Cactusville’, in Reading and talk about books. One day, more than 20 years ago, he asked me about the fate of his precious library after his death. He was delighted when I told him that I would be able to set up a charity to preserve it for future generations.

Gordon died in 2019 at the age of 98 and left his library, house and assets to Colin Walker, Peter Arthurs and me. We sold Gordon’s house and the BCSS paid for the storage of the library while we looked for a suitable building. We have since set up the charity, the Gordon Rowley Foundation. It now has 5 trustees that run the charity, the original three, now joined by Paul Hoxey and Martin Lowry.

It proved difficult to find a suitable building to house the library then a year ago, by amazing good fortune, I found a restored Victorian railway water tower not far from where I live in Rutland. The three storey building was built in about 1880 and is in a lovely rural location with some land and a car park.

We got the keys in June 2024 and have modified it over the last year or so to make it suitable to house the books and comply with all the regulations necessary to allow public access.



The Victorian Water Tower, the new home for the Gordon Rowley Library.

The article on page **XX** describes the facilities that will be at the tower. It is not finished yet and the books and other materials are still in the process of being unpacked and catalogued. Next year, we will have an official opening after which visitors will be welcome by appointment. As well as the books, there will be displays, a collection of botanical art and eventually a glasshouse with a collection and plants for sale.

Now, at the end of the growing season, I am able to spend time writing so, at last, I can complete this issue of the Cactus Explorer. I hope you enjoy it!.

Season’s Greetings! *Graham Charles*

The genus *Matucana*.
Species from the Cajamarca region

Nelson Cieza Padilla &
Olivier Camille Klopfenstein

I have a few copies of this Spanish language book for sale. They are in the UK.

Price: £16 plus £3.50 p.&p. to UK = **£19.50**
€18.50 plus €7.50 p.&p. to EU = **€26.00**
Other destinations, please ask

Please [email](#) *Graham Charles* to confirm availability and to place an order.

Payment by **PayPal** to:
graham.charles@btinternet.com

NEWS AND EVENTS

We are looking forward to events in 2026 but please note the details are subject to change.

Cactus at the Castle 2026



Saturday 5th - Sunday 6th September
11.00am–5.00pm
Lullingstone Castle
Eynsford, Kent
DA4 OJA
The largest Cactus Mart in the south-east
with over 20 leading nurseries.

Talks and Plant Sales
Guided tours of the World Garden
with Tom Hart Dyke

Adults £14 Under 16s FREE
Cactus & Succulent Review Readers £7
BCSS Members £12
(Admission charges subject to change)
Refreshments available
[Website](#)

Rutland Flower Show

14–16th August 2026
Specialist cactus and succulent sales.
Display by the
British Cactus and Succulent Society
Rutland Showground, Oakham

The 17th Spalding Cactus Mart

Saturday 18th April 2026
9.30am–2.30pm



Holbeach Community Centre,
Fishpond Lane,
Holbeach, Lincs P12 7DE
18 nurseries and growers in attendance
Ample free parking
Free admission to the Mart
Refreshments available all day

For further details please see the
BCSS Spalding Branch website:
www.spalding.bcss.org.uk

Bridgwater RHS

22nd–23rd August 2026
Large Cactus and Succulent Mart
in the beautiful
surroundings of
RHS Bridgewater
Worsley, Salford
Greater Manchester M28 2LJ

The Cactus Explorers Club 17th Meeting in 2024

July 31st – August 2nd 2026
Venue to be announced following the
closure of the Leicester Hilton



A weekend of good company with
about 15 talks including overseas
speakers. A good place to meet old
friends and make new ones in a
relaxed environment.

The talks are designed to give a more
in-depth view of particular cacti or
specific places. The informal
atmosphere encourages discussion
and there is ample opportunity to
meet the speakers.

The price for the weekend will be
about **£280** which includes two nights
in en-suite hotel-quality single rooms,
all meals, refreshments, and use of the
large meeting room.

There will be sales of plants,
literature and seeds, free for vendors.

Anyone interested is welcome and
there are places available so please
[email](#) me and I will send you an
invitation in January 2026.

Graham Charles

**I am looking for a new venue near
Leicester.**

RHS Harlow Carr Cactus and Succulent Show

Saturday 8th August 2026



**RHS Garden Harlow Carr,
Crag Lane, Harrogate,
North Yorkshire, HG3 1QB**

11.00 – 16.00
(Gardens open 9.30 – 18.00)

FREE admission for BCSS Members!

For more information, to volunteer or
to request a schedule when it becomes
available, email the [Secretary](#).

The BCSS AGM

Saturday 28th March 2026

Leicester East Forest Parish Hall,
Kings Drive, Leicester Forest East,
Leicester LE3 3JE

FREE entry

11.00 – 16.30

Plant Sales and Talks

Further details from
secretary@bcss.org.uk

North West Cactus Mart

Saturday 2nd May 2026

Parish Hall, St. Thomas More Church,
Mainway, Alkington, Middleton,
Manchester M24 1PP

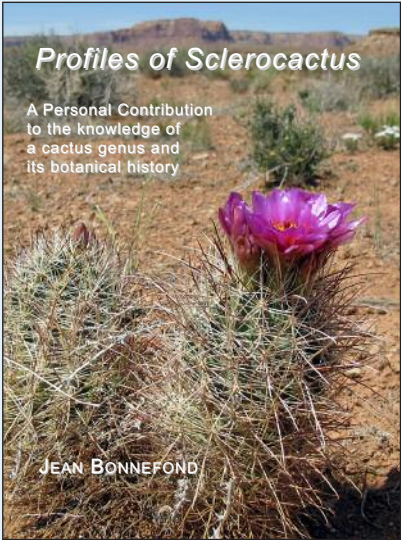
10.15 – 14.00

Contact email: secretary@BCSS.org.uk

New Book

Sclerocactus by Jaen Bonnefond

Publication in January 2026



Profiles of Sclerocactus

A Personal Contribution
to the knowledge of
a cactus genus and
its botanical history

JEAN BONNEFOND

Published by the Gordon Rowley Foundation

180 pages; 280 x 210mm; 193 pictures

Price £28. Order from
rowley.library@btinternet.com

BCSS Oxford Show
& Mammillaria Show

Saturday 25th July 2026

Old Mill Hall, School Lane,
Grove, Wantage OX12 7LB



Lots of plants for sale from
Oxford Branch and dealers.

SHOW OPEN 10.00am – 3.30pm

FREE ENTRY

Details/schedule from [Bill Darbon](#)

The BCSS at
RHS Wisley Garden

Saturday 2nd May 2026

Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB

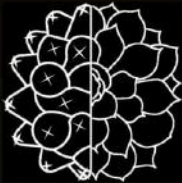


Plenty of plants for sale from
leading vendors

Free entry to gardens for BCSS members

British Cactus and Succulent Society

www.bcss.org.uk



National
Cactus
&
Succulent
Show

and sales

FASCINATING
EXTRAORDINARY
BEAUTIFUL

28 June 2026

George Stephenson

Exhibition Hall,
Newark Showground, Lincoln
Road,
Newark, Nottinghamshire
NG24 2NY

Come and see spectacular, rare and
amazing cacti and other succulent plants
from exhibitors all over the country.

This opportunity comes only once every
four years.

Opening times 10am – 4pm

Admission £10, under 18s free



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7



ELK 2026
11-12-13 sept

60 ELK

60e

CONVENTUS EUROPÆUS - AMICORUM AD CACTUS SUCCULENTAQVE COLENDIA

corsendonk duinse polders / blankenberge belgium




British Cactus and Succulent Society

Spalding Branch

Welcome you to our 18th

Saturday 18th April 2026

Free Entry

CACTUS MART

Holbeach Community Centre
Fishpond Lane, Holbeach, Lincs, PE12 7DE
Doors open at 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

18 leading nurseries and growers

Help and advice available All day refreshments
Friendly welcome Ample free parking

BRITISH CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Let's Grow Together

For full details visit www.spalding.bcsc.org.uk or scan the QR code here



NEW! available in 2026

TAXONOMY of the CACTACEAE

The new classification of Cacti based on molecular data and explained

Description of Species (and subspecies) in four volumes:

Vol. III : Acanthocalycium - Epithelantha

Vol. IV : Eriocéphala - Mammillaria

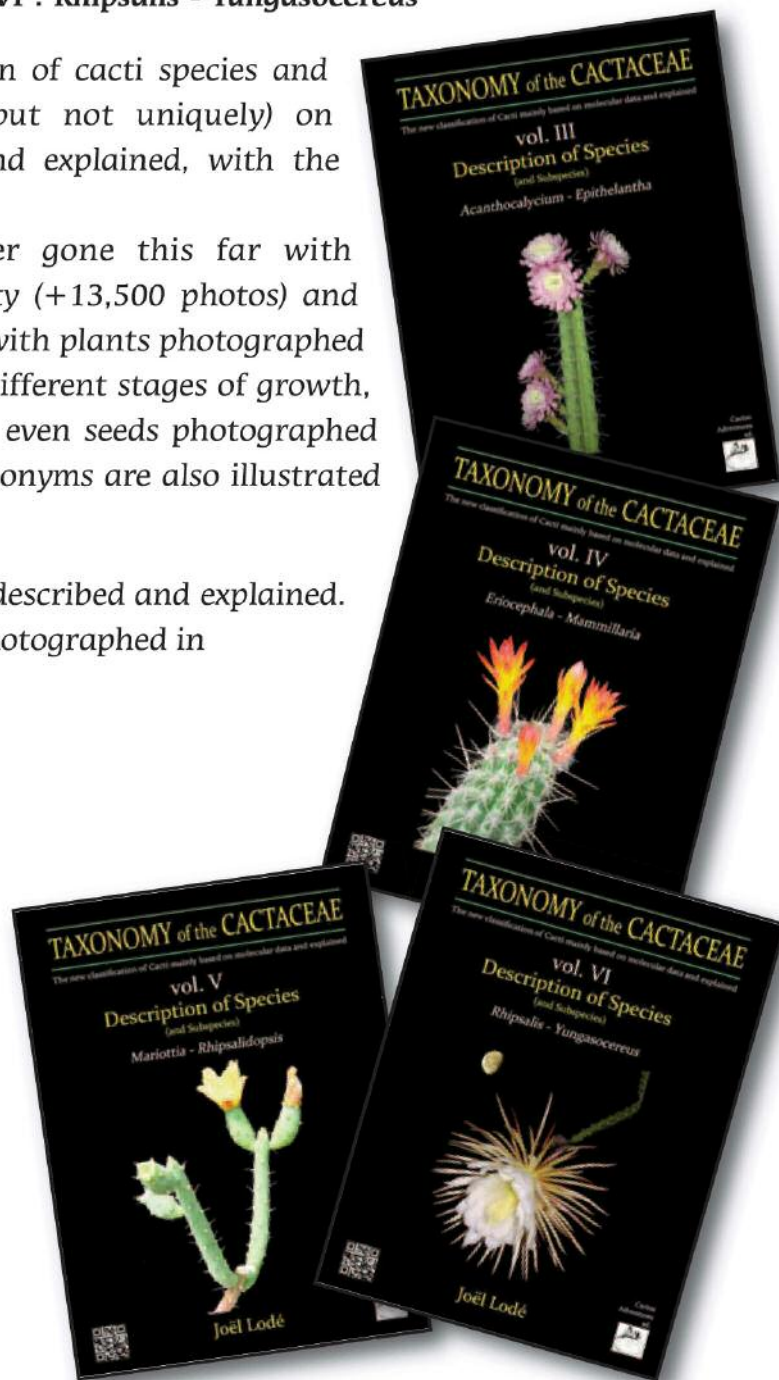
Vol. V : Mariottia - Rhipsalidopsis

Vol. VI : Rhipsalis - Yungasocereus

The most recent classification of cacti species and subspecies, mostly based (but not uniquely) on molecular genetics (DNA) and explained, with the latest discoveries.

No book on cacti has ever gone this far with illustrations, both in quantity (+13,500 photos) and quality, but also in diversity, with plants photographed in habitat and collection at different stages of growth, also with flowers, fruits and even seeds photographed on digital microscope! The eponyms are also illustrated with their portraits.

- 190 genera recognised, all described and explained.
- +2,860 species + subsp.) photographed in alphabetical order,
- +2,400 pages A4 size,
- Tribes and Subtribes,
- Sphalmates,
- Grammatical Genders,
- + 3,510 seeds illustrated in colour,
- Description of habitats for every species,
- +1,000 Portraits of Eponyms
- 30 country maps,
- Glossary,
- Bibliography (+1230 citations),
- Index and synonyms.



Naturalist for over 50 years, Joël Lodé is a desert explorer, not only a lecturer in his subject but also the author of 200 articles and several popular science books on the flora and fauna, including cacti, of which he is a leading expert. He has observed most of the cactus genera in their habitat.

Editor of "Cactus-Adventures International", a quarterly journal published in three languages for more than 36 years now, Joël Lodé offers here a comprehensive book on the classification of cacti, explains why some genera were wrongly abandoned, others restored or modified, and finally describes and illustrates 2,860 recognised species and subspecies of cacti.

After the success of the first two volumes on genera, here comes the species!

TAXONOMY of the CACTACEAE, DESCRIPTION of SPECIES

(4 volumes, +2,400 pages, +13,500 photos, 12 kgs)

volumes without price increase compared to 2015!

375.00€ pre-publication until 28th of february, 2026

(399.00€ after this date)

not including postage

e-mail: joel@cactus-aventures.com

PRE PAYMENTS can be done through:
Credit card, Bank transfer or PayPal,
also our secure server (free of charge)



This QR code gives you access to our webpage

ON-LINE JOURNALS

On-line Journals for you to download free

Sansevieria Online

The online journal for the growing number of enthusiasts for this genus. A small group of *Sansevieria* enthusiasts publish the first *Sansevieria* online journal in German. They welcome contributions on systematics, morphology, physiology, evolution etc.

Issue 13(2) includes: Editorial, On the trail of *Sansevieria* (*Dracaena*) *hyacinthoides* in Zimbabwe, *Sansevieria* (*Dracaena*) *rhodesiana* observed in cultivation, *Sansevierias* in Zimbabwe: a current overview, From historical redescrptions (16) , My first experiences with *Sansevieria* (*Dracaena*) *pinguicula*, *Sansevieria* – Portraits, Literature, Letters to the editor

Download the PDF from www.sansevieria-online.de where you can also find a special issue containing field number lists and the index to the journal.



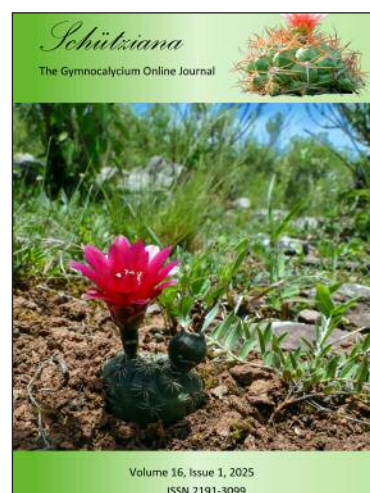
Schütziana

The latest issue of Schütziana, the specialist on-line journal for *Gymnocalycium* enthusiasts, 16(1) was published in April 2025 and features:

Sperling, Reiner discusses

Gymnocalycium schreiteri

The text of this valuable publication is available in English, German, Russian and Japanese. You can download free all the issues from: www.schuetziana.org



Cactus Adventures International

The latest edition of this now on-line journal has lots to read.

Echinofossulocactus coptonogonus

A New *Dracaena* in Socotra

New Combinations in Cactaceae

On the Misreading of Botanical Nomenclature

Aloe of Puntland

A new Subspecies of *Yucca*

Une pas si nouvelle espèce du genre *Cheiridopsis*

Book News, New Books

Taxonomy of the Cactaceae vols. 3-4-5-6 (2026)

You can download it free from

http://cactus-aventures.com/pageweb_ENG.html



Cactus & Succulent Review

The *Cactus & Succulent Review* is a high quality quarterly magazine featuring non-technical articles on all aspects of cacti and succulents. Highly recommended!

Issue 46, published September 2025, features 73 pages of:

The World Garden,

First impressions of *Cremnocereus albipilosus*,

Turkish gem,

Maihueniopsis hickenii

Echinocactus platyacanthus

Introducing *Haemanthus*

The *Echinocereus viridiflorus/ chloranthus* complex

Adventures in Mexico Part 1

Plants, books and talks in the Garden of England



You can subscribe to the mailing list to be notified by email when each issue is ready to download. Subscription is free. Further details and back issues are available to download from the website:

<https://www.cactusandsucculentreview.org.uk/>

or email:

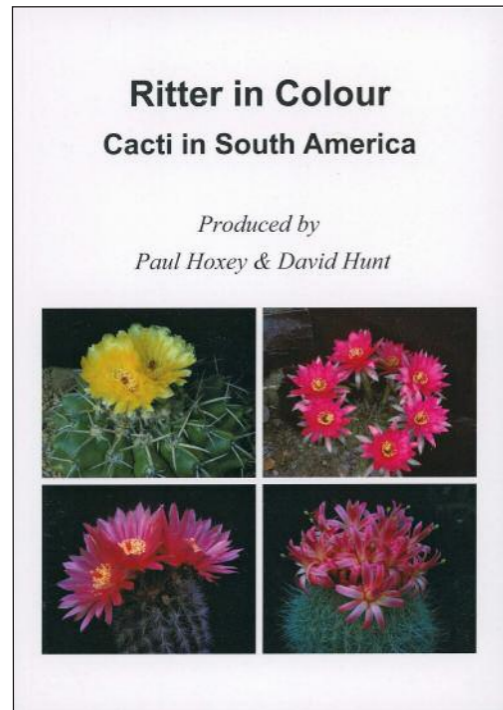
contact@cactusandsucculentreview.org.uk

THE LOVE OF BOOKS

Here you will find information about new publications together with some that were published years ago and remain a valuable source of information.

Ritter in Colour

Paul Hoxey & David Hunt



Contains all the photographs from Ritter's 4 volume *Kakteen in Südamerika* books published 1979–81; almost 80% reproduced in colour plus a further 340 unpublished Ritter colour photographs making a total of over 1800.

This is the first book to be published by the Gordon Rowley Foundation.

Friedrich Ritter was probably the most influential of all explorers and authors of South American cacti. His self published four volume set of books, illustrated by a large number of photographs mostly in black and white, is an essential reference on the subject.

This book follows the layout of the original volumes but with 80% of the pictures in colour. It is remarkable how these colour pictures convey so much more about the plants and enable us to better understand the plants that Ritter described.

There are also 340 more colour photographs taken by Ritter which have never been published before, adding more information about his collections. It is comprehensively indexed, making it a valuable resource even if you don't own the original books, which incidentally are available as a free download:
https://www.cactuspro.com/biblio/en:ritter#kakteen_in_suedamerika

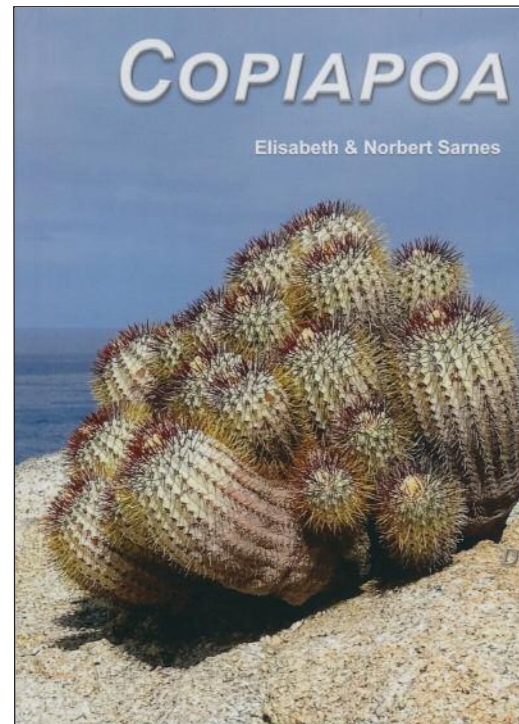
A5 page size, 550 pages. It also includes a complete index.

Ritter in Colour is available from The Gordon Rowley Foundation or Keith's Cactus Books for £25 plus postage & packing. In the US, it is available from Exotic Plant Books.

Email rowley.library@btinternet.com

Copiapoa

Elisabeth & Norbert Sarnes



A beautifully illustrated book about this most popular of South American cacti written by a well-known husband and wife team who have travelled extensively in Chile.

The book covers all the described taxa, including those described since the last books were published on the subject some 15 years ago. But this is not a book of long descriptions but rather a story of finding the plants in their natural habitat.

There is no attempt to make taxonomic judgements so you can make up your own mind from the information presented as to whether species status is justified for the names included in this book.

One thing for certain is that the plants are illustrated with high quality photographs that convey the character of each species and the habitat where they grow. For those of you thinking that you really have to go to Chile to see these remarkable plants, then this book will be a great help to you in finding them.

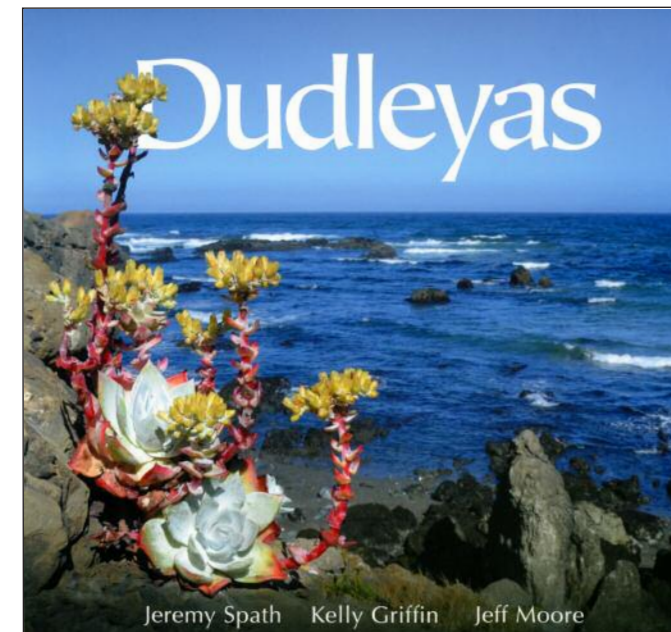
Hardbound A5 page size, 324 pages, 479 very good quality colour pictures and 60 distribution maps.

Copiapoa is available from The Gordon Rowley Foundation or Keith's Cactus Books for £30 plus postage & packing. The original edition in German and this English edition are available for delivery in the EU from Uhlig and Haage cactus nurseries. In the US, Exotic Plant Books have the English one.

Email rowley.library@btinternet.com

Dudleyas

Jeremy Spath, Kelly Griffin
& Jeff Moore



This comprehensive account is spectacularly illustrated, helped by its large format. It is beautifully produced and will be a treasure to anyone who likes these lovely plants.

The authors discuss the challenges of classification, made more difficult by the prevalence of hybrids.

This book also includes information on cultivation as well as propagation together with tips on how to be successful. Every aspect of growing these plants is explained in detail.

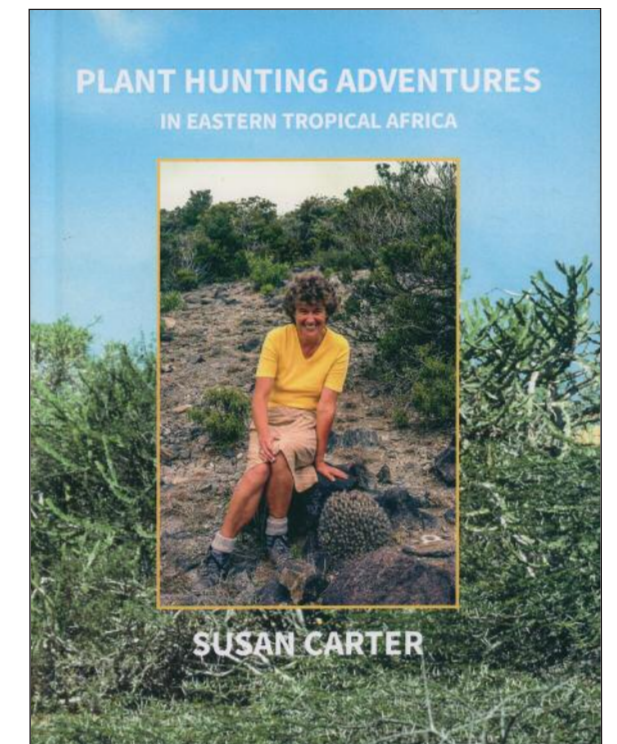
The conservation of *Dudleyas*, their pollinators, the environment and associated plants are also discussed.

All 50 recognised species are treated in detail in alphabetical order with pictures of plants in habitat and cultivation.

Softbound 252 x 253mm page size, 300 pages, 3 distribution maps and 698 excellent pictures, many full page.

The softcover edition is available from Amazon for £40.89.

Plant Hunting Adventures in Eastern Tropical Africa Susan Carter



For succulent lovers, this personal account of the expeditions undertaken by the author for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew between 1971 and 1994, Kew, gives a deep insight into the discovery and study of so many of the plants we enjoy.

It includes explorations of northern Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia and Zimbabwe, plus journeys in Sudan, 12 expeditions in all. It features some of the many photographs the author took during her trips, not only of the plants she found (aloes, euphorbias, and other succulents) but also the places she visited and habitats where the plants grow.

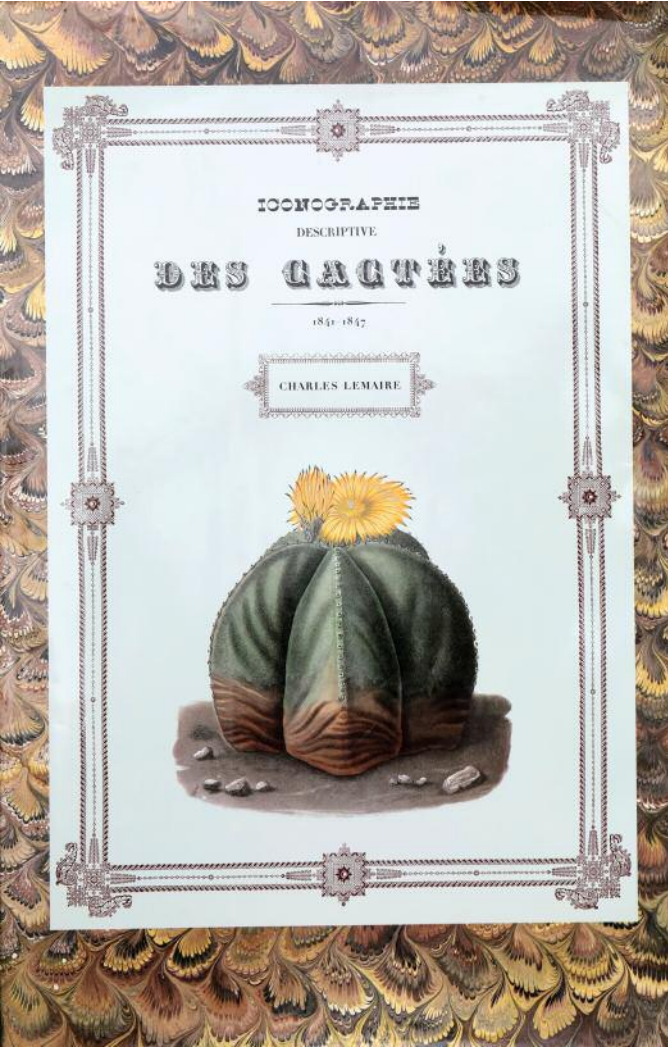
The text conveys the authority of the author who is recognised as an international expert on these plants and someone who has contributed so much to our knowledge. It is a thoroughly good read.

Hardbound, 247 x 185mm page size, 608 pages and more than 800 pictures.

Available from nhbs for £42.00

SUCCULENTS ON A PLATE

Graham Charles introduces us to one of the most impressively illustrated publications about cacti. The eight published fascicles of *Iconographie Descriptive des Cactées* appeared from 1841 to 1847. The Illustrations here are recent scans of original plates that can be seen at the Gordon Rowley Library.



Facsimile of the 8 fascicles published in 1993 by Strawberry Press.

The author of *Iconographie Descriptive des Cactées* was Charles Lemaire (1800–1871), a prominent French horticulturist who became famous as the editor of beautifully illustrated gardening publications.

This 'Descriptive Picture Book of Cacti' was planned to run to 100 or more fascicles, each with two large folio plates (495 x 333mm) and two text leaves, however, only eight fascicles are known to exist today. Sets of the fascicles are extremely rare and the only set of all eight and 16 plates that Gordon Rowley could find is in the British Natural History Museum. This



Plate 6. *Cereus perrotetianus*

copy was used to make a facsimile in 1993 published by Strawberry Press for which Gordon was asked to write the introduction. In it, he states that this is the rarest of all major works on cacti.

The fine plates were painted from life by M Maubert and engraved on copper by M. Duménil, then colour printed and finished by hand.

An original set with all 16 plates and text was sold by Christie's in 2003 for £15,535.

Reference

ROWLEY, G. (1966). Lemaire's "Iconographie Descriptive des Cactées". *Cactus and Succulent Journal (U.S.)* XXXVIII(3): 106–107.



Plate 14. *Echinocactus (Astrophytum) myriostigma*

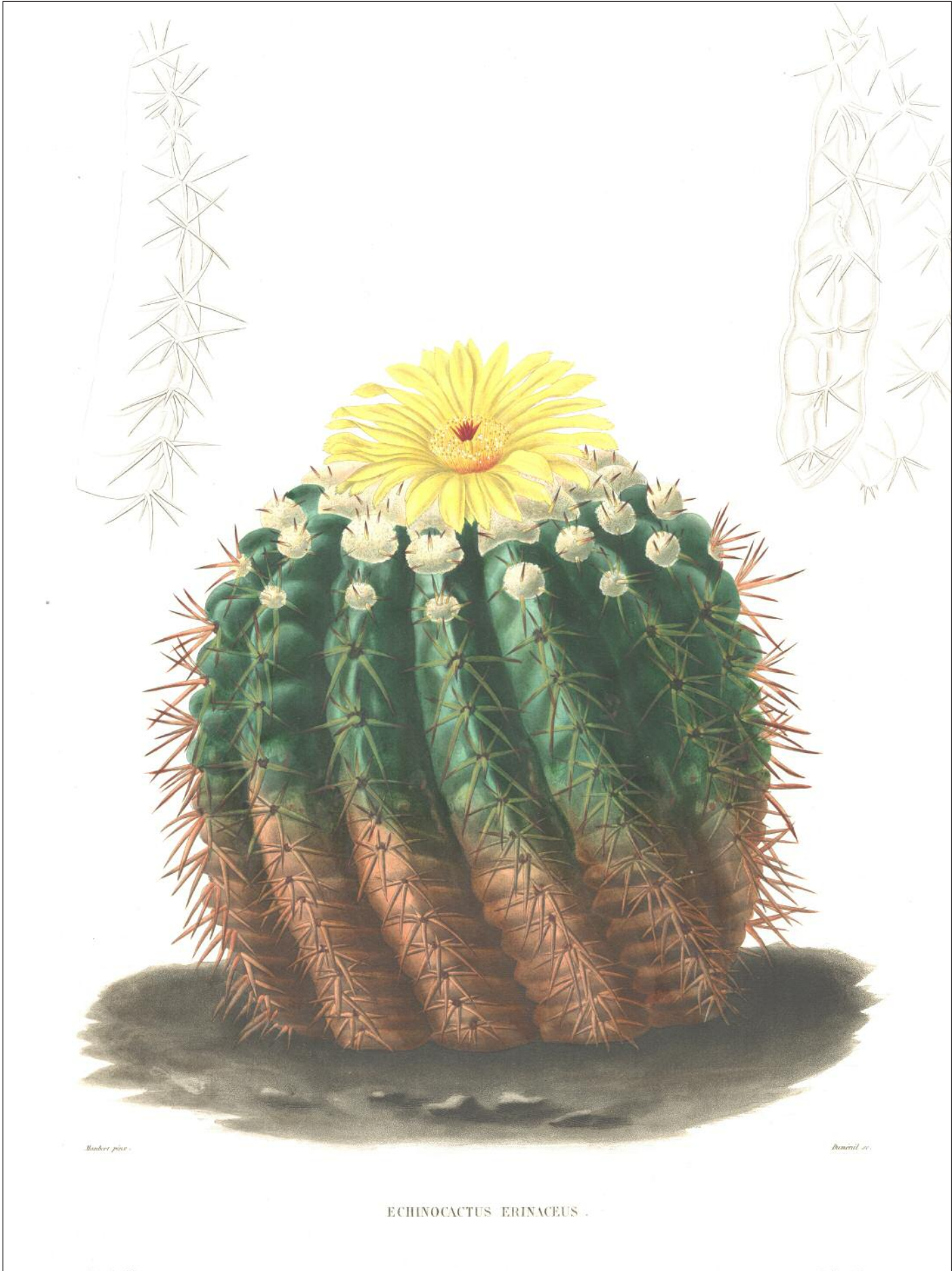


Plate 4. *Echinocactus erinaceus* showing sketches of the ribs which were not visible on the reprint published in 1993.

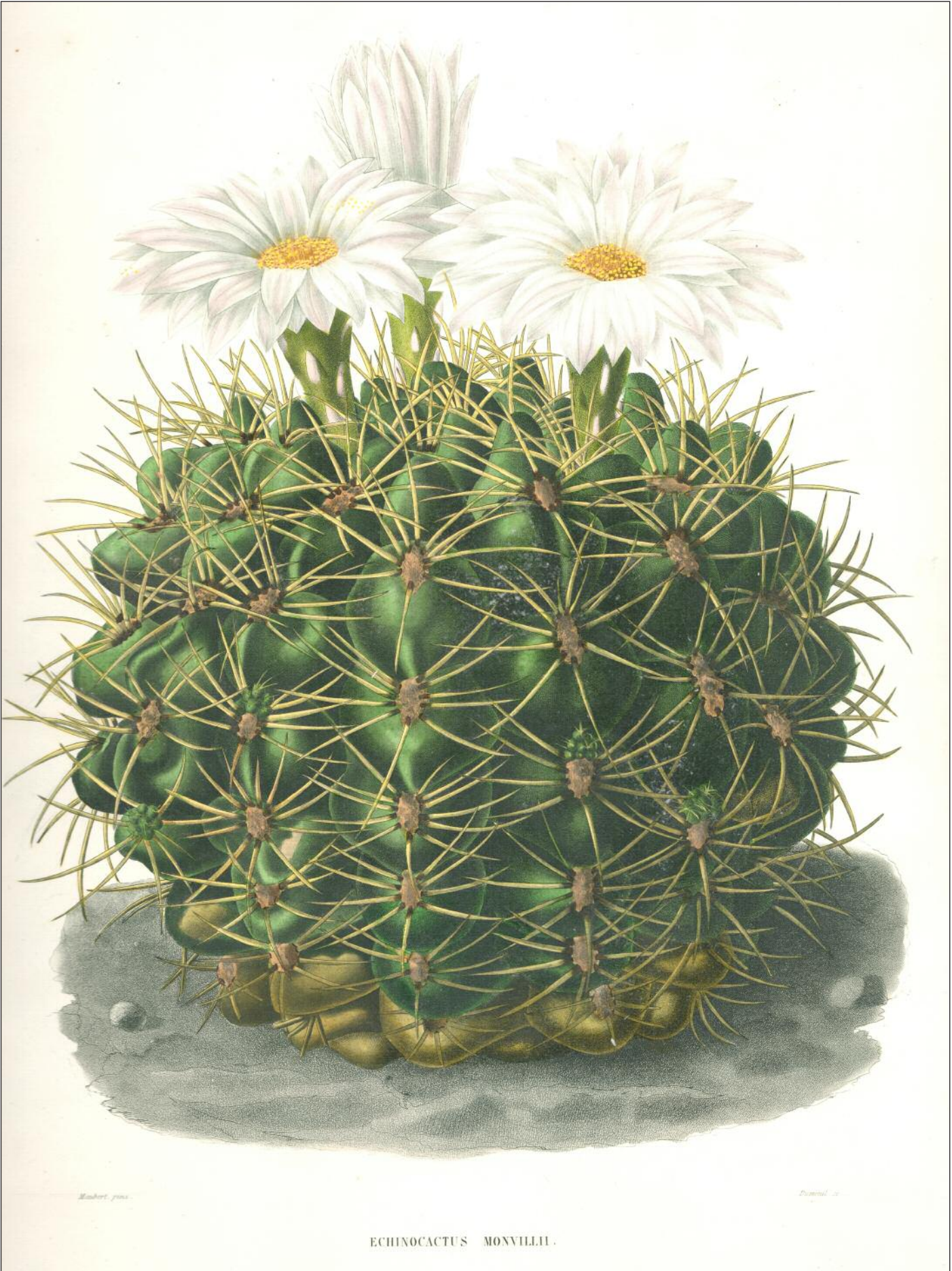


Plate 15. *Echinocactus monvillii*

SOME NOTES ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF AEONIUM SPECIES GROWING ON LA PALMA

Marco Cristini responds to the comments of Carlos Pedrós-Alió published in No. 29 (2024).

When I first became interested in succulents and tried to identify the plants I saw, a quotation from Henry James' *The Middle Years* often came to my mind:

"We work in the dark – we do what we can – we give what we have. Our doubt is our passion and our passion is our task. The rest is the madness of art" (James 1895: 182).

One might wonder what 'the madness of art' has in common with botany or, more specifically, taxonomy, a science which is well known for its stringent laws based upon logic, the principle of non-contradiction, and the pursuit of order. Still, plants have been thriving on Earth for around half a billion years, while humans have been trying to classify them in a way which looks logical to our minds for less than 300 years, and this alone should give us pause, together with the fact that taxonomy was made for plants, not plants for taxonomy - to borrow and slightly adapt Mark 2.27. This circumstance is clearly shown by the fact that many succulents seem to be blissfully unaware of the most widespread definition of species, freely hybridizing between each other and producing fertile offspring.

This said, men and women love to classify things, and succulent-enthusiasts are no exception, so it is hardly surprising that people working on the taxonomy of the same family, genus or even species have different ideas. After reading the thought-provoking paper by Carlos Pedrós-Alió published in issue 29 (2024) of this journal, I realized that it represented a case study of these taxonomic disagreements. While I consider myself as a (moderate) lumpner, I am under the impression that Pedrós-Alió leans towards the splitter side and that he has not been wholly convinced by a paper of mine on the aeoniums of La Palma,

which I published back in 2019. Given that he considers some statements included there 'worrisome', I would like to assuage his worries and linger briefly on the issues that have given rise to his objections.

First, however, I have to start by agreeing with Pedrós-Alió on one point, namely that it would be advisable to visit La Palma, and indeed most of the Canary Islands, in Spring rather than in Summer, in order to enjoy aeoniums while they are in bloom and drought has not taken its toll on them yet. Still, I am unable to go on holiday whenever I wish, an unfavourable condition I share with most people who are gainfully employed. Therefore, I can visit the Canaries only in Summer, usually between late July and early August. While waiting to be able to go there in March or April, I am happy that Pedrós-Alió is privileged enough to take advantage of the Spring months, which allow him to take beautiful photos and share his thoughts on the taxonomy of aeoniums. Still, he surely knows that the general rule he outlines ("do try to go in the spring, not in the summer", to quote his own words [Pedrós-Alió 2024: 34]) has its exceptions, since some taxa look pretty similar during the growing season, whereas the differences between them become clear in summer, when rosettes are closed up. For instance, it could be possible to mistake small, unbranched *A. arboreum* plants for *A. undulatum* in Spring on Gran Canaria, if they grow in shady spots, but they look entirely different in Summer, when the latter's rosettes becomes cone-shaped. The same is true for *A. dodrantale* and *A. aureum* on Tenerife, especially if we take into consideration single, small specimens.

Turning to La Palma and the issues raised by Pedrós-Alió, he seems puzzled by my



Figure 1. La Palma, vegetation near Garafía, Barranco de la Luz.

inability to differentiate between *A. aureum* and *A. diplocyclum*, which are considered by him as members of genus *Greenovia*. It is most unfortunate that he failed to read my book on genus *Aeonium*, where I dwelt on this question (Cristini 2022: 72–73), as he could have found some answers to his doubts there. *A. diplocyclum* was first described as *Greenovia* [sic!] *diplocycla* by Bolle (1859: 242), who based himself upon Webb's (unpublished) notes and a few plants grown by him at the botanical garden of Berlin. The identification of this succulent has always been problematic, since there is no agreement among botanists on its distinctive morphological features. According to Praeger (1929: 485), who is followed by most subsequent authors, *A. diplocyclum* is without stolons (which are present in *A. aureum*), has ciliate leaves forming a sort of cylinder in summer (*A. aureum* is more similar to a cone) and flowers with about 20 petals (25–35 in *A.*

aureum). However, these distinguishing features find no confirmation in either literature or nature. Bolle expressly defines the succulent (in Latin) as 'stolonifera' (a circumstance reported by Praeger 1932: 218, but considered as a mistake) and 'crateriformis' (according to Stearn 1992: 315 and 393, the adjective is equivalent to 'hemispherical', not 'cylindrical'), and he does not write anything about the number of petals or the cilia. On the contrary, he defines the plant as 'glaberrima', i.e. entirely glabrous. The succulents described by Praeger and Bolle could therefore belong to different taxa.

On both La Gomera and El Hierro, I have observed plants with stolons co-occurring with plants without stolons and cylinder-shaped rosettes alongside rosettes more similar to a cone (see Cristini 2018: 38–41). As for the flowers, Bañares (2015: 101–103; not mentioned by Pedrós-Alió) writes that those of *A. aureum*



Figure 2. La Palma, path towards Caldera de Taburiente as it appears in Summer.

can have 20–35 petals (not 30–35, as written by Pedrós-Alió), those of *A. diplocyclum* 20, therefore the number of petals does not represent a distinctive element. From a morphological point of view, the succulent is virtually identical with *A. aureum*, as has been observed by Nyffeler (2003: 19, not mentioned by Pedrós-Alió). Furthermore, Bolle reports *A. diplocyclum* only on La Gomera (according to Voggenreiter 1999, *A. aureum* does not grow on this island), but Praeger (1929: 488) writes that he observed it also on La Palma and in only one locality on El Hierro, which I visited in 2018, finding a few rosettes that were in all respects indistinguishable from *A. aureum*. However, Stierstorfer (2005: 218-219) argues that *A. diplocyclum* is the only species present on El Hierro, although he accepts the distinctive features listed by Praeger. In conclusion, *A. diplocyclum* (Webb ex Bolle) Mes cannot be considered a separate species, as

already observed by Schulz (2007: 54, not mentioned by Pedrós-Alió), who visited most of the Canary Islands in Spring. However, it would be appropriate to take into account the possibility that *A. diplocyclum* sensu Praeger is a variety or a subspecies, but it would first be necessary to identify constant features distinguishing this succulent from *A. aureum*, and carry out more in-depth chorological, morphological, and genetic studies.

Turning now to *A. davidbramwellii*, Pedrós-Alió is in disagreement with my observation that *A. calderense*, *A. escobarii* and *A. hierrense* (of La Palma) may not be distinct species. Of course, I had no intention to linger in detail on this point in a paper which was mainly aimed at describing what I had seen during my stay in La Palma and this is probably the reason why he finds my explanations unsatisfying. Again, had he read my *Aeonium* book, the discussion would have been more meaningful.



Figure 3. La Palma, Barranco de los Gomeros, *Aeonium aureum*.

First of all, however, it is necessary to clarify a misunderstanding. Pedrós-Alió (2024: 32) writes that “He [i.e. Cristini 2019: 47] says ‘I wonder if we should consider *Aeonium calderense*, *Aeonium escobarii* and *Aeonium hierrense* (of La Palma) as distinct species, since they could simply be local forms of *Aeonium davidbramwellii* (for a similar conclusion, as far as *A. hierrense* is concerned, see Stephenson, 2003: 128)’”. Immediately afterwards, Pedrós-Alió claims that Stephenson “thought that the *A. hierrense* plants in La Palma might be unbranched forms of *A. arboreum* subsp. *holochrysum* (notice, not of *A. davidbramwellii* as implied by Cristini)”. I fear that Pedrós-Alió read too quickly Stephenson’s article, since the paragraph devoted to *A. davidbramwellii* includes the following passage, which I was referring to in my 2019 paper: “After much searching and the careful study of thousands of plants, nowhere on the island did I observe *A. hierrense*. I believe Liu has mistaken large forms of *A. davidbramwellii* for *A. hierrense* which I am now convinced does not grow on



Figure 4. La Palma, El Palmar, *Aeonium davidbramwellii* (possibly the form also called *A. escobarii*).

La Palma” (Stephenson 2003: 128). Philology may not be a fundamental part of botany, but it is always a good rule to check quotations. Moreover, recurring to expressions such as “there was no excuse” or “this is not [sic] Cristini’s nor Lodé’s fault” (Pedrós-Alió 2024: 33–34) gives the impression that having an opinion different from that of Pedrós-Alió is tantamount to a sin. Since we are not discussing about theology, such an attitude could be misleading.

Then, Pedrós-Alió examines *Aeonium escobarii*, which was invalidly published in 2002 and validly described only in 2013. He praises Lodé (2010: 60–61), as he “already included it in his book, just in case it would be validly published” (Pedrós-Alió 2024: 32). I cannot but feel uncomfortable with the ill-concealed disregard for the rules of taxonomy that transpires from this statement, since a taxon invalidly published should not be treated as a species. If an author desires to do so, he/she is free to publish it in an appropriate



Figure 5. La Palma, El Palmar, a single-stemmed plant of *Aeonium davidbramwellii* / *A. escobarii* growing next to a branched plant of the same form (*A. escobarii* is said to be unbranched...).

way. Moreover, Pedrós-Alió forgets to mention that Lodé first labels *A. escobarii* as n(omen) n(udum), which means “a designation of a new taxon published without a description or diagnosis or reference to a description or diagnosis” (definition taken from the glossary of the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants, Shenzhen Code 2018), and then considers it as a “new species described in 2002”. Unfortunately, it is neither. *A. escobarii* has never been a nomen nudum, since Malkmus (2002: 136 and 139) does offer a description of it. However, the description is not in Latin and the paper does not include the designation of a nomenclatural type. For these reasons, the taxon was not validly published and could not be considered as a “new species” by Lodé. Regarding it as such would be like including in the final score of a soccer game a goal which was scored by a player who was offside, and subsequently disallowed by the referee.

Pedrós-Alió subsequently defines *A. escobarii* as “monopodial”, a term which is usually not associated with aeoniums, but which he seems to consider as a synonym of “unbranched”, although *The Cambridge Illustrated Glossary of Botanical Terms* (Hickey & King 2000: 26) reports the following: “monopodial: with a simple main stem or axis, growing by apical extension and bearing lateral branches” (my underline). Apart from these terminological subtleties, we should also note in passing that the paper including the first valid description of *A. escobarii* was written only by Rebmann (2013) and not together with Malkmus, as stated by Pedrós-Alió (2024: 32 and 36). Thus, it is unclear how far Rebmann could rely on the observations made by Malkmus, apart from what he read in the latter’s paper.

Another, more important difference between the first description of *A. escobarii* and later publications dealing with it should now be taken into consideration, namely its habitat. Malkmus (2002: 139) is very precise, since he writes that he found only “very small populations consisting altogether of about 120 specimens [...] scattered over an area of ca.

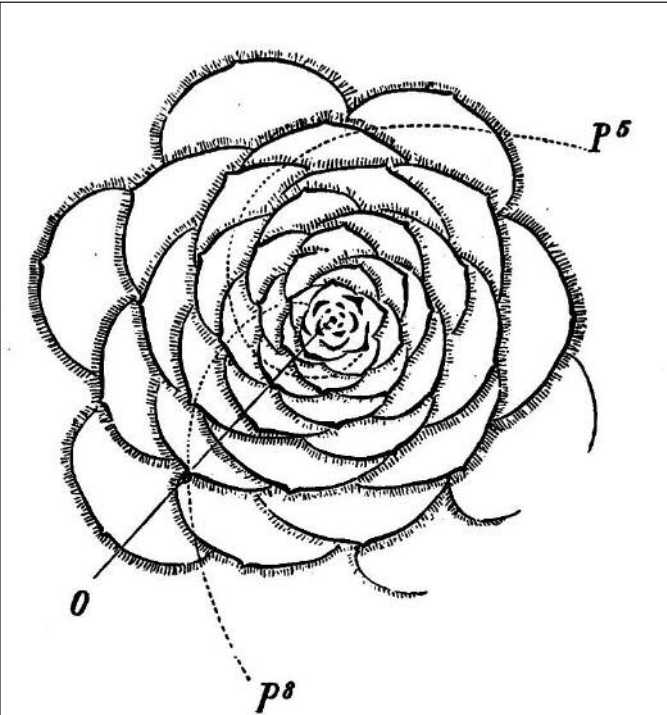


Fig. 145.
Mittlerer Theil einer Blattrosette von *Aeonium holochryson* mit $\frac{8}{21}$ Stellung; 0 eine Orthostiche, P⁵ eine Fünfer-, P⁸ eine Achter-Parastiche. (N. Gr.)

Figure 6. An illustration taken from Reinke (1880: 209) and showing “the inner part of a rosette of *Aeonium holochryson* [sic] with a phyllotaxis of 8/21”.

0.8km² [...] in the small transition zone between the upper laurel and the lower pine forest, which extends from about 1050 to about 1350m in the north-western part of La Palma in the upper belt of the Barranco del Agua (especially around Lomo de la Crucita)”. However, Rebmann (2013: 39) states that *A. escobarii* grows “at elevations from 550 to 1300m, by the edge of the laurel forest” and Pedrós-Alió does not elaborate on its distribution, thereby implying that it can be found throughout the island. On the other hand, Arango (2023a: 34) found it in many places, but not where it was first observed by Malkmus, namely in the upper Barranco de Agua at an altitude of 1050–1350m (Arango allegedly spotted it in the same area, but at an altitude of around 475m, i.e. more than 500m below the populations noticed by Malkmus, and below the lowest sites mentioned by Rebmann). This confusing situation begs the question of whether *A.*



Figure 7. La Palma, Las Machuqueras, *Aeonium davidbramwellii* (possibly the form also called *A. calderense*)

escobarii sensu Malkmus is the same of *A. escobarii* sensu Rebmann and *A. escobarii* sensu Arango .

Pedrós-Alió goes on to explain how phyllotaxis could be used to differentiate between distinct *Aeonium* species, thereby introducing a morphological feature which was mentioned by neither Malkmus nor Rebmann. According to Pedrós-Alió (2024: 33), phyllotaxis is “the number of leaves and turns it takes for a leaf to be exactly above another leaf as they are inserted in a spiral around the stem”, whereas its correct definition is “the arrangement of leaves on an axis or stem” (Hickey & King 2000: 32). This is not terminological nip-picking, since Pedrós-Alió attributes great importance to the “number of leaves and turns”, whereas equal (if not more) relevant aspects are represented by the rotational angle from leaf to leaf or the pattern itself. He goes on to write that “it was Liu (1989) in his monograph on the genus *Aeonium* who used phyllotaxis for the first time. He mentions a phyllotaxis of 8/21 for *A. hierrense*”. Apart from the fact that Ho-Yih Liu is a lady, we should note that phyllotaxis has been seriously studied since at least the eighteenth century with regard to plants (Bonnet 1754), as a cursory glance at relevant botanical literature easily shows (see e.g. Adler *et al.* 1997). Did Pedrós-Alió possibly intend to write that Liu was the first to use phyllotaxis in connection



Figure 8. La Palma, Las Machuqueras, *Aeonium davidbramwellii* with puberulent leaves (growing next to the plants depicted in Figure 7)

with aeoniums? Such a statement would be incorrect as well, since Reinke (1880: 209–210) dwelt on the same subject more than a century before Liu (observing exactly the same phyllotaxis noticed by the Taiwanese botanist, namely 8/21, although related with *A. arboreum* ssp. *holochrysum*; see Figure 6). *Aeonium* phyllotaxis was also taken into consideration by Richards & Schwabe (1969: 79–82).

This said, it is true that Liu (1989: 90) did use phyllotaxis in her book to help with the identification of *Aeonium hierrense*, but there is nothing preventing different species from having the same phyllotaxis (see Arango 2023a: 32 for plenty of examples) or the same species from having populations with a slightly different phyllotaxis, which is notoriously hard to determine in plants bearing many-leafed rosettes such as aeoniums, especially when they grow in habitat under harsh environmental conditions. Moreover, it is interesting to note that the phyllotaxis of *A. hierrense*, namely 8/21, and *A. escobarii*, namely 5/13 (according to a personal communication by Arango, who discussed the topic more in detail in Arango 2023a), are almost identical if we actually do the division ($8:21 = 0.381$; $5:13 = 0.385$), and 26 out of 28 taxa considered by Arango (2023a: 32) in his study of *Aeonium* phyllotaxis have either of these ratios. Is nature saying something to us here?

Pedrós-Alió further argues that “another erroneous decision by Cristini was to assume that all branched plants that were not *A. arboreum* had to be *A. davidbramwellii*”. I never wrote such a sentence in my paper, which I fear Pedrós-Alió read too quickly. On the other hand, I put forward the conjecture that some episodes of hybridization between *A. davidbramwellii* and *A. arboreum* may have taken place (Cristini 2019: 47). Pedrós-Alió almost never lingers on the topic of crossings or introgression, as if he believed that all aeoniums of La Palma necessarily have to belong to a species, be it old or new. Again, we should keep in mind that the concept of species has been created by man, and nature is not always ready to oblige. Every time I visit the Canary Islands, I find puzzling plants which are in all likelihood crossings, or are the result of a complex series of crossings and back-crossings.

Turning back to the topic of branched La Palma aeoniums, Pedrós-Alió argues that many branched aeoniums should be regarded as *Aeonium calderense*, another taxon invalidly published by Malkmus (2002: 136–137 and 139) and included in Lodé’s book, whose “farsighted [sic] decision” is commended by Pedrós-Alió (2024: 33), although Lodé (2010: 46) again described the taxon as a n(omen) n(udum) (it is not). *A. calderense* was validly published only by Arango in 2023, according to whom it can be easily distinguished from *A. davidbramwellii*, since it does not possess entirely puberulent, dark green or yellowish green leaves, often tinged with red or brown and with leaf margins provided with coarse conical cilia intermingled with abundant glandular pubescence (having instead glabrous, glaucous leaves with margins provided only with cilia). Moreover, *A. calderense* has a greater number of branches; larger, denser conical-pyramidal inflorescences with up to 40–45 floral branches, whereas the inflorescences of *A. davidbramwellii* are dome-shaped, smaller, more lax and have only 5–20 floral branches; glabrous anthers (those of *A. davidbramwellii* are puberulent) (Arango 2023: 163–164). This straightforward diagnosis seemingly leaves no doubts as to the status of



Figure 9. La Palma, Tenagua, a large, unbranched *Aeonium davidbramwellii*.

A. calderense, given its clear differences from *A. davidbramwellii*. Unfortunately, the situation is more complicated.

First, Arango omits to mention a significant detail, namely the fact that Liu (1989: 89) wrote that “*A. davidbramwellii* is extremely similar to *A. hierrense* in the field [...]”. When fully developed, *A. hierrense* can be easily separated from *A. davidbramwellii* by its pale green, strongly glaucous, spatulate [...] and larger [...] leaves with apex arcuate and monocaulous stems”, without mentioning the presence or absence of small hairs on the leaves, which she does not consider as a feature of paramount importance, as Arango does. The number of branches, size of the inflorescence and presence of hairs on anthers do not justify – at least in my opinion – the bestowal of the rank of species upon these plants, especially since both Arango (2023: 164) and Pedrós-Alió (2024: 33) admit that *A. calderense* hybridizes frequently with *A. davidbramwellii*, i.e. there is plenty of plants with intermediate features.



Figure 10. A 25 cm tall, dwarf and multi-branched plant of *Aeonium davidbramwellii* near El Palmar. Splitters may see another new species here...

However, the most important stumbling block is represented by the distribution of this (alleged) species. According to Malkmus (2002: 139), *A. calderense* “occurs in widespread and numerous populations in the upper part of the Barranco de Las Angustias and in the southern lower part of the Caldera de Taburiente (around Tomadero de la Viña) [...] at an altitude comprised between 900 and 1300m”. Still, Arango (2023: 159) states that the plant is widespread throughout the island between 600 and 1200m, seemingly sharing the same habitat of *A. davidbramwellii*. Is it really necessary to regard *A. calderense* as a new species, if there is plenty of intermediate forms with *A. davidbramwellii* and these taxa share the same habitat and main morphological features? I fear that by following this path we could come to regard all tall men and women with black hair and an open face living on La Palma as a new human species one day... In the light of this ambiguous situation, it is puzzling that neither Arango nor Pedrós-Alió considered the opportunity to opt for an infraspecific rank for *A. calderense* and *A. escobarii*, such as that of variety or forma, but the label of species is surely more glamorous.

Pedrós-Alió concludes his paper by reporting the discovery of an (allegedly) new species of *Greenovia*, namely *Greenovia ignea*, which was described by Arango in 2023. Apart from the fact that I consider the resurrection of genus *Greenovia* entirely unnecessary, the differences between these plants and *A. aureum* / *A. diplocyclum* do not justify the establishment of a new species, although these unusual plants may be regarded as a distinct subspecies, in the light of their features similar to, but not identical with those of *A. aureum*, and geographic isolation. Just to keep the record straight and avoid unnecessary nomenclatural complications in a genus which is already quite complicated from a taxonomic perspective, I propose to adopt the new combination *Aeonium aureum* ssp. *igneum* (see below).

After reading these pages, one could echo Kipling and exclaim “Oh, splitter is splitter, and lumpers are lumpers, and never the twain

shall meet, till Earth and Sky stand presently at God’s great judgment seat”. However, I am under the impression that a meeting between the two is indeed possible, provided that we approach the classification of aeoniums with open-mindedness and follow the basic norms of scientific research. For instance, I am not ruling out that *A. calderense* and *A. escobarii* may actually be taxa which are distinct from *A. davidbramwellii*. Only, we should clarify the issues I outlined in the previous pages before presenting this reconstruction as the only acceptable one, paying due attention to chorology and phylogenetics. Moreover, it is true that many human attempts to classify nature are inspired by “the madness of art”, but “though this be madness, yet there is method in ’t”, to quote Shakespeare. We cannot disregard the rules, vocabulary, or history of botany without rendering the whole debate meaningless. For instance, I was surprised that Pedrós-Alió passed over in silence the books and papers by Oscar Burchard, Robert Lloyd Praeger, Volker Voggenreiter, Arnaldo Santos Guerra, Rudolf Schulz and Ángel Bañares Baudet. We are not the first ones who look for aeoniums on La Palma (botanists have been studying scientifically the flora of the Canaries for more than two hundred years) and the fact that nobody seems to have noticed either *A. calderense* or *A. escobarii* before the dawn of the new millennium should give us pause. To conclude, readers will hopefully forgive me if I close this paper, which has begun under the auspices of Henry James, with a quotation from Cicero which I find most appropriate: “Not knowing what happened before you were born means always remaining a child” (*Orator*, 120).

Marco Cristini

***Aeonium aureum* ssp. *igneum* (Arango) Cristini, comb. et stat. nov.**

Basionym: *Greenovia ignea* Arango, in *Botánica Macaronésica* 32: 147–148, 2023.
Holotype: Canary Islands, La Palma, near Volcán Martín de Tigalate, LPA 39,810.

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NOMENCLATURAL NOTES ON SOME NAMES ASSOCIATED WITH THE GENUS MATUCANA (CACTACEAE)

Luis Enrique Aarón Alomía Collazos, Paul Hoxey, Michael Wisnev & Graham Charles. Photographs: Graham Charles.

Introduction

Due to the careful and detailed investigations of one of us (Alomía Collazos) into Peruvian cactus names, it has come to our attention that several names associated with the genus *Matucana* have some nomenclatural issues under the present edition of the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* (Madrid Code) (Turland *et al.* 2025). Each new edition of the code supersedes all previous editions (Preamble 14, Turland *et al.* 2025: 2) and changes to the code are retrospective unless otherwise stated (Principle VI, Turland *et al.* 2025: 3). This has the unfortunate ramification that a name validly published under one edition of the code may cease to be validly published under a later edition.

We discuss here how retrospective changes to the code affected two specific names, *Matucana aureiflora* and *Eomatucana oreodoxa*, a subgenus *Matucana* subg. *Incaia* and a genus *Eomatucana* when published by Ritter (1965, 1966 & 1966a). These two specific names have been used as basionyms for new combinations which are now also invalidated. We clarify where the names are validly published according to the present edition of the code (Turland *et al.* 2025).

All references to articles (Art.) in this text refer to the Madrid Code (Turland *et al.* 2025) unless an earlier edition of the code is explicitly stated. For those not familiar with these rules, they have generally provided that a name of a new taxon published from 1958–2011, inclusive, is not validly published unless it (1) indicates a type (Art. 40.1), (2) is accompanied by a description or a reference to a description (Art. 38.1) and (3) is accompanied by a Latin description or a reference to a Latin description (Art. 39.1). However, the specifics

of these three requirements were modified by many editions of the code during that period.

1) *Matucana aureiflora* & *Matucana* subgenus *Incaia*

Ritter (1965) first used the specific name *Matucana aureiflora* and included a Latin definition and a type locality (“Locus typi: Cajamarca”). “Mere citation of locality” is insufficient to indicate a type (Art. 40 Note 2); this language was not added to the rules until 1988 but, like most of the rules, it is retrospective. A type must be a specimen or illustration (Art. 40.1). Some authors (Bregman 1996: 58, Anderson 2005: 417 & Ostolaza Nano 2019: 385) have incorrectly considered *Matucana aureiflora* was validly published in Ritter (1965). In the same publication, Ritter also attempted to validly publish *Matucana* subg. *Incaica* with *Matucana aureiflora* designated as the type but, because the specific name is not validly published, neither is the subgenus.

Shortly afterwards Ritter (1966) designated a holotype (FR1310 in Utrecht) for the name *Matucana aureiflora* and included both a definition in German and a reference “Vgl. dazu die lateinischen Diagnosen in Heft 12/65” to the Latin description in Ritter (1965). The Montreal Code in place at the time (Lanjouw *et al.* 1961; Art. 36) permitted a new species name to be validly published by providing a reference to a previously published Latin description but without defining the details required in the reference. However, a later rule was added that the reference to a previously published description must be “full and direct as specified in Art. 33.2” which required that the reference must include the author and place of valid publication with the page or plate reference and date (Greuter *et al.* 1988; Berlin Code Art. 32.2 and 33.2). This rule was



Figure 1. *Matucana aureiflora* GC1212.03 near to Baños del Inca, Cajamarca, Peru

made retrospective to begin 1 January 1953 and therefore applies to the name *Matucana aureiflora* in Ritter (1966).

As a result, while the name *Matucana aureiflora* was validly published in Ritter (1966) under the Montreal Code, the name ceased to be validly published under the Berlin Code because Ritter failed to fulfil this requirement for a “full and direct” reference due to the omission of a date and page number. The current Madrid Code retains the same requirement for a full and direct reference (Art. 38.14 and 41.5) and the 1966 name remains not validly published. Hunt *et al.* (2006: 181) incorrectly considered Ritter (1966) the place of publication of *Matucana aureiflora* but may have been unaware of the implications of the updates to the code that invalidated the name. *Matucana* subgenus *Incaia* also ceased to be validly published once the specific name of the type was invalidated.

Ritter (1981: 1509) in his extensive work on South American cacti, finally succeeded in

validly publishing the name *Matucana aureiflora*. In this publication, he included a full and direct reference to the Latin description in Ritter (1965) and designated a type FR1310. Ritter (1979: III) stated all type specimens unless otherwise noted are in the herbarium at Utrecht (Herbarium code: U). There is a single specimen at U with this number which should be considered to be the holotype. There are three illustrations cited in the protologue (“Farbbild 41, 44, Abbildung 1368”) which are also original material. *Matucana* subgenus *Incaia* is also validly published here. The earlier publications (Ritter 1965, 1966) used the spelling “Incaica” but Ritter (1981: 1508) explained that he is changing that to “Incaia”.

Nomenclature summary of *Matucana* subgenus *Incaia* and *Matucana aureiflora*

Matucana subg. *Incaia* F.Ritter, *Kakteen in Südamerika* 4: 1508 (1981)

– *Matucana* subg. *Incaica* F.Ritter, *Kakt. and. Sukk.* 16(12): 229 (1965) nom. inval. (Art. 40.1 – type species not validly published)

– *Matucana* subg. *Incaica* F.Ritter, *Kakt. and. Sukk.* 17(1): 4 (1966) nom. inval. (Art. 40.1 – type species not validly published).

Type: *Matucana aureiflora*

Matucana aureiflora F.Ritter, *Kakteen in Südamerika* 4: 1509 (1981).

Type: PERU. Dept. Cajamarca; Baños del Inca, near Cajamarca, 1964, Ritter 1310 (Holotype: U 0103491). A photograph of the holotype is available online at https://bioportal.naturalis.nl/en/multimedia/U%20%200103491_893169334

– *Matucana aureiflora* F.Ritter, *Kakt. and. Sukk.* 16(12): 229 (1965), nom. inval. (Art.40.1 – no type indicated)

– *Matucana aureiflora* F.Ritter, *Kakt. and. Sukk.* 17(1): 4 (1966), nom. inval. (Art. 38.14 – no full and direct reference to the Latin description)

– *Submatucana aureiflora* (F.Ritter) Backeb., *Kakteenlex.*: 459 (1966), nom. inval. (Art. 41.5 – basionym not validly published)

– *Borzacactus aureiflorus* (F.Ritter) Donald, *Natl. Cactus Succ. J.* 26(1): 10 (1971), nom. inval. (Art. 41.5 – basionym not validly published)

2) *Eomatucana oreodoxa* & *Eomatucana*

The early nomenclature history of *Eomatucana oreodoxa* and the genus *Eomatucana* follows that of *Matucana aureiflora* and *Matucana* subg. *Incaia*. Ritter (1965) stated a type locality without additional details but as noted above, mere citation of a locality is insufficient to indicate a type. Lacking a type, the 1965 name is not validly published (Art. 40.1), although it has been considered to be valid by many recent authors (Bregman *et al.* 1990, Bregman 1996: 55, Anderson 2005: 420, Hunt *et al* 2005: 182 and Ostolaza Nano 2019: 394). Ritter (1965) also attempted to publish the generic name *Eomatucana* with *E. oreodoxa* designated as the type but, because this specific name is not validly published, neither is the genus.

Ritter (1966a) designated a holotype (FR1311 in Utrecht) for the name *Eomatucana oreodoxa* and also made a reference “Vgl. dazu die lateinischen Diagnosen in Heft 12/65” to the



Figure 2. *Matucana oreodoxa* Ritter FR1311

Latin description in Ritter (1965). As noted above, while this reference was acceptable for the Montreal Code in place at the time, today this reference is not sufficient. Therefore, *Eomatucana oreodoxa* is not validly published in Ritter (1966a) according to the Madrid Code (Turland *et al.* 2025) and neither is the genus *Eomatucana*.

Ritter (1981: 1486) has an entry for *Eomatucana oreodoxa* which includes a full and direct reference to the Latin description in Ritter (1965). Alas, he failed to designate a type or include a full and direct reference to Ritter (1966a) which contained a type designation. While the rules do not require the various conditions for valid publication to be simultaneously fulfilled, a full and direct reference to the earlier publications is required for names published on or after 1 January 1973 (Art. 33). There are references to four illustrations in Ritter (1981) but we do not consider these sufficient to indicate the type (Art. 8.1) because Article 40.3 states that only mention of a single illustration is acceptable. Therefore, the name *Eomatucana oreodoxa* is not validly published there.

The genus *Eomatucana* was never widely accepted and today the species *E. oreodoxa* is

considered to belong to the genus *Matucana*. The new combination was made in Slaba (1986) but it was not validly published because the basionym was not a validly published name. He provides a full and direct reference to the Latin description in Ritter (1965) but the type is not stated or otherwise indicated by a full and direct reference to Ritter (1966a) so this cannot be considered the publication of a new specific name *Matucana oreodoxa*.

All the conditions for valid publication of the name *Matucana oreodoxa* were finally met in Bregman *et al.* (1990). Although those authors believed the name had been validly published in Ritter (1965) as *Eommatucana oreodoxa* they used the name *Matucana oreodoxa* and supplied a full and direct reference to the Latin description in Ritter (1965). Additionally, they state “Het type-exemplaar bevindt zich in het herbarium van de Universiteit van Utrecht.” (= “The type specimen is in the herbarium of Utrecht University”). After 1 January 1990 a type designation must include the word *typus* or *holotypus* or equivalent in a modern language (Art. 40.4). Here “type-exemplaar” in Dutch fulfils this requirement. Also from the same date, the herbarium where the type is conserved must be stated (Art. 40.5) which is also fulfilled by this type declaration. There is only one specimen in Utrecht of *Matucana oreodoxa* (labelled as *Eommatucana oreodoxa*) which can be considered the holotype. There is no requirement for a new name to be indicated as such by stating “sp. nov.” It is only a recommendation (32A.1) to do so.

Following on from a series of articles published in the Dutch journal *Succulenta* between 1986 and 1990, Bregman (1996) published a book on the genus *Matucana*. Bregman (1996: 3) writes “In 1965 F. Ritter, who had been searching for cacti ever since the late 1920s, published some remarkable new species. For one of those the new genus *Eommatucana* was erected with *E. oreodoxa* as the type.” This text designates a type for the genus and Bregman (1996: 55 & 131) supplies a full and direct reference to the Latin description of *Eommatucana* in Ritter (1965: 230). This designation of the type species and the

reference to the Latin description is sufficient for valid publication of the generic name, assuming the type species is validly described.

For the name *Eommatucana oreodoxa*, Bregman (1996: 55) cites the full and direct reference to the Latin description in Ritter (1965: 230) and states the type “The holotype labelled FR 1311 is deposited in the herbarium of the University of Utrecht, Netherlands.” (Bregman 1996: 57). This type designation fulfils the requirements of Articles 40.4 & 40.5 as discussed above for *Matucana oreodoxa*. We therefore consider the name *Eommatucana oreodoxa* to be validly published in Bregman (1996). Since Bregman (1996: 55, 131) unequivocally associates the specific name and description to Ritter, he is the author (Art. 46.2). Likewise, Bregman (1996: 3, 131) unequivocally associates the generic name *Eommatucana* and its description to Ritter so he is also the author of the genus (Art. 46.2).

Nomenclature summary of *Eommatucana*, *E. oreodoxa* & *Matucana oreodoxa*:

Eommatucana F.Ritter in Bregman, *The Genus Matucana*: 3 (1996).

Type: *Eommatucana oreodoxa*

– *Eommatucana* F.Ritter, *Kakt. and. Sukk.* **16**(12): 230 (1965), nom. inval. (Art. 40.1 – type species not validly published)

– *Eommatucana* F.Ritter, *Kakt. and. Sukk.* **17**(2): 24 (1966), nom. inval. (Art. 40.1 – type species not validly published)

– *Eommatucana* F.Ritter, *Kakteen in Südamerika* **4**: 1486 (1981), nom. inval. (Art. 40.1 – type species not validly published)

Eommatucana oreodoxa F.Ritter in Bregman, *The Genus Matucana*: 55 (1996).

Type: PERU. Dept. Ancash; Gebirgskette nordlich des Río Pushka [= mountain chain north of the Río Pushka], Ritter 1311 (Holotype: U 0007782). Ritter incorrectly spells the river as “Pushea” on the herbarium sheet. A photograph of the holotype is available online at https://bioportal.naturalis.nl/en/multimedia/U%20%200007782_0885264652

– *Eommatucana oreodoxa* F.Ritter, *Kakt. and. Sukk.* **16**(12): 230 (1965), nom. inval. (Art.40.1 – no type indicated)

– *Eommatucana oreodoxa* F.Ritter, *Kakt. and. Sukk.* **17**(2): 24 (1966), nom. inval. (Art. 38.14 – no full and direct reference to the Latin description)

– *Eommatucana oreodoxa* F.Ritter, *Kakteen in Südamerika* **4**: 1486 (1981), nom. inval. (Art.40.1 – no type indicated)

– *Borzicactus oreodoxus* (F.Ritter) Donald, *Natl. Cactus Succ. J.* **26**(1): 10 (1971), nom. inval. (Art. 41.5 – basionym not validly published)

– *Matucana oreodoxa* (F.Ritter) Slaba, *Kaktusy* (Brno) **22**(6): 130 (1986), nom. inval. (Art. 41.5 – basionym not validly published)

Matucana oreodoxa F.Ritter ex Bregmann, Meerst., Melis & Pullen, *Succulenta* (Netherlands) **69**(2): 12–13 (1990).

Type: PERU. Dept. Ancash; Gebirgskette nordlich des Río Pushka [= mountain chain north of the Río Pushka], Ritter 1311 (Holotype: U 0007782). Ritter incorrectly spells the river as “Pushea” on the herbarium sheet. A photograph of the holotype is available online at https://bioportal.naturalis.nl/en/multimedia/U%20%200007782_0885264652

The following name is not valid published due to the assigned genus not being validly published at the time of publication:

Eommatucana madisoniorum (Hutchison) F.Ritter, *Kakteen in Südamerika* **4**: 1487 (1981). (Art. 35.1 – genus not validly published)

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THE GORDON ROWLEY LIBRARY

Graham Charles tells the story of how the collection of books and ephemera accumulated by Gordon Rowley is being preserved in a historic building in Rutland, England.
Photographs by the author



The Water Tower built about 1880 to supply water to the steam engines on the nearby railway.



The entrance lobby with shelves of journals, trade catalogues and other ephemora.

As explained in the Introduction, we have established the Gordon Rowley Foundation as a registered educational charity to preserve the books and ephemora left to us by Gordon in his will.

Searching for a suitable building proved to be a time consuming task and finding one that was in a pleasant rural environment with enough space both inside and out took nearly four years.

It was a Tuesday in February 2024 that I



Some of the 200+ boxes containing Gordon's library arrive at the tower; Spring 2025.

came across an advert for a Victorian water tower near where I live in Rutland. It looked promising so I called the estate agent and was able to meet him at the property less than an hour later!

The building has three floors, the top floor was used as a residence by the owner and the other two floors were utilised to run her wedding business. It immediately appealed to me and I could envisage how it could be modified to serve the purpose we had in mind.

So, having discussed it with the other charity trustees, we made an offer which was accepted the following Friday! It took until June to get the keys, after which we could start the modifications to prepare the building for its new use.

Following the building falling into disuse after the steam engines it provided with water had been replaced, it was bought by a builder who made extensive improvements with the intent of using it as his offices. However, the work cost so much that he could not afford to keep it and it was sold to the person who subsequently sold it to us.

During the four years since Gordon's



Part of the library room with the Regency library table in the foreground.



The 'Rutland Room', the meeting room on the top floor.

possessions had gone into storage, we had received many gifts of books and photographic slides. These were stored in a local self-store so the first task was to move these to the tower. The ground floor would be used for storage so I constructed shelving and the material was placed there.

Also on the ground floor, a wall was removed and a new entrance lobby was created. The glass front door was replaced by a more secure oak design and furnished with secure locks and a door knocker in the shape of a cactus! I am sure Gordon would have approved of this detail! To complete the facilities on the ground floor, a washing machine, and a new toilet were installed.

The library was to be situated on the first floor and the idea was to give it a Victorian



The kitchen on the top floor, equipped to cater for the meetings held in the adjacent room.

look with period furniture and fittings. The room was created by knocking two rooms into one. It was equipped with made-to-measure wooden book shelves, carpeted and the four windows hung with smart curtains.

The antique furniture includes a splendid mahogany library table made in about 1820 and a mahogany desk from about 1920.

Also on the first floor, another smaller room is now equipped as an office, with a desk and more book shelves. There is also a bathroom on this floor, fitted with a bath and a shower.

The main room on the top floor was the previous owner's lounge and kitchen. It has now been converted into a meeting room equipped with an HD digital projector and a large ceiling mounted electric screen. It can seat about 30 and will be used for lectures. The five windows have lovely views over the splendid Rutland countryside.

The other room on the top floor was the bedroom and this has now been equipped as a kitchen that can be used for catering when meetings are held at the tower.

I hope to finish the unpacking and storage of Gordon's books and other materials over the winter so that the building can be officially opened in the Spring of 2026. After that, anyone will be welcome to visit by appointment.

Graham Charles

NEW HYBRIDS FROM THE GENUS SCHLUMBERGERA

Frank Süpplie presents some new hybrids after his article in the 2022 edition. He has been growing new hybrids since 1993 and evaluating them for many years before they are named. Here are a selection of his new hybrids. Also a new classification for Christmas Cacti is presented.

Photographs Frank Süpplie except Andre Norman: Laila Norman



Schlumbergera 'Bologna'

Schlumbergera 'Bologna' Süpplie hybr. nov.
Parentage: 'Dark Eva' x 'Thortine'
Description: truncata group, x buckleyi

Named after the city in Italy, famous for Spaghetti Bologna. Flower petals with cyclamen coloured fledge, white centre. Filaments white, anthers and pollen light yellow. Style and stigma lobes purple. Flower tube white-coloured. Corolla ring pink, visible. Stem segments up to 3.5cm long and 3.8cm broad, dark green.

Both of the parents are easy in cultivation. So this hybrid has the same characteristics and is also easy in cultivation.

Schlumbergera 'Fabulous Lover' Süpplie hybr. nov.
Parentage: 'Lucille Ball' x 'Thor-Freya'



Schlumbergera 'Fabulous Lover'

Description: truncata group, x buckleyi

Fantasy name. Flower petals soft salmon-coloured with darker salmon edge. White midstripe. Filaments white. Anthers and pollen light yellow. Style and stigma lobes purple. Flower tube white. Petals are curved back the second day after opening from the flower. Ovary 2 ribbed, olive green. Flowers up to 5.5cm long and 4.5cm broad. Stem segments dark green, 4.5cm long and 3.5cm broad.

Compact growing, typical Schlumbergera flower. Easy growing, but does not like wet soil.



Schlumbergera 'Frederic Chopin'

Schlumbergera 'Frederic Chopin' Süpplie hybr. nov.
Parentage: 'Ludwig' x 'Thor-Freya'
Description: truncata group, x buckleyi

Named after the polish composer (1810–1849). Flower petals with dark orange edge. Center of flower petals orange. Base of the flower petals is white. Filaments white. Anthers and pollen light yellow. Style and stigma lobes are purple. Flower tube white. Small flower of only 4cm long and 3cm broad. Stem segments 3cm long and 2cm broad.

Very compact growing hybrid which is only 20cm high. Easy in cultivation. It is a beautiful orange-coloured flower, very bright.

Schlumbergera 'Italian Macho' Süpplie hybr. nov.
Parentage: 'Limelight Dancer' x 'Outona Brazil'
Description: truncata group, x buckleyi

Fantasy name. Flower petals light yellow, flower petals centre white. Base of flower petals white. Filaments white. Anthers and pollen light yellow. Style and stigma lobes carmine-coloured. Flower tube is white. The



Schlumbergera 'Italian Macho'

flower is 7cm long and 4,5cm broad. Stem segments are 3cm long and 2-3cm broad, dark green.

This hybrid darkens when placed warmer during budding. Upright compact growth.



Schlumbergera 'Italian Macho'



Schlumbergera 'La Sorella'



Schlumbergera 'La Sorella'

Schlumbergera 'La Sorella' Süplie hybr. nov.

Parentage: 'La Mamma' x 'Outono Brazil'
Description: truncata group, x buckleyi

Fantasy name. 'La Sorella' means in Italian 'The Sister'. Reference to my sister-in-law, see 'Monique'. Beautiful dark yellow flowers. It is temperature sensitive as all yellow-flowered ones. The higher the temperature during budding, the more intense yellow are the flowers. Flower petals dark yellow, nearly orange yellow edged. Centre of the flower



Schlumbergera 'Love Me'

petals white. Base of the flower petals white. Filaments white. Anthers and pollen light yellow. Style and stigma lobes purple. Ovary 4 ribbed, green. Flowers are up to 8cm long and 6-7cm broad. Stem segments green, 4-5cm long and up to 4cm broad.

Upright growth but a very slow grower. The plant makes only 1-2 segments in a season. So it will be always be rare in collections. The most fantastic yellow-coloured flowers I have grown.

Schlumbergera 'Love Me' Süplie hybr. nov.

Parentage: 'Dark Eva' x 'Bologna'
Description: truncata group, x buckleyi

Cyclamen edged flower petals, pink centre. Base of the flower petals white. Flower petals recurved back. Flower tube white. Filaments white. Anthers and pollen light yellow. Style pink. Sometimes without stigma lobes. Flowers are 7cm long and 5.5cm broad. Ovary green, 2 sided. Stem segments 4cm long and 2cm broad, dentate. Each side with 2-3 teeth. Dark green-coloured. Upright growth.

Flowers early in the season. Hybrids from 'Dark Eva' are easy in cultivation. The growth is actually very compact.



Schlumbergera 'Monique'

Schlumbergera 'Monique' Süplie hybr. nov.

Parentage : 'Limelight Dancer' x 'Sole Italiano'

Description : truncata group, x buckleyi

Named after my sister-in-law who passed away at the age of 59 due to ALS. She is missed every day. Flower petals light to dark yellow depending on the temperature during budding. Flower tube cream-coloured. Filaments white. Anthers and pollen light yellow. Style and stigma lobes purple. Corolla ring pink, clear visible. Ovary 2 sided, green. Stem segments are up to 5cm long and 2-3cm broad, dentate, with 2-3 teeth at each side.

Stable yellow flowers are nearly impossible in the Schlumbergera hybrids. Most of them are temperature sensitive in some way. It is funny that the plants are just very hardy and can take temperatures of 5°C in the winter period. Just the flowers do change to purple when it's too cold during budding. I



Schlumbergera 'Monique'. Painting by Kate Boyce-Miles



Schlumbergera 'Monique'



Schlumbergera 'O Sole Mio'



Schlumbergera 'O Sole Mio'



Schlumbergera 'Snow Drive'

commissioned this beautiful painting of 'Monique' made by Kate Boyce-Miles, here also shown in this publication. This is a hybrid which touches my heart every time I see it in the greenhouse and it is the only Schlumbergera of which I grow a small plant in the house.

Schlumbergera 'O Sole Mio' Süplie hybr. nov.

Parentage: 'Dutch Success' x 'Eprics Star'
Description: truncata group, x buckleyi

Named after the Italian folklore song. Flower petals dark red edges, centre rose, fading with age. The third day the flowers are dark red edged, white centre and white base of the flower petals Filaments white. Anthers and pollen light yellow. Style and stigma lobes red-pink-coloured. Flower tube white. Corolla ring nearly not visible. Stem segments dark green, 4.5cm long and 2.8–3.5cm broad.

Not the easiest one in cultivation. Upright compact growth. Flowers early in the season, August-September. The parentage of 'Dutch Success' x 'Eprics Star' always produces spectacular hybrids. Pollinated in 2016. First flower 2021.

Schlumbergera 'Snow Drive' Süplie hybr. nov

Parentage: 'Thor-Britta' x 'Thor-Cecillia'



Schlumbergera 'Yes Sir'

Description truncata group, x buckleyi

Fantasy name. Flower petals are white, partly translucent. Flower petals recurved back. Flower tube rose-white. Filaments white. Anthers and pollen light yellow. Style red. Stigma lobes pink. Corolla ring pink, clearly visible. Flowers up to 6cm long and 3cm broad. Stem segments dark green-coloured. 4cm long and up to 3.5cm broad.

Flowers are white-coloured, also at low temperatures. Not turning into pink. Early flowering in the season, August-September. Upright compact growth. Pollinated in 2007. First flower in 2012.

Schlumbergera 'Yes Sir' Süplie hybr. nov.

Parentage: 'Thor-Carolyne' x 'Lucille Ball'
Description : truncata group, x buckleyi

Named after the famous song of Zarah Leander. Flower petals rose, dark rose edge, centre of the flower petals is yellow-rose. Very subtle colours. Base of the flower petals is white. Not all flower petals curved back, only the upper ones. Flowers are 4–4.3cm long and up to 5cm broad. The corolla ring is clearly visible, pink-coloured. Filaments white. Anthers and pollen light yellow. Style pink,

stigma lobes pink. Stem segments are 3.5cm long and up to 2.8cm broad. The plant will be a maximum of 20cm high.

Very subtle colouration of the flowers. All seedlings from this cross show very subtle rose flowers. The lower flower petals are not curved back completely. Flower holds for 6 days. Not difficult in cultivation. Pollinated in 2015. First flower in 2020.

Hybrids history and a new classification

The first hybrids emerged around 1820–1830 and were often crosses of *S. truncata* x *S. truncata*. In many ways the plants still resembled their parents but were easier to cultivate. The plants were then given a Latin-sounding name, which immediately caused the confusion, as they were not true species but hybrids. This made it really difficult to tell them all apart. In 1907, Schelle in Germany had already 24 names of supposed new hybrids.

Most of them were *S. truncata* x *S. truncata* hybrids and some *S. russelliana* x *S. truncata* hybrids.as *S. ruselliana* was described in 1839. In 1861 Lemaire published *Epiphyllum bridgesii*. It was described from garden material In 1918, Loeftgren published *Schlumbergera. bridgesii*, which was in fact not a real species but a hybrid between *S. russelliana* x *S. truncata*.

Many decades nothing happened within the Schlumbergera hybrids. In the late 1950's there was interest again. In 1966, Will Tjaden from the United Kingdom did put up the collective name for crosses between vice versa *S. russelliana* x *S. truncata*: *S x buckleyi*. Hunt repeated it in 1969. This is an isonym and is actually not a valid publication. In that period the colour range of the hybrids was getting from white to pink and orange to red. We only missed yellow-flowering hybrids.

In 1977 Werner Rauh and Wilhelm Barthlott published the collective epithet *S x exotica* for crosses between *S. opuntoides* x *S. truncata* (vice-versa) and the nothospecies 'Minibelle'.

Then the sensational new *S. orssichiana* was described in 1978, and the first hybrid from *S. orssichiana* x *S. truncata* was introduced in 1985 Schlumbergera 'Bristol Queen'. For crosses between *S. orssichiana* x *S. truncata* was the



Schlumbergera ‘Dutch Success’,
parent of ‘O Sole Mio’

collective name/epithet *S. x reginae*.
Then another sensation happened: a new colour was added to the colour scheme of Schlumbergera: yellow. It was Barnell L. Cobia who developed a yellow hybrid. The entire development process took 15 years and finally Schlumbergera ‘Gold Charm’ could be offered.
In the beginning it was said that you could not cross with Gold Charm as it would have a triploid DNA string instead of two. None of these rumours appear to be true. As time passed many new yellow ones were the result of crossing ‘Gold Charm’ with other species and hybrids.
In 1991 there was finally a last new species described and until today some hybrids are known.

For the first time a hybrid between *S. russelliana* x *S. orssichiana* was created, and got the collective epithet *S. x eprica*.
Then two distinctive variations came from Brazil. Nobody knows where they were found or if they were species or hybrids: ‘Laranja Dobrada’ and ‘Branca Dobrada’. From 2015 they were intensively used in hybridisation and crosses have beautifully coloured double

flowers.
But with all the new crosses the current system of the collective epithets cannot cover every hybrid. So they have to be changed. The old classification system is as follows:

Old classification

- S. russelliana* x *S. truncata*
S. truncata x *S. russelliana*
=*Schlumbergera* x *buckleyi* (T.Moore)
Tjaden, *Natl. Cact. Succ. J.* **21**: 93 (1966).
- S. russelliana* x *S. orssichiana*
S. orssichiana x *S. russelliana*
=*Schlumbergera* x *eprica* Süpplie, *Schlumbergera*
a *Direct. Spec. Hybr.* [4] (2004).
- S. orssichiana* x *S. truncata*
S. truncata x *S. orssichiana*
=*Schlumbergera* x *reginae* McMillan &
Orssich, *Epiphytes* **9**(33): 8 (1985).
- S. opuntoides* x *S. truncata*
S. truncata x *S. opuntoides*
=*Schlumbergera* x *exotica* Barthlott &
Rauh, *Kakteen And. Sukk.* **28**(12): 278, fig (1977).

New classification

Schlumbergera x *buckleyi* (T.Moore) Tjaden ex Süpplie in *Schlumbergera*, *AIAPS*, (2024), p. 37.
Basionym: *Schlumbergera* x *buckleyi* (T.Moore)
Tjaden, *Natl. Cact. Succ. J.* **21**: 93 (1966).

Collective epithet for crosses between *Schlumbergera russelliana* x *Schlumbergera truncata* x *S. kautskyi*, vice versa or in any order, from at least two species. Phylloclades flat, dentate or crenate. Flowers medium sized, typical Schlumbergera flower.

Schlumbergera x *exotica* Barthlott & Rauh ex Süpplie in *Schlumbergera* *AIAPS*, 2024, pp. 37–38. Basionym: *Schlumbergera* x *exotica* Barthlott & Rauh, *Kakteen And. Sukk.* **28**(12): 278, fig (1977).

Collective epithet for crosses between *S. opuntoides* and *S. truncata*, *S. russelliana*, *S.*

kautskyi, *S. microspaerica* or *S. orssichiana*.
Nothospecies is *Schlumbergera* x *exotica* ‘Minibelle’. Hybrid between any of the species as parent and *Schlumbergera opuntoides*. Vice versa. Areoles sometimes with bristles. Flowers zygomorphic. Phylloclades with at least 2 ribs or complete round.

Schlumbergera x *normanii* Süpplie collective epithet nov

Collective epithet for crosses with the cultivar *Schlumbergera* ‘Laranja Dobrada’ x *Schlumbergera* x *buckleyi*. The main character is a multi petalled round flower. Nothospecies: Laila Norman, named after André Norman who made the first crosses with it.

Schlumbergera x *normani* ‘Laila Norman’ Süpplie comb. et hybr. nov.

Parentage: ‘Branca Dobrada’ x ‘Outono Brazil’
Description: large round flowers, growing right up, stem segments green, with 3–4 teeth at each side. Inner flower petals yellow with red stripe. Style pinkish.
This hybrid was the start of a series of wonderful multi petalled *Schlumbergera* hybrids.

Schlumbergera x *eprica* Süpplie, *Schlumbergera* a *Direct. Spec. Hybr.* (4) (2004).

- S. russelliana* x *S. orssichiana*
- S. orssichiana* x *S. russelliana*
- Not going to be changed

Schlumbergera x *reginae* McMillan & Orssich, *Epiphytes* **9**(33): 8 (1985).

- S. orssichiana* x *S. truncata*
- S. truncata* x *S. orssichiana*
- Not going to be changed

Literature

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SÜPPLIE, F. (2026). *Schlumbergera*: directory of species and hybrids. *Epric* 21st edition, in print.



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THE GUANILLOS VALLEY AND COPIAPOA LAUII

Graham Charles remembers a favourite place in Chile where he saw *Copiapoa lauii*, a memory brought back by recently being sent a picture of the plant in flower in habitat.

Photographs by Manfred Figge

My first visit to Chile was in 1994. It was only my second visit to South America to look for cacti so I was very excited to get the opportunity to see copiapoa in their natural environment for the first time.

We camped in Pan de Azucar park among a population of *Copiapoa columna-alba*. On the morning of 3rd November, we went with a park ranger to look for *Copiapoa lauii*. There are multiple tracks across the sandy terrain so it is a good idea to go with someone who knows the way!

I told the story of the day in Cactus Explorer 7; 24–26. We found *C. lauii* in the Guanillos valley together with many other wonderful



Figure 1. A rare sight: *Copiapoa lauii* flowering in habitat.



Figure 2. A splendid habitat in the Guanillos Valley with *Copiapoa longistaminea* and groups of the bromeliad *Deuterocohnia chrysantha*.



Figure 3. Slopes of gravel where *Copiapoa lauii* makes large mats of tiny heads.



Figure 4. *Copiapoa grandiflora* which can be found close by.

copiapoa, including a small growing plant that can be found among the *C. lauii*. This species was later name *C. angustiflora*.

I was disappointed that I did not see any flowers of *C. lauii* on that day and although the plant has since been photographed many times in habitat, I cannot recall seeing a picture of a plant flowering in habitat before.

Perhaps, like Thelocephalas, the plants only flower in response to particular weather conditions, such as when there has been rainfall or significant fog.

Many thanks to Manfred Figge for providing the pictures and reminding me about this wonderful place!



Figure 5. *Thelocephala (Eriosyce) esmeraldana* which grows near to *Copiapoa lauii*.

Literature

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SARNES, E. & N. (2025) *Copiapoa*. Self published.
SCHULZ, R. & KAPITANY, A. (1996) *Copiapoa in their Environment*.
SCHULZ, R. (2006) *Copiapoa 2006*.
WALTER, H. & MÄCHLER, W. (2006) An old acquaintance from the Guanillos Valley is finally validated. *CactusWorld* 24(4):185-192.

A MEMORABLE EVENT!

Graham Charles remembers three warm sunny days in August 2025 when thousands of people attended the first ever Rutland Flower Show where the BCSS staged a display and some C & S dealers gave visitors the chance to buy plants. Photographs by the author



The organisers of the Show generously gave the BCSS a free stand and provided the tables for our display.



Gareth Darbon setting up the plant display on the day before the show opened to the public.

It is a prime objective of the BCSS to present our hobby to the general public and increase their awareness of succulent plants. Flower shows are a perfect place to promote interest in the plants we grow and dispel the many misunderstandings that people have about cacti and succulents.

The first ever Rutland Flower Show was a

great success judging by the number of people who attended over three glorious days.

The Rutland showground is only about 10 miles from my home and much nearer to the Water Tower which houses the Gordon Rowley library.

I have been assembling a collection of plants which will eventually be kept in a glasshouse near to the library but are currently at Rutland Garden Centre who kindly let me use one of their glasshouses. Many of these plants, together with some from my own collection, were used in the display.

It was good to see so many members of the BCSS visiting our stand. I am pleased to say that we shall again be putting on a display at the 2026 event, August 14 – 16th, when we are promised an even better show.

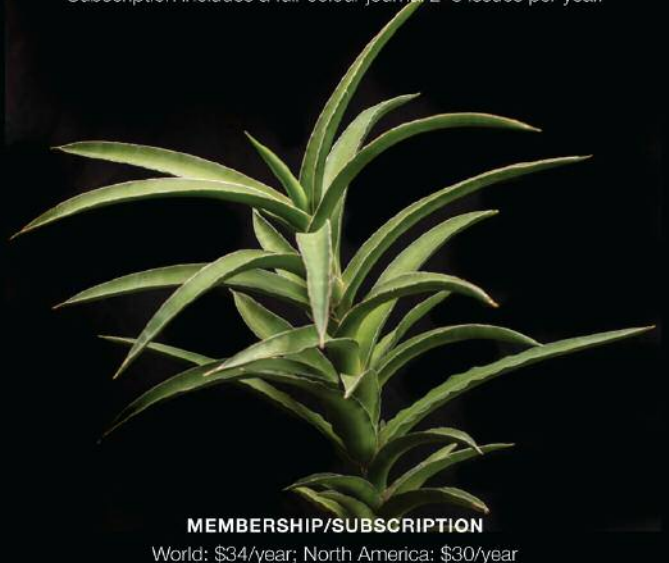
My thanks go to Gareth and Bill Darbon for their help with staging the BCSS display which would not have been possible without their support. Volunteers for next year’s event would be very welcome!

G.C.

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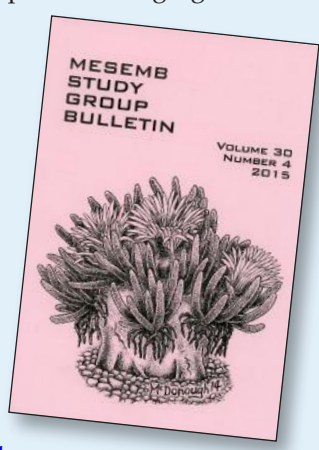
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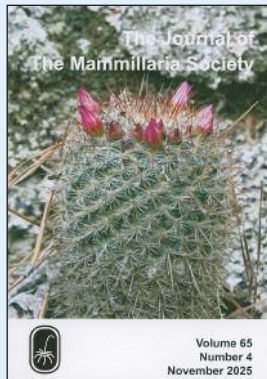


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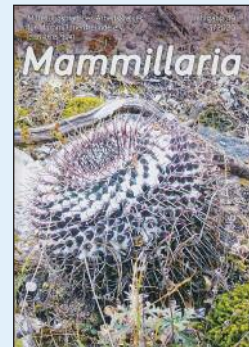
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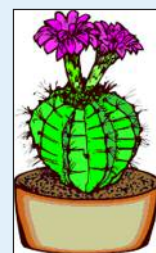


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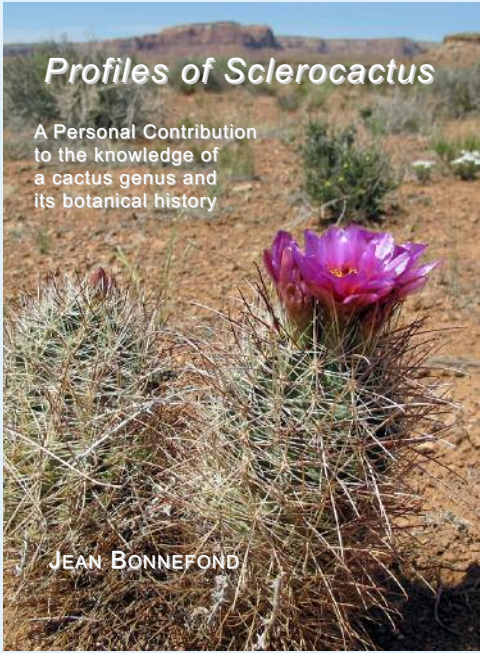
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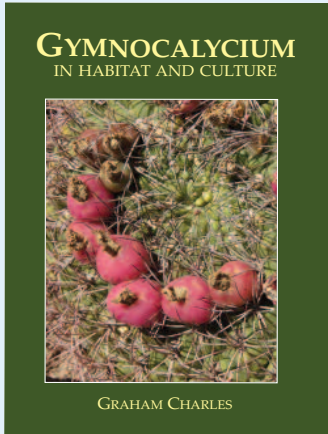


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