

“I am 99.9% certain I’ve got them all”

Photographic Reference Plates

The Making of an Index

by Christopher Leather

The story starts a back in the early 1990's with Harry Ormerod.

At one of the Manchester Branch meetings he gave me a part set of magazines/reference plates and said I might like to look at them and try and sort them out. He had been tidying a drawer of stuff which had collapsed and he didn't want to put them back.

I looked at them once or twice, but as they were incomplete they sat in the filing cabinet for years.

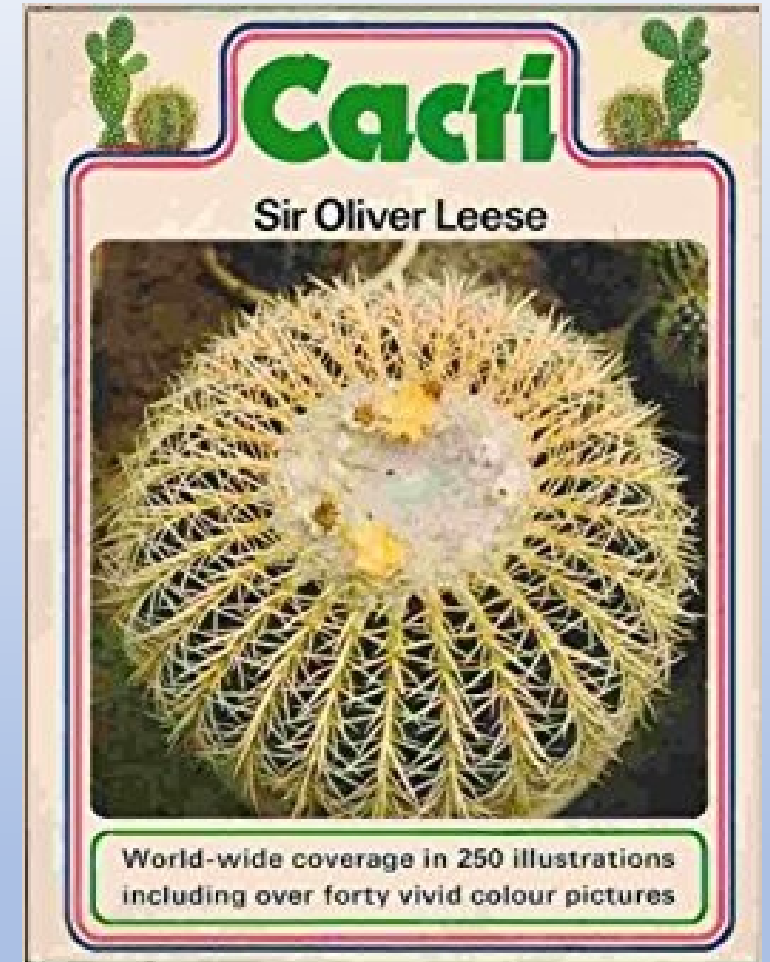


Then, sometime in early 2011 or 2012 I found this advert in a catalogue.

523. **LAMB, Edgar.** Neale's Pictorial Booklet of Cacti and other Succulents. Col t.p., 48 pp of illustrations, sm slim 12mo, grey bds a little worn and marked. SCARCE 1948 £5.00
524. **LAMB, Edgar.** Cactus-like Succulents. Illus, sm slim 12mo, pp 63, good copy. 1950 £6.50
525. **LAMB, Edgar.** Flowering Your Cacti. Illus, sm slim 12mo, pp 56, pb, covers a bit marked and sl worn. (The very scarce first edition.) 1943 £6.00
526. **LAMB, Edgar.** The Flowering of Your Cacti. Illus, sm slim 12mo, pp 80, pic bds, good. 1957 £2.50
527. **LAMB, Edgar.** Neale's Photographic Reference Plates. 2 vols : Cacti – approx 137 pls; Succulents : approx 150 pls, in two red binders, a bit used. [The second vol appears to be Oliver Leese's copy.] Plus about 120 loose plates. Worthing 1949-1950 £30.00
528. **LAMB, Edgar.** Another smaller set, 2 vols, cacti & succulents in each vol, approx 205 pls. £20.00
529. **LAMB, Edgar.** Monthly Notes on the Exotic Collection, for 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968. In parts as published, a little worn and frayed. 72 issues £20.00

I remembered those long forgotten magazines and plates in the filing cabinet and decided to get them out and have a look at them.

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Number 527 seemed interesting as Oliver Leese was a familiar military name, having being read about when researching my Grandfather's time in Burma.

The thought occurred to me that I could perhaps try and make a list of all the plates I had and try and find out which ones were missing.

From all those years ago I still remember Harry saying to me as he gave me the magazines/plates. **“They need sorting. I tried filing them in some sort of order, but then I gave up as it was too complicated.”**

Could I sort them out? Was it possible to collect a set?

Why did I want to do the list?

- I was making a few lists around that time, one other being the branch meeting list.
- Could I prove that it WAS possible to sort the plates out?
- There would only be me mad enough to attempt the idea.....
- If I did the list I could put it on my website to help others and I would have a little bit of Cactus & Succulent Research that I could call my own.

Rather by chance around that time there seemed to be a fair number of plates being offered for sale at sensible prices both on eBay and on the forum.

Although to begin with I had to keep a very low profile about my quest as I didn't want anyone buying the plates I was trying to buy.

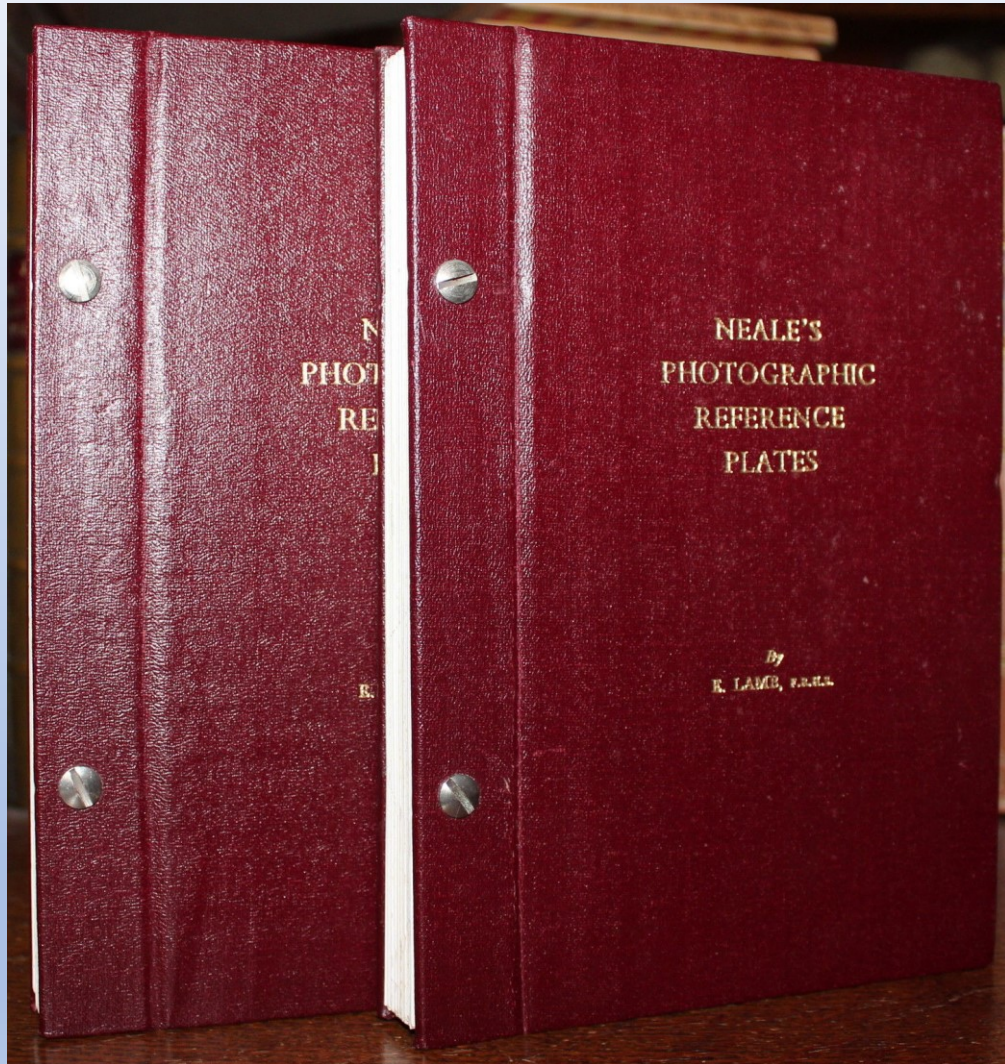


In the end of course I had to get help and many forum members kindly checked the data for me.

I must have bought at least EIGHT part sets and ended up with as many duplicates as the finished complete set.....

I spent hours and hours and hours collating them and sorting them out into order..... and many more hours labouriously typing all the data into a spreadsheet.

## So what are the Photographic Reference Plates?



You usually see them in these sorts of binders, though there are black spring back ones too.

Because of the length of time these were issued they are ALWAYS part sets.

Why? Well those old enough to start collecting them in the 1950's wouldn't still be around collecting them in the 1980's and conversely anyone starting in the late 1970's early 1980's would have a job – *at that time* – to find the older plates.

There was no eBay or Amazon in those days.....

They were produced and issued between 1949 and 1987 and formed part of the Monthly Notes of the Exotic Collection as issued by Edgar and Brian Lamb.

Photographic Reference Plate

No. 372



*Echinocereus viereckii*. Werd.  
(Tamaulipas, Mexico.)

SIZE. Shown at about two thirds natural size.

NOTE. A freely clustering and easy growing species, with stems up to 8in.(20cm.) in length. The straw coloured spines change to white with age, some of which can occasionally exceed 1in.(2.5cm.) in length.

This species enjoys a soil rich in humus, with plenty of water during the spring to autumn period when it is best grown under lightly shaded glass. This species appreciates plenty of root-room so that it can clump naturally, preferably free root-run conditions. In winter it should be left dry with a minimum temperature of 40°F(8°C).

E.& B.M.Lamb.

Each issue had two plates, usually one cactus and one succulent.

They are A5 in format and featured a picture and details about where the plants grow in the wild and how best to treat them in cultivation.



Almost straight away a problem became apparent.....

Photographic Reference Plate

No 1120a



*Mammillaria swinglei*. B & R.  
(Mexico)

SIZE. Shown at about natural size.

NOTE. A very attractive free branching species, which usually flowers twice each year in the early spring and again in late summer. One of the large flowering types producing many fine blooms.

Culture is not difficult provided a somewhat sandy leafmould mixture is used and less than average water at all times. In winter no water at all, but some warmth is advised.

One of the less common species likely to become popular as it is both attractive and not difficult.

E & B. M. Lamb.

PHOTOGRAPHIC REFERENCE PLATE.

No. 1120a



*Mammillaria swinglei*. B. & R.  
(Between Hermosillo & Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico.)

SIZE. Shown at about natural size.

NOTE. This is a very variable species, particularly as regards the flower colour which can range from the form shown, to others with a pink, greenish or brown median stripe down each petal on a cream or white base colour. This species can be solitary or branch sparingly with individual stems rarely exceeding 8 in. (20 cm.) in length.

This plant is fairly easy to grow, and will do well in a soil mixture of about equal parts by volume of gritty sand and humus. It should be watered sparingly during dull cool weather, more at other times. In Winter if left dry, it is quite safe down to a minimum temperature of 40°F (5°C).

B.M. & S. Lamb.

Lots of numbers were doubling up..... on plates that had a different picture for the same plant.

Photographic Reference Plate

No 1120a



*Mammillaria swinglei*. B & R.  
(Mexico)

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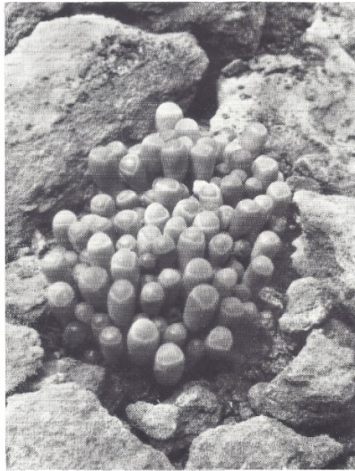
This plant is fairly easy to grow, and will do well in a soil mixture of about equal parts by volume of gritty sand and humus. It should be watered sparingly during dull cool weather, more at other times. In Winter if left dry, it is quite safe down to a minimum temperature of 40°F (5°C).

B.M. & S. Lamb.

Add to that as I was buying all the plates I didn't have a full set of magazines from 1962 to 1987 and none from before 1962. So I had no way of knowing how many plates I should have. Also something was bugging me about the plates. There were slight variations in them which I thought (correctly) would help me put them into chronological order.

Neale's Photographic Reference Plate.

No. 2282a



**Fenestraria aurantiaca.** N.E.Br.  
(S.W. Africa).

**Colour.** Light green with 'watery-green' tips.

**Size.** About natural size or very slightly reduced.

**PERSONAL NOTE.**—A very choice succulent, requires sun and extra careful drainage. Never over water and particularly in late summer and winter. Will not stand cold in winter.

Large golden-yellow blooms are produced in summer or very early autumn after which plants should be allowed to rest.

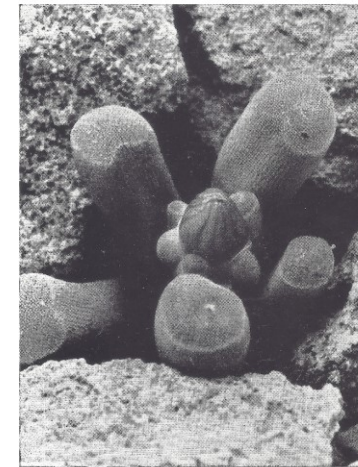
The tops of the leaves appear as 'eyes' being windows through which sunlight filters. A fascinating plant.

E. Lamb, F.R.H.S.

Can you spot the two differences?

Photographic Reference Plate.

No. 2285



**Frithia pulchra.** N.E.Br.  
(S.W. Africa).

**Colour.** Blue-green, the raised markings being paler in colour to whitish.

**Size.** Approximately double actual size of plant photographed.

**Flower.** Shown in bud which is brilliant purple.


**PERSONAL NOTE.**—Brilliant purple flowers open daily with hot sun, each lasting about four weeks.

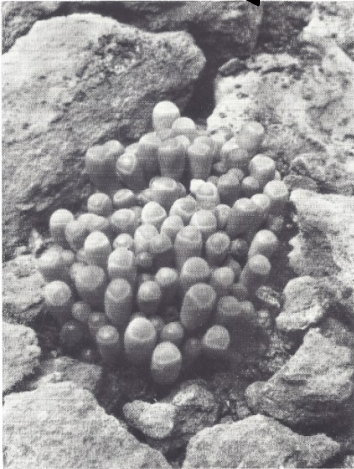
Sandy leafmould soil suits this plant well, it requires fair amount of water during growing period, rather less in cool weather and none in winter.

Stands cold fairly well but slight warmth is to be preferred.

Edgar Lamb.

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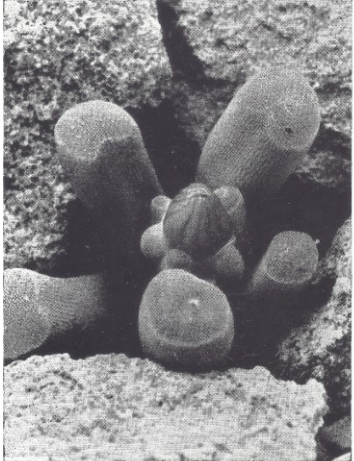
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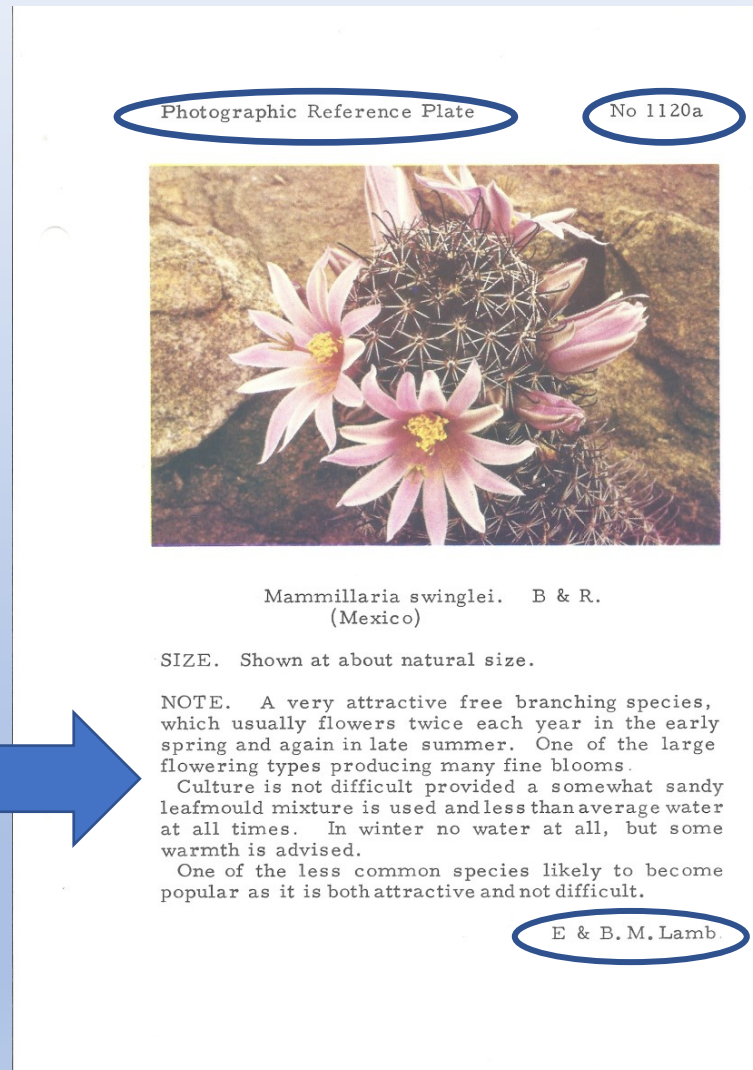
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Edgar Lamb. 

I realised that I needed to catalogue all the identifying elements on each plate type so that I could differentiate them properly on the spreadsheet.

The main elements were:

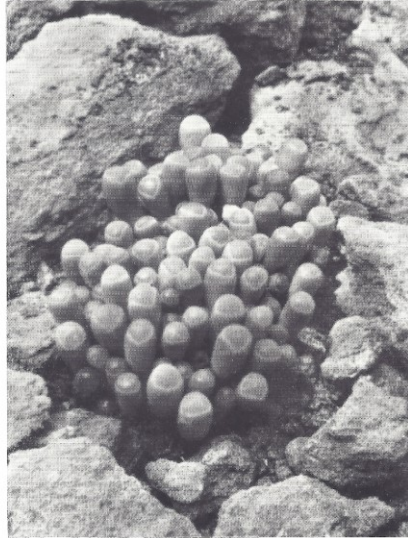
- the number itself
- the way the title was written
- the signature at the bottom
- the type of font used



In the end I found there was FIVE basic types of plate, which I lettered A to E.

Neale's Photographic Reference Plate.

No. 2282a



**Fenestraria aurantiaca.** N.E. Br.  
(S.W. Africa).

**Colour.** Light green with 'watery-green' tips.

**Size.** About natural size or very slightly reduced.

*PERSONAL NOTE.*—A very choice succulent, requires sun and extra careful drainage. Never over water and particularly in late summer and winter. Will not stand cold in winter.

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E. Lamb, F.R.H.S.

A

black and white  
"professional" typeface look

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Photographic Reference Plate

No 723



GYMNOCALYCIUM SPEGAZZINII. B & R.  
(Argentina.)

SIZE. Shown a little under natural size.

PERSONAL NOTE. A popular easy growing species of very dwarf habit, although there is considerable variation in form. In fact there are two distinct forms, one being the typical flattened headed kind and the other more columnar.

This species requires a fairly deep pot as it can form a large tap root. Requires a rather more sandy leafmould mixture and less than average water at all times.

In winter no water, when it will stand very cold conditions. It also tends to shrivel at that time.

Edgar Lamb

B

colour  
“home made” typeface look

In the end I found there was FIVE basic types of plate, which I lettered A to E.

Photographic Reference Plate

No 1120a



Mammillaria swinglei. B & R.  
(Mexico)

SIZE. Shown at about natural size.

NOTE. A very attractive free branching species, which usually flowers twice each year in the early spring and again in late summer. One of the large flowering types producing many fine blooms.

Culture is not difficult provided a somewhat sandy leafmould mixture is used and less than average water at all times. In winter no water at all, but some warmth is advised.

One of the less common species likely to become popular as it is both attractive and not difficult.

E & B. M. Lamb.

C

colour

“home made” typeface look  
but different text to the B’s



In the end I found there was FIVE basic types of plate, which I lettered A to E.

Photographic Reference Plate

No.816a



Pyrrhocactus tuberisulcatus. Bgr.  
(Chile.)

SIZE. Shown at about half natural size.

NOTE. This is an easy growing species, but relatively slow, although very free flowering provided it is grown under lightly shaded glass.

A somewhat sandy humus soil mixture is required for this species, with a little less than average water during the spring to autumn period.

In winter it should be left completely dry, when it can safely endure temperatures down to near freezing. In nature it is not uncommon for it to endure some frosts but then the atmospheric humidity is very low, unlike here in winter when it can be very high, hence a minimum temperature requirement a little above freezing.

E. & B.M.Lamb.

D

colour  
“professional” typeface look

In the end I found there was FIVE basic types of plate, which I lettered A to E.

Photographic Reference Plate

No.2561a



*Aeonium cuneatum*. W. & B.  
(Tenerife, Canary Islands.)

SIZE. Shown at about one quarter natural size.

NOTE. This is not a common species in cultivation, but ideally suited to outdoor culture here for the frost free months. The stemless rosettes can reach a diameter of 18in.(45cm.) or so. It branches sparingly, whilst the golden-yellow flowers are produced on an inflorescence which can reach 2ft.(60cm.) in height.

It can be grown in almost any soil within reason, but definitely prefers outdoor culture for the Spring to Autumn period, as greenhouse temperatures can be too high. In winter a little water can be given occasionally, when a minimum temperature of 45°F(8°C) is advisable.

B.M. & S. Lamb.

E

colour

“professional” typeface look  
Edgar’s name has been lost

By careful examination of the plates it turned out that each type had up to five variations. As follows:

Type A1 = NPRP – E. Lamb F.R.H.S. (Horiz/LC/Print)

Type A2 = NPRP – E. Lamb (Horiz/LC/Print)

Type A3 = NPRP – Edgar Lamb (Horiz/LC/Print)

Type A4 = PRP – Edgar Lamb (Horiz/LC/Print)

Type B1 = PRP – Edgar Lamb (Horiz/LC/Typed\_A)

Type B2 = PRP – Edgar Lamb (Horiz/LC/Typed\_B)

Type C1 = PRP – E. & B.M. Lamb (Horiz/LC/Typed)

Type C2 = PRP – E & B.M. Lamb (Horiz/LC/Typed)

Type C3 = PRP – E & B.M. Lamb (Vert/UC/Typed)

Type D1 = PRP – E. & B.M. Lamb (Horiz/LC/Print)

Type D2 = PRP – E. & B.M. Lamb (Vert/UC/Print)

Type D3 = PRP – E.& B.M. Lamb (Horiz/LC/Print)

Type D4 = PRP – E & B.M. Lamb (Horiz/LC/Print)

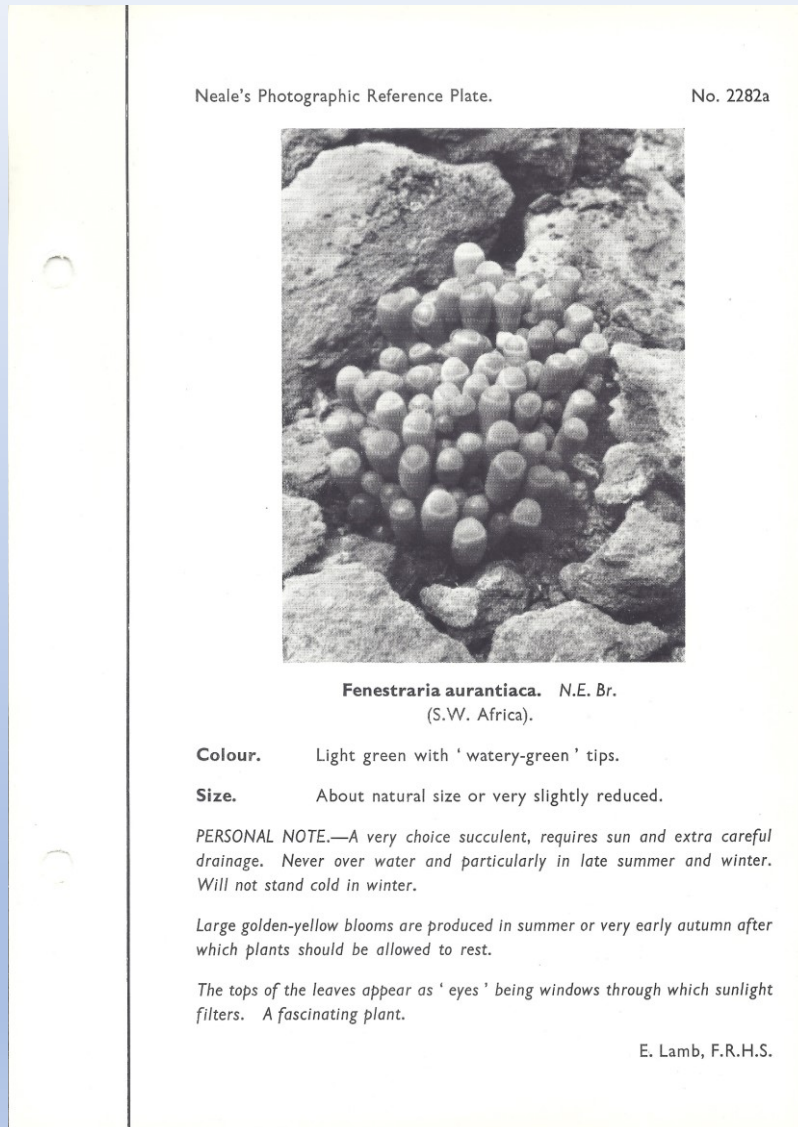
Type D5 = PRP – E & B.M. Lamb (Vert/UC/Print)

Type E1 = PRP – B.M. & S. Lamb (Horiz/LC/Print)

Type E2 = PRP – B.M. & S. Lamb (Horiz/UC/Print)

Type E3 = PRP – B.M. & S. Lamb (Vert/UC/Print)

## The seventeen variations.



The words change on most variations, but not all. Sometimes it is just a full stop that moves.

# A1

Neale's Photographic Reference Plate.  
E. Lamb, F.R.H.S.

## The seventeen variations.

Neale's Photographic Reference Plate.

No. 2311



**Glottiphyllum neilii.** *N.E.Br.*  
(S. Africa).

**Colour.** Dull yellowish-green, pink at edges and leaf tips.

**Size.** Actual size shown.

**Flower.** Shiny-yellow.

*PERSONAL NOTE.*—Growing period is usually from Mid-summer into winter but always be careful not to over-water these fleshy types.

Although some warmth in winter is best, this plant will often stand quite low temperatures if not still growing. As growing may continue into winter, care must always be taken.

Very sandy soil important.

E. Lamb

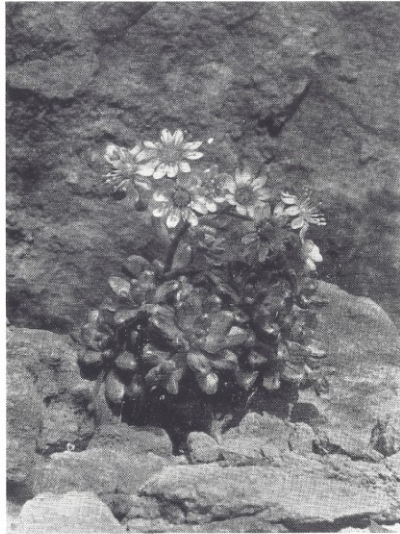
# A2

Neale's Photographic Reference Plate.  
E. Lamb

## The seventeen variations.

Neale's Photographic Reference Plate.

No. 2569b



**Aeonium sedifolium.** *Pit & Pr.*  
(Canary Islands).

**Colour.** Dark green leaves, shiny near tips. Slightly sticky.

**Size.** Actual size shown above.

**Flower.** Bright golden-yellow.

*PERSONAL NOTE.*—This rather dainty little species can produce many flowers. It does best in a leafmould soil, fair amounts of water except in worst winter months and little or none from spring to early summer.

*Slight shade produces the best results. Could be grown on a window-ledge where part sun is obtainable.*

Edgar Lamb.

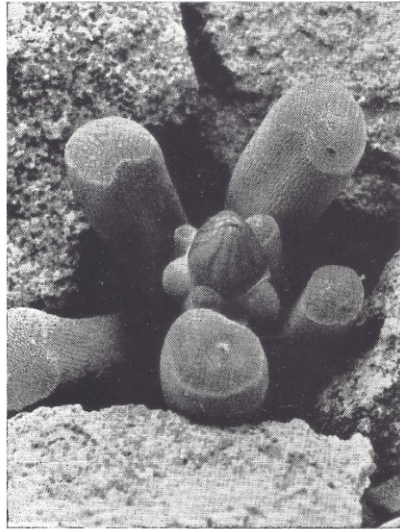
# A3

Neale's Photographic Reference Plate.  
Edgar Lamb.

## The seventeen variations.

Photographic Reference Plate.

No. 2285



**Frithia pulchra.** N.E.Br.  
(S.W. Africa).

- Colour.** Blue-green, the raised markings being paler in colour to whitish.
- Size.** Approximately double actual size of plant photographed.
- Flower.** Shown in bud which is brilliant purple.

*PERSONAL NOTE.*—Brilliant purple flowers open daily with hot sun, each lasting about four weeks.

*Sandy leafmould soil suits this plant well, it requires fair amount of water during growing period, rather less in cool weather and none in winter.*

*Stands cold fairly well but slight warmth is to be preferred.*

Edgar Lamb.

# A4

Neale's Photographic Reference Plate.  
Edgar Lamb.

## The seventeen variations.

Photographic Reference Plate

No 723



GYMNOCALYCIUM SPEGAZZINII. B & R.  
(Argentina.)

SIZE. Shown a little under natural size.

PERSONAL NOTE. A popular easy growing species of very dwarf habit, although there is considerable variation in form. In fact there are two distinct forms, one being the typical flattened headed kind and the other more columnar.

This species requires a fairly deep pot as it can form a large tap root. Requires a rather more sandy leafmould mixture and less than average water at all times.

In winter no water, when it will stand very cold conditions. It also tends to shrivel at that time.

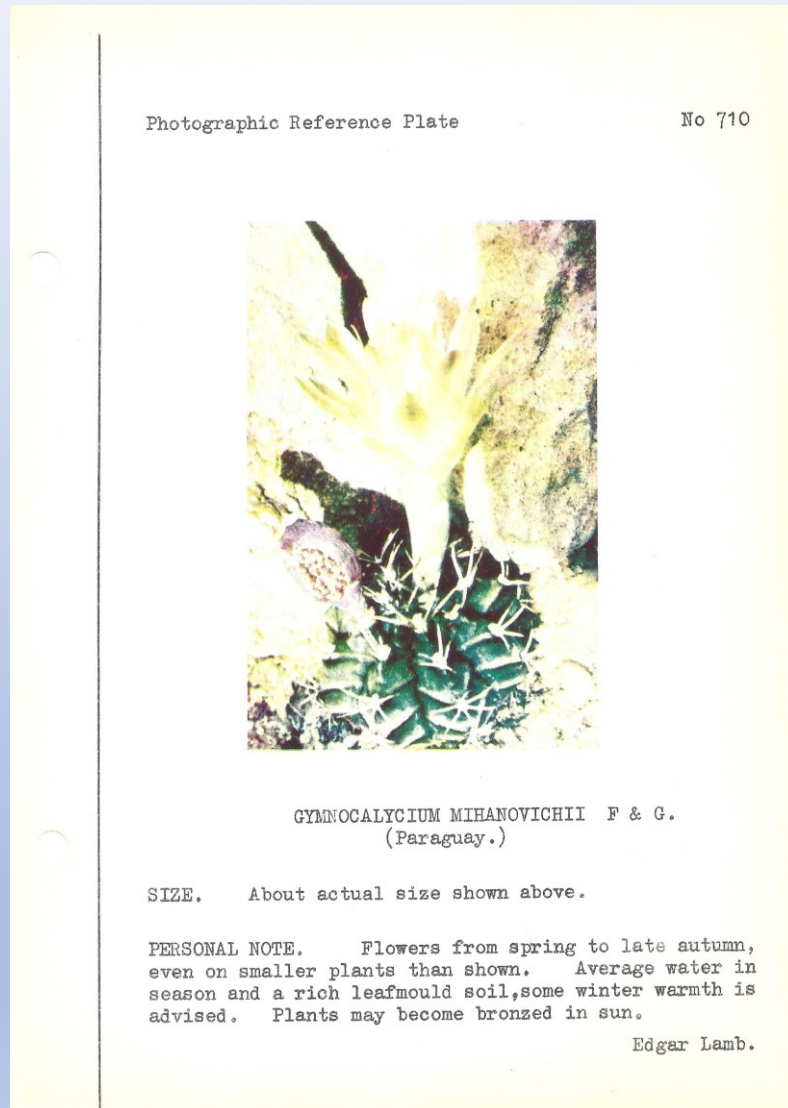
Edgar Lamb

# B1

Photographic Reference Plate  
Edgar Lamb



The seventeen variations.



B2

Photographic Reference Plate  
Edgar Lamb.  
Font is different from B1

No 723

B1

No 710

B2

## The seventeen variations.

Photographic Reference Plate

No 1754a



*Echeveria elegans*. Brg.  
(Mexico.)

SIZE. Shown at about natural size.

NOTE. A very well known species of dwarf habit, not possessing a long stem even in age, but of clustering habit in time.

It will grow in most soils, requiring plenty of water in the spring and early summer. Watering can be reduced from then onwards so that the leaves take on more brilliant colouring.

In winter no water need be given unless plants are being kept in a fairly warm position. Stands cold well if dry.

E. & B.M.Lamb.

# C1

Photographic Reference Plate  
E. & B.M. Lamb.

## The seventeen variations.

Photographic Reference Plate

No 1120a



*Mammillaria swinglei*. B & R.  
(Mexico)

SIZE. Shown at about natural size.

NOTE. A very attractive free branching species, which usually flowers twice each year in the early spring and again in late summer. One of the large flowering types producing many fine blooms.

Culture is not difficult provided a somewhat sandy leafmould mixture is used and less than average water at all times. In winter no water at all, but some warmth is advised.

One of the less common species likely to become popular as it is both attractive and not difficult.

E & B. M. Lamb.

# C2

Photographic Reference Plate  
E & B.M. Lamb

C1

E. & B.M. Lamb.

C2

E & B.M. Lamb.

## The seventeen variations.

P  
H  
O  
T  
O  
G  
R  
A  
P  
H  
I  
C  
  
R  
E  
F  
E  
R  
E  
N  
C  
E  
  
P  
L  
A  
T  
E



No.  
2  
6  
3  
4  
b

*Caralluma luntii*. N. E. Br.  
(S. Arabia)

SIZE. Shown at about natural size.

NOTE. Although this species requires a minimum winter temperature of 50F(10C), it is one of the easier species to grow, and is exceedingly free flowering.

It should be grown under lightly shaded glass, in a sandy humus mixture, with slightly less than average water during the spring to autumn period, unless the weather is exceptionally hot, when extra water can be given.

E & B. M. Lamb

# C3

PHOTOGRAPHIC REFERENCE PLATE

E & B.M. Lamb

Introduction of UPPER CASE and  
vertical printing

## The seventeen variations.

Photographic Reference Plate

No.816a



*Pyrrhocactus tuberisulcatus*. Bgr.  
(Chile.)

SIZE. Shown at about half natural size.

NOTE. This is an easy growing species, but relatively slow, although very free flowering provided it is grown under lightly shaded glass.

A somewhat sandy humus soil mixture is required for this species, with a little less than average water during the spring to autumn period.

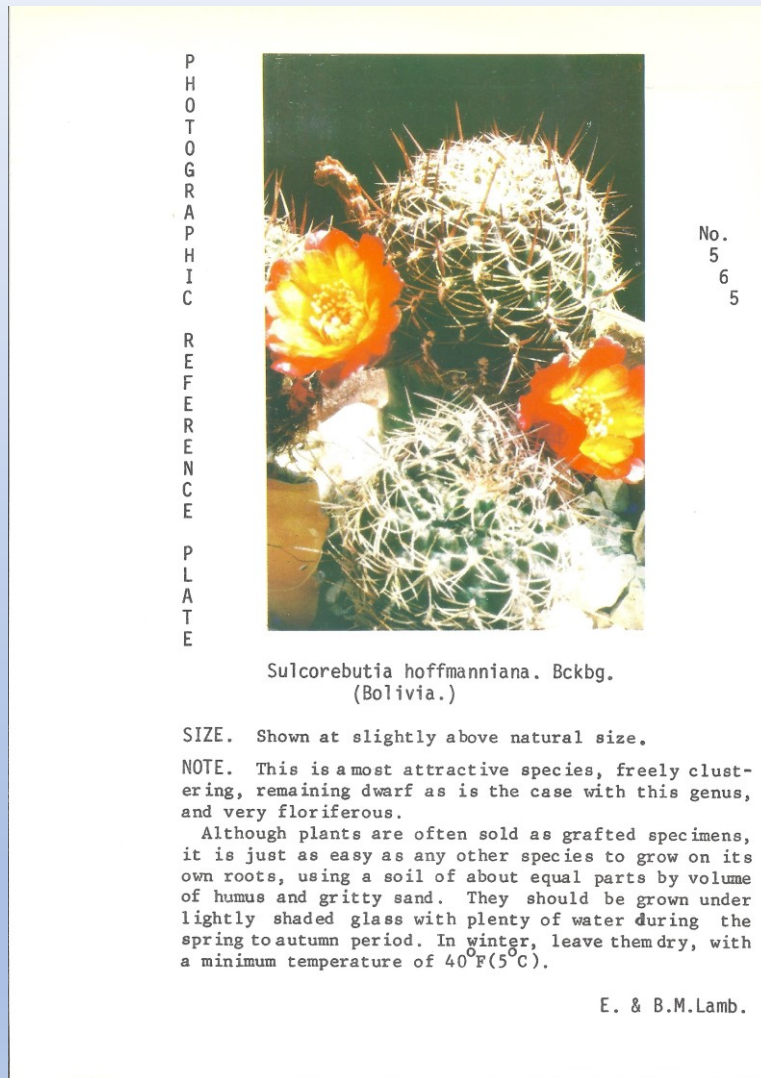
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E. & B.M.Lamb.

# D1

Photographic Reference Plate  
E. & B.M. Lamb.  
Different printing to C plates

## The seventeen variations.



# D2

PHOTOGRAPHIC REFERENCE PLATE

E. & B.M. Lamb.

Vertical Printing

## The seventeen variations.

Photographic Reference Plate

No.372



*Echinocereus viereckii*. Werd.  
(Tamaulipas, Mexico.)

SIZE. Shown at about two thirds natural size.

NOTE. A freely clustering and easy growing species, with stems up to 8 in. (20 cm.) in length. The straw coloured spines change to white with age, some of which can occasionally exceed 1 in. (2.5 cm.) in length.

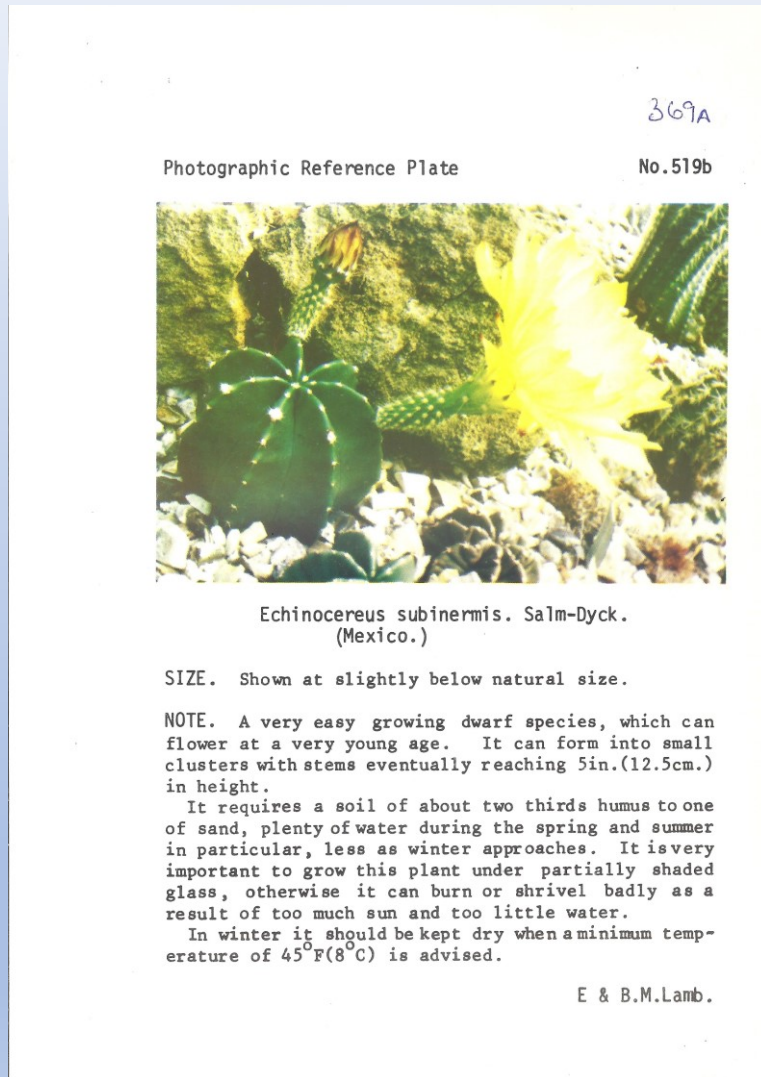
This species enjoys a soil rich in humus, with plenty of water during the spring to autumn period when it is best grown under lightly shaded glass. This species appreciates plenty of root-room so that it can clump naturally, preferably free root-run conditions. In winter it should be left dry with a minimum temperature of 40°F (8°C).

E. & B.M. Lamb.

# D3

Photographic Reference Plate  
E. & B.M. Lamb.

# The seventeen variations.



# D4

Photographic Reference Plate  
E & B.M. Lamb.

D1 & D2

E. & B.M.Lamb.

D3

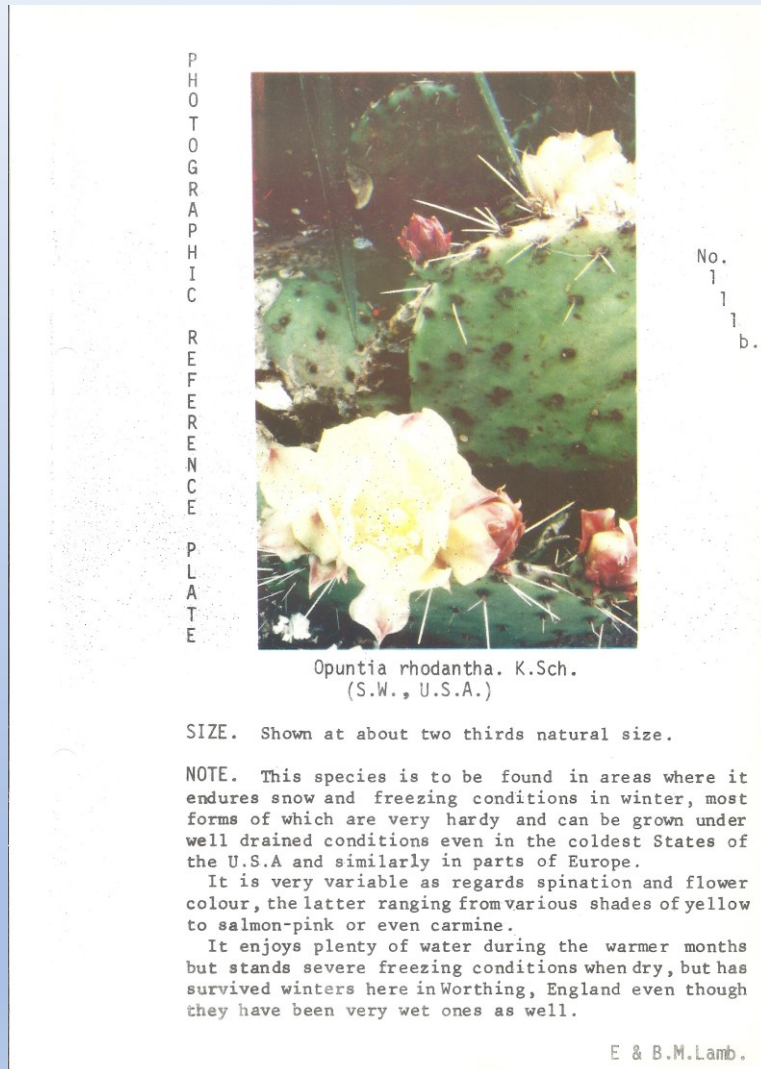
E.& B.M.Lamb.

D4 & D5

E & B.M.Lamb.



## The seventeen variations.



# D5

Photographic Reference Plate  
E & B.M. Lamb.  
Vertical Printing

## The seventeen variations.

Photographic Reference Plate

No.2561a



*Aeonium cuneatum*. W. & B.  
(Tenerife, Canary Islands.)

SIZE. Shown at about one quarter natural size.

NOTE. This is not a common species in cultivation, but ideally suited to outdoor culture here for the frost free months. The stemless rosettes can reach a diameter of 18in.(45cm.) or so. It branches sparingly, whilst the golden-yellow flowers are produced on an inflorescence which can reach 2ft.(60cm.) in height.

It can be grown in almost any soil within reason, but definitely prefers outdoor culture for the Spring to Autumn period, as greenhouse temperatures can be too high. In winter a little water can be given occasionally, when a minimum temperature of 45°F(8°C) is advisable.

B.M. & S. Lamb.

# E1

Photographic Reference Plate  
B.M. & S. Lamb.

Issued after the death of Edgar,  
plates now show Brian and Sally

## The seventeen variations.

PHOTOGRAPHIC REFERENCE PLATE.

No. 2356a



*Lithops elisae*. De Boer.  
(Little Namaqualand, Cape Province.)

SIZE. Shown at about three times natural size.

NOTE. This is a beautifully marked species which will eventually grow into quite large clusters. It is an easy growing species as with the majority in this genus. A slightly sandy humus soil mixture suits this species well plus a 0.5 in. (1.25 cm.) layer of grit on the top.

It requires light overhead spraying in the Spring, and slightly less than average watering during the Summer and Autumn, more if the weather is very hot for a long period. During the Winter it should remain dry, when it is quite safe down to 40°F (5°C). Under glass during the hottest weather we have found that best results are obtained when it is lightly shaded.

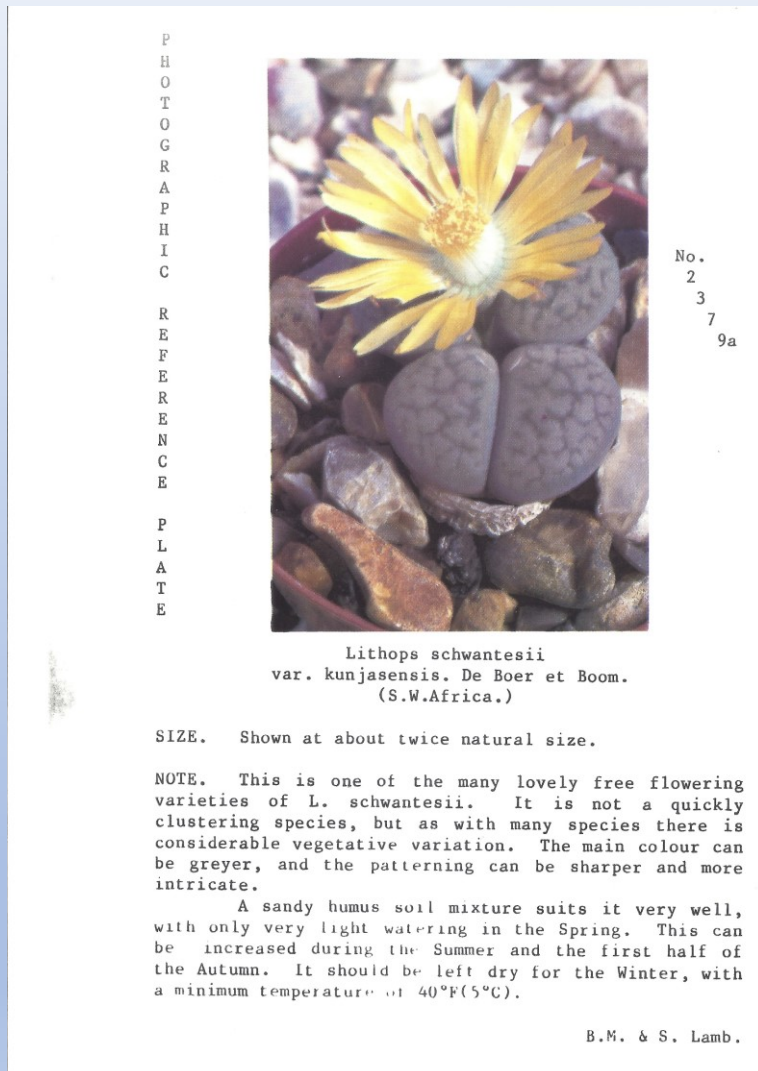
B.M. & S. Lamb.

# E2

PHOTOGRAPHIC REFERENCE PLATE

B.M. & S. Lamb.

## The seventeen variations.



# E3

PHOTOGRAPHIC REFERENCE PLATE

Vertical Printing

B.M. & S. Lamb.

Eventually the list was finished and I was able to add in some of the issues the plates were found in as the magazines from 1962 onwards listed the plates that came with the magazine.

I also found some numbers (also reported in the magazines) were wrong.

817 col	see	1172a	B1	Porfiria schwartzii var. albiflora
548a col	see	164a	C3	Borzicactus humboldtii
519b col	see	369a	D4	Echinocereus subinermis
588a col	see	558a	B2	Rebutia steinbachii
886a col	see	866a	E3	Melocactus matanzanus

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Plate #	Photo	Plant Name	Plate Type	TEC-issue
487 b	col	Acanthocalycium glaucum	C3	1974-03
487 b	col	Acanthocalycium glaucum	E3	
487 a	col	Acanthocalycium oreopogon	C2	1966-11
487 c	col	Acanthocalycium thionanthum	E3	1986-09
487 c	col	Acanthocalycium thionanthum	E1	
487 0	b/w	Acanthocalycium violaceum	A1	
2597 0	col	Adenium obesum ssp. multiflorum	D2	1980-08
1620 0	b/w	Adromischus maculatus	A1	
1622 0	col	Adromischus marianae	C2	1965-09
1622 a	col	Adromischus pulchellus	C2	1965-09
2558 0	col	Aeonium caespitosum	B2	
2560 0	b/w	Aeonium canariense	A3	
2561 a	col	Aeonium cuneatum	E1	
2562 0	col	Aeonium decorum	E1	
2565 0	b/w	Aeonium holochrysum	A2	
2567 0	col	Aeonium lindleyi	B1	1962-12
2568 a	col	Aeonium manriqueorum	C3	1967-07
2567 a	b/w	Aeonium nobile	A4	
2567 a	col	Aeonium nobile	C2	1976-09
2569 0	b/w	Aeonium saundersii	A4	
2569 0	col	Aeonium saundersii	E2	
2569 b	b/w	Aeonium sedifolium	A3	
2569 b	col	Aeonium sedifolium	D5	1979-04
2569 c	col	Aeonium smithii	E2	1986-04
2569 a	b/w	Aeonium spathulatum	A2	
2570 0	b/w	Aeonium tabulaeforme	A1	1986-04
2570 0	col	Aeonium tabulaeforme	E1	
2570 a	col	Aeonium tabulaeforme fa. cristata	E2	1986-10
1503 b	col	Agave angustifolia	E1	
1507 0	col	Agave filifera	C3	1970-07
1512 a	col	Agave parrasana	E2	
1416 a	col	Agave utahensis var. nevadensis	E3	1985-05
1516 a	col	Agave utahensis var. nevadensis	C3	1970-07
1516 0	col	Agave victoria-reginae	D1	1980-02
2580 0	col	Aichryson dichotomum	B1	1962-05
2583 0	b/w	Aichryson tortuosum	A3	
2604 0	col	Alluaudia ascendens	C3	1972-11
1529 a	col	Aloe betsileensis	C2	1966-02
1537 0	b/w	Aloe distans	A1	
1538 a	col	Aloe erinacea	E2	
1540 0	b/w	Aloe ferox	A1	
1543 d	col	Aloe haemanthifolia	C2	1973-09
1543 c	col	Aloe haworthioides	C3	1973-04
1543 a	b/w	Aloe humilis var. echinata	A4	
1543 b	col	Aloe kedongensis	C2	1967-01
1548 0	col	Aloe marlothii	C2	1964-08

In time I managed to get a full set of magazines from 1962 to 1987. And was able to make a check list from 1962 to 1987.

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Revised and updated 2013.

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
1	343	351	526a	739	941	1218	483a	1828b	195	2636b	734	935	350	741a	1060	1852b
1	2610a	370	1754a	1674a	500a	1543b	1028a	1851	858a	1840a	2627	743	506	816	2610	1576
2	594	2682	710a	786	1529a	714	1827a	362a	199	402	1056	2148d	1840d	1860b	2645b	1121b
2	561a	2722a	2713	2290a	1560a	1021a	1852	1218a	858b	74	875	1760a	1840e	1861a	2661c	443a
3	94a	349a	2151	857d	530	587	575	1603	2154b	166a	1841a	594a	487b	605a	1739	2632e
3	857b	2316a	2618b	1885a	1096	897a	695	1874a	1835c	249a	2628a	685	772b	862a	2622b	2635e
4	1857b	810	341	2699e	365	913	191a	315	2663d	1826a	344	1543c	790	1080	1115	980a
4	2646a	2664b	368	2713a	949a	2594	1606	783	2691c	1834a	845	47a	95	1607b	1115a	758
5	769a	723	1837	1120a	585a	2694	723	164b	1554	655	348a	352a	355	81b	546a	2553
5	2580	1872	2734	2622a	522	2715	750a	765b	2585a	1121a	1785c	91a	936	119a	554a	2554
6	1063	1134	1055a	919a	1823	690	1670	2213a	579	332	659a	706a	2696	359a	1009a	579a
6	2155	2690	1098	1164	2592a	127	1785b	2715a	1054a	1210	1177	2706e	2701	551a	1026a	1947
7	1060	1250	827	945	574	2568a	338a	336a	1507	516	2288	696	736a	2608	221a	494a
7	2632b	2699d	1971	1872a	589	1567a	363a	370a	1516a	490	2537	739	1055a	1872b	322	519a
8	763	540	194	1170a	13	1594a	577	1963b	2670	1603b	2090	2686d	1971a	1013	1552a	686
8	1785a	2660e	1548	1829c	857e	1837a	857d	2590a	2702	1603a	1678	2687	1971b	1060a	2148d	2586
9	2283	22	2646	1622	2362	520a	1607a	710b	985a	578a	2655	993	2013b	2634b	2567a	249d
9	2301	2326	1829a	1622a	2474	1170b	2646b	772a	1058	583	2667	1543d	2014a	2635d	1961a	792
10	766	1172a	804a	2632c	2691b	655	2167a	2663c	2164	2171a	726a	2635c	370b	1759a	2632d	2631d
10	2348	277	2595a	2692b	2703a	1951	2457b	2714	1715a	2293a	765c	2703b	619a	2384	2660aa	2633a
11	557a	803	893	364	487a	906	550b	364	200	2266	2604	770a	547a	441a	726b	711a
11	2657	805a	774	2360	858	979	309	366	169	2279	1736	771	1594a	291a	751a	1851a
12	605	562	585a	512	556d	111a	164a	544	968	2635a	349b	1736a	249b	181a	835a	897b
12	2567	2688	1062a	943	1062	797a	547	557b	1064	2656	1113a	1773	249c	706a	828	2596b
	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24

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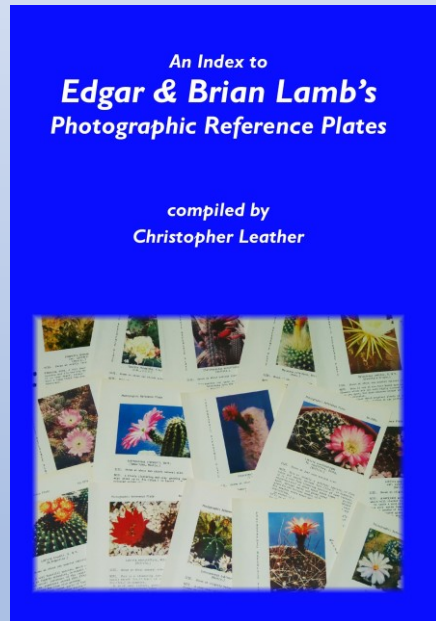
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987						
1	519b	42a	963a	2661a	598a	1512a	1538a	1699a	597	229						
1	523b	549c	2664	2661b	831	2374a	2168a	1925	1125	1645a		B	89			(only 48 count)
2	369a	369	1516	916a	2561a	672a	662	420e	1741a	1824c		C	312			
2	2609	771a	2282	916e	2562	782a	784c	781a	1871a	1850a		D	97			(only 96 count)
3	939	760	816a	487c	607	1134a	2356a	1010a	528a	915a		E	161			
3	726a	761	565	1785d	1552b	874d	2371a	1181	817a	940						
4	2633f	157	1787	1028	1822b	1130	705b	1187	860a	700b				616		616
4	2663e	2569b	1815	2570	1851b	831a	946	1223	2569c	1760b				plates		chart
5	499a	883a	725a	795	259	351a	421	1024	1921a	857f						
5	1068a	886a	2675	800a	2596bb	804c	569	1416a	1924	2596c						
6	1520	1121c	549	1688a	720	80	2149a	1749	174	681a						
6	1573	839	1013	2691g	1059b	1829	2467a	1947	253	859a						
7	1901	2655k	2636e	500b	1114	839a	101	1060	344a	2379a						
7	1613	2725	2188	1835d	2655c	2569	354	856	350a	2471						
8	372	1922a	349c	335a	50	1067	776a	366	952	841a						
8	1091	1938a	2597	1794	2675a	1755a	789	1707	970	2516a						
9	356	599	604	549b	1503b	82c	341a	103b	487c							
9	111b	1010a	792	2010a	1736b	1859a	564	971a	1216a							1985-09 (971a) issued October due to delay
10	193a	1872c	1137	512	1064b	249e	1752a	767	2570a							
10	2658d	1872d	850	557b	1132b	515a	2384	2360	2629							
11	859	39	1020a	1852aa	782	1036a	821	662a	745							
11	859a	44	1029a	2627b	841	1845a	886a	2690	2597e							
12	320	985b	788	1824b	2602a	39a	487b	1064a	938a							
12	2662a	1104	2586	1825a	2602b	1057a	2659	1121c	1120a							
	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	16					232	

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But you know something was still bugging me.

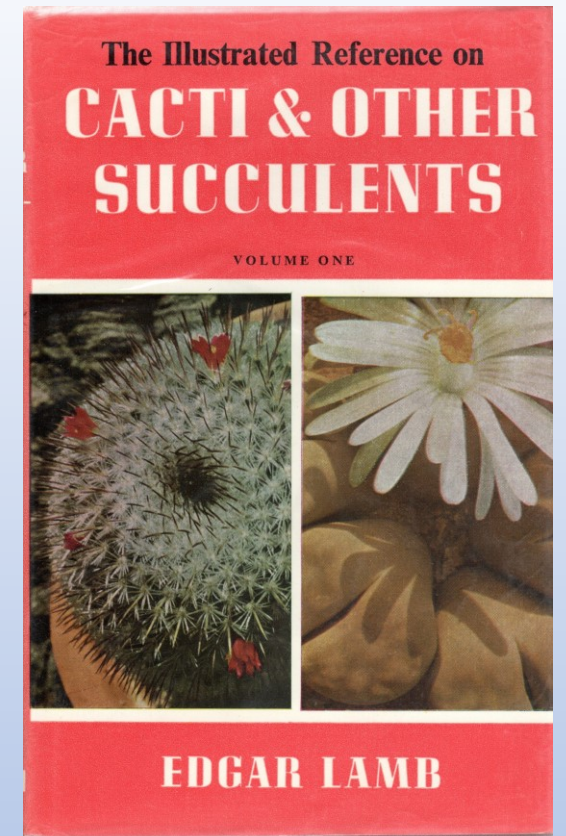
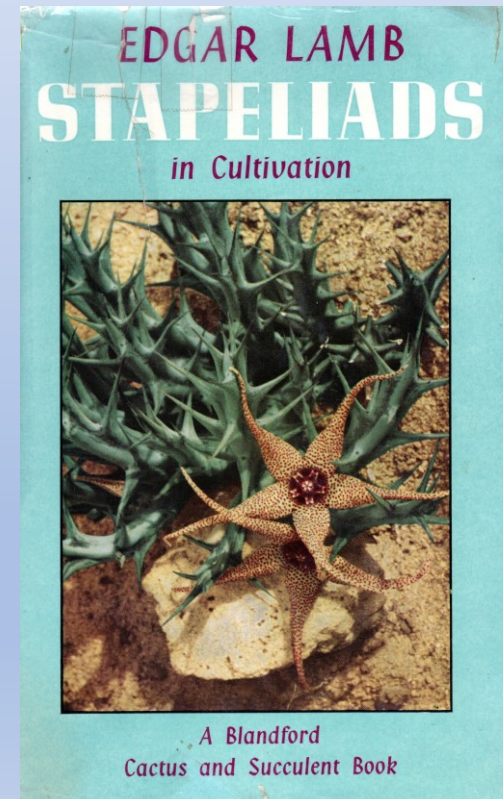
What about the 1935 book and the plates issued in the encyclopedias .....

So in the end I decided there was nothing for it but to go through the 5 volumes of the encyclopedia, the Stapeliads book and the 1935 book and put them all into one master list.



The list of plates, as issued in the magazines, is available from my website. The full list with some extra text was issued as a POD book.

<https://cactuscorner.co.uk/reference-plate-guide/>



So have I got a complete set?

There appears to be two pieces of written evidence in the magazines. The first appears in May 1955. If you follow the information given and count 48 plates for 1949, 1950 and 1951 (144), and 24 thereafter until 1986 (840) and 16 for 1987 that gives a total of **1000** plates. It is unclear if any plates were actually issued in 1947 and 1948.

According to Brian Lamb, as stated in the May 1986 magazine, there were 1,024 plates issued between 1947 and 1986. [**1040** by the end of the run in 1987]. This, I think, is incorrect as the previous evidence is more contemporary to the start of the run and seems to state 1949 as the start. Plus, I doubt Brian sat there in 1986 and counted every plate to see how many there were.....

My list has the number of plates as **996**. If there are any missing then they must be pre-1949 plates, and they will, *if they exist*, be very scarce.

I purchased many part sets, and we also checked several part sets and I also understand that there is at least one, or maybe two, assumed "complete" sets that have been checked against the list. Those people have never owned up to having a plate not on the list.

May 1955.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC REFERENCE PLATES.

As most members will already know, these 'Plates' have now been running for over six years. The photography commenced early in 1948, (a few I believe were prepared in 1947) and issues at regular monthly intervals began with Plates... No 40a, 190, 1874 and 2694; in January 1949.

The issue of four new photographs every month was continued until the end of 1951 to build up a good photographic record upon which to add in the years that followed further issues at the rate of two per month.

In 1947 the forerunner to the present publication was started. The Monthly Notes were typed and produced originally on a Roneo duplicator, but the Reference Plates which were then in black and white were printed by Walter Gillett Ltd., of Brighton. Within a year or so, this simple but informative monthly publication was being subscribed to by enthusiasts from all over the world for the princely sum of 21/- (21 shillings = £1.05P in present day currency !). Just 26 years ago it changed to colour for both the Monthly Notes and the Reference Plates. By the end of 1986, 1,024 Reference Plates will have been issued !

So.....

All I can say is.....



“I am 99.9% certain I’ve got them all”



[www.cactuscorner.co.uk](http://www.cactuscorner.co.uk)

2020

For more info, and to download copies of the lists  
please visit:

<https://www.cactuscorner.co.uk/reference-plate-guide/>