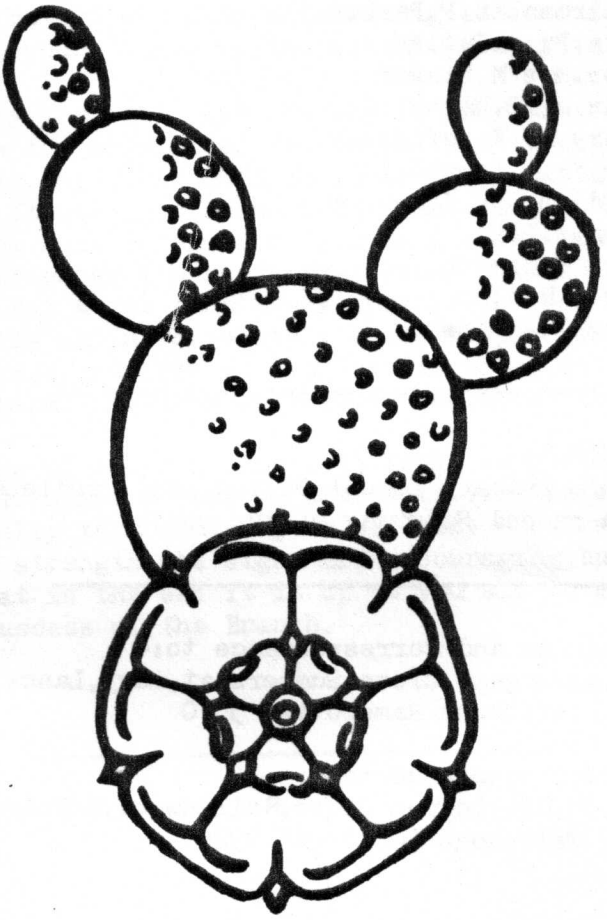
B.C.S.S.
MANCHESTER BRANCH



NEWSLETTER

BRITISH CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY, MANCHESTER BRANCH.

NEWSLETTER, FEB./MARCH 1985.

LIST OF OFFICERS:

Life Member. Mr C. Partington. FBCSS
Vice Presidents. Mr H. Gaulton
Mr N. Crane
Hon. Chairman. Mr P. Bint
Hon. Vice Chairman. Mr. P. Barker
Hon. Secretary. Dr G. Bailey
Hon. Treasurer. Mrs M. Singer
Hon. Librarian. Mr. B. Darnell
Show Secretary. Mr R. Scrimshaw
Show Manager. Mr. A. Campbell
Newsletter Editor. Mr L. Pearcy
Committee. Mrs J. Bint
Mrs B. Hinton
Mr J. Hinton
Mrs B. Scrimshaw

MONTHLY MEETINGS:-
St. Augustine's Primary School, Bolton Road, Pendlebury.
At 7.00pm on second Saturday of the month.

General Enquiries and Correspondance to:-
Dr G. Bailey, 4, Hargate Close, Summerseat, Bury, Lancs, BL9 5NY
Telephone Ramsbottom 3570

Newsletter Correspondance to:-
Mr L. Pearcy, 36, Hillingdon Close, Hollinwood, Oldham, OL8 3QJ
Telephone (061) 688 9920

EDITORIAL

By the time this edition of the newsletter is printed the worst of the weather should (hopefully) be over with for another year. At the moment (mid-Jan) everything looks very white and cold. However the North West has escaped the worst of it and it will be interesting to find out how members in other parts of the country have faired bringing their plants through the winter. I am a firm believer in keeping my plants on the cooler side but it would be interesting to hear from you as to how you keep your plants in the winter. (See article on Hardy Succulents)

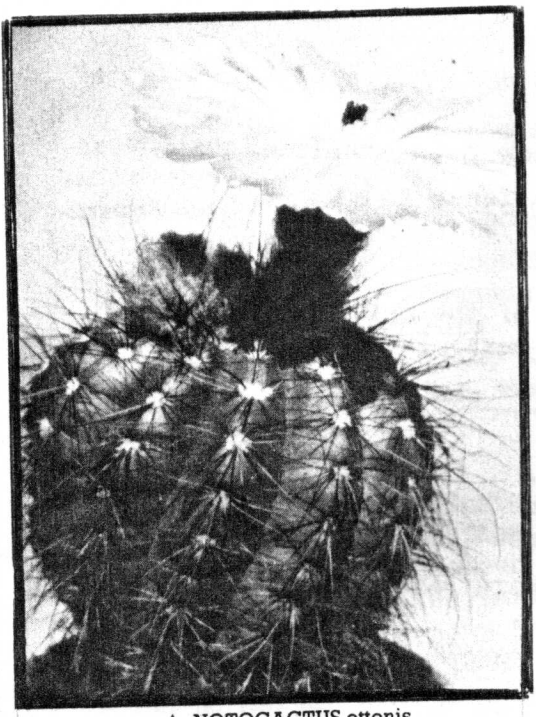
Unfortunately I'm still not receiving many articles for inclusion in the newsletter. Please put pen to paper, just a few lines will do. Any topic on Succulents (incl. Cacti), their cultivation, flowering, raising from seeds etc. You will be surprised how much information can be gleaned from other growers experiences. I'm sorry that every edition starts along these lines but at present every article in this copy I have had to compile and unfortunately I cannot spare as much time in the future, apart from running out of ideas, so I will leave it in your hands and look forward to seeing a flood of letters coming in.

The programme of meetings for 1985 looks very exciting with many familiar names appearing with some very interesting talks. Hopefully this coming year will see our Branch go from strength to strength, the signs are encouraging, but always remember that in the end it is up to you all to ensure the continued success of the Branch.

Les Pearcy.

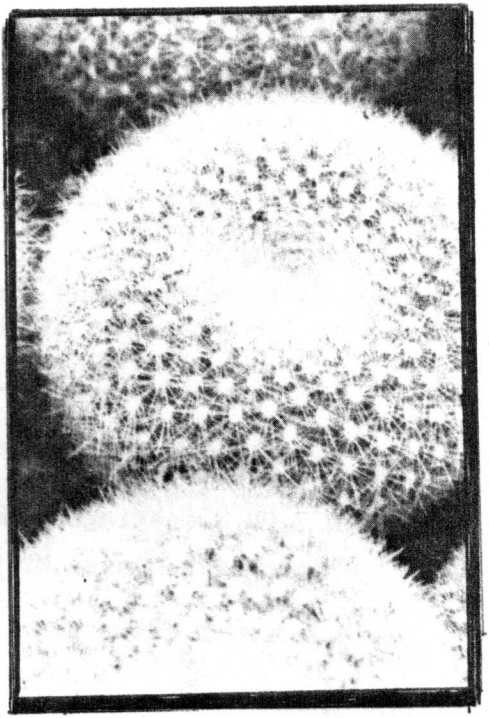
MY FAVOURITE PLANTS: NOTOCACTUS Les Pearcy

For ease of cultivation and flowering the genus Notocactus stands out as a group of plants worthy of a place in every collection.
The genus,in the broad sense including Eriocactus,Wigginsia, Brasilicactus and Brasiliparodia,consists of over seventy names.However,of these at least half should be sunk to forms of N.ottonis,N.mammulosus and one or two other species.
they are to be found in South America,in Uraguay,Paraguay and the southern states of Brazil and parts of Argentina east of the river Parana.The largest number of species are concentrated around the Uraguay/S.Brazil border.
Notocacti have been known to the cactus world for many years, by 1840 already about ten species had been described.
The habitat in which these plants grow is surprisingly quite wet,with up to 40cm rainfall per year with only a short dry season.Temperatures remain fairly high throughout the year although frosts are not unknown.This obviously indicates that in cultivation these plants can take more water than many other cacti and do not appreciate been kept dry for too long.This is borne out in the fact that many plants will lose their roots during the winter.
However do not be put off by this last statement.I have fewer failures with Notocacti than virtually any other genus.The main attraction of the group is undoubtedly the flowers which are most freely produced in spring and early summer in profusion.The majority have large showy yellow flowers with bright red,orange or yellow stigma lobes.However there are differences,N.horstii - orange flowers,N.herteri - deep pink,N.purpureus - deep carmine,N.haselbergii - small red/orange,N.graessneri - green/yellow.These last two species make up for the smaller flower size by the profusion with which they flower and the lenghth of time yhey remain open,two weeks at least.
My favourite species must be N.uebelmannianus with large purple flowers.
All the species are worth growing and although one or two can be rather tricky you will be rewarded each spring with a riot of colour.

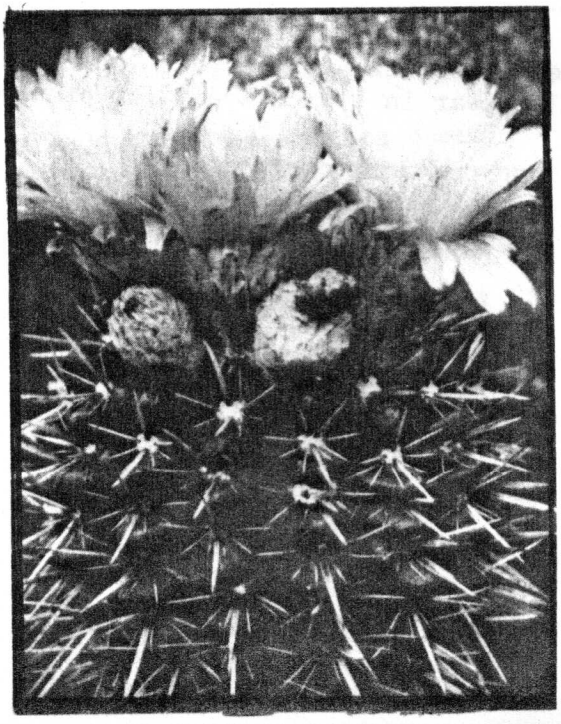


▲ NOTOCACTUS ottonis

▼ NOTOCACTUS haselbergii



▼ NOTOCACTUS submammulosus



FUTURE EVENTS

Manchester Branch.February 9th.Dr Ray Allcock,Winter Care.

March 9th.Mr Jack Thompsom,Africa '82.

April 13th.Mr Rene Geissler,The Space Savers (Choicer plants)

If you haven't yet got your copy of the Branch programme see a member of the committee at the next meeting.

Bolton & District Cactus Society.
Meetings held in the Small Lecture Hall,Central Library,Bolton.
Doors open 7.00pm,meetings commence 7.30pm prompt.

March 12th.Agaves,Mr E.Hargreaves.

April 9th.Haworthias,Mr M.Roberts.

May 7th.My favourite Plants,Mr W.Sykes.

At present I have no details of the other local branches,but full details will appear in the next edition of the newsletter.

EPIPHYLLUM FLOWER COLOURS (Part2)

Les Pearcy

Red with Orange or Purple

Apache
Aristocrat
Canadian Ruffles
Friedrich Boedecker
Conways Giant
Isis
Fiesta
Jet Stream
Hermosissimus
Lover
Marseillaise
Niobe
Peacockii
Pegasus
Peru
Peter 4X
Rio Rander
Sherman E.Beahm
Showboat
Stormy weather
The Senator
Thorrinne
Tiki Torch
Wild Apache
Xmas Bells

Orange

Bell of the Ball
Bliss
Convent Garden
Courage
Curt Backeberg
Dreamland
Edmon Le Maitre
Feather Queen
Flamingo
Frau Dr,Zeigler
Garland O'Barr
George E.Scott
Gloria
Golden Dream
Golden Gleam
Haleakala
Hans Rehm
Hiawatha
Honeycomb
Inca
Indian Maid
Janis
King Midas
Kitty Hawk
Kon Tiki
Maryland
Mon Cherie
Nevada
Orange Garden
Party
Ruth Ellen Goforth
Sunland
Theresa de la Muerre
Trochadero

I hope you will find these lists useful,there are many,many more hybrids other than these listed but unless you own a greenhouse the size of Kew Gardens there should be plenty to go at.

(Reproduced with permission from Abbey Brook Cactus Nursery catalogue 1982)

BASIC BOTANY

Les Pearcy

In this and future articles a few basic lessons in general Botany will be discussed. So many articles are published in the various journals which unfortunately fall on deaf ears due to the lack of a few basic facts on plant structure, mechanisms and processes.
The classification of all plants is based on the flower stucture and it is in this area that the following article is based.

Flower Structure:

The flower is split into four basic parts, the CALYX (sepals), the COROLLA (petals), the ANDROECIUM (male parts), the GYNOECIUM (female parts). All of the above flower parts are specialised modified leaves and are all borne on the enlarged stem tip or receptacle.

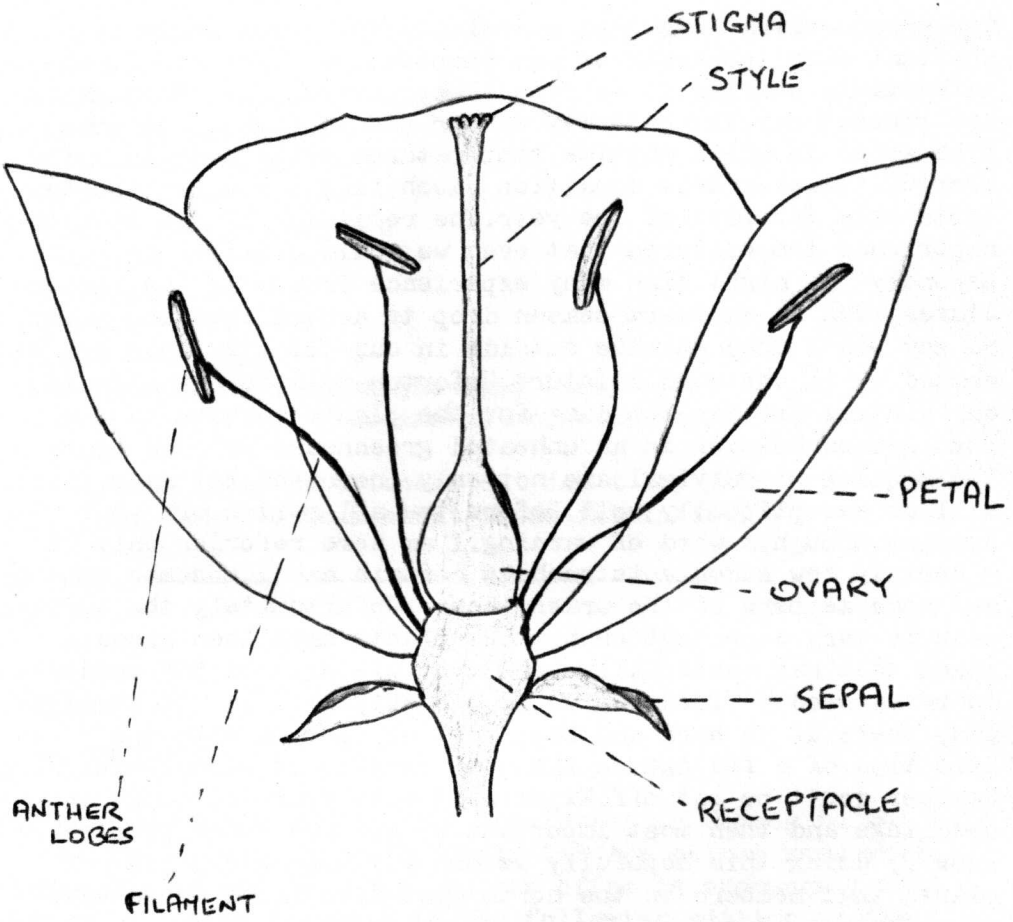
CALYX.
This refers to the outer whorl of the perianth (the two outer protective whorls, consisting of the sepals and petals). They are usually green and protects the petals and reproductive parts within the flower during its development.

COROLLA.
The usually colourful part of the flower comprising of the petals. They have the dual purpose of protecting the sexual organs in the bud stage and secondly to attract pollination agents (in coloured petals).

ANDROECIUM.
The male reproductive parts of the flower consisting of a stalk or filament and on the top usually two anther lobes which contain the pollen grains. The whole unit is referred to as a STAMEN.

GYNOECIUM.
The female reproductive part of the flower. Consists of the carpel containing the ovules, which when fertilised becomes the fruit. Leading from the ovary is the style or tube which connects to the stigma which is the reception area for the male pollen.

See next page for diagram of the above flower parts.



STRUCTURE OF A TYPICAL FLOWER.

In the next issue we will be discussing stems and leaves.

HARDY SUCCULENTS,FACT OR FICTION. Les Pearcy

The preconceived idea that succulents come from areas of constant warm temperatures has perpetuated since the first enthusiasts started to collect these plants right through to the present day.The majority of our plants rightly do come from areas in which daytime temperatures often soar to well over100F,however this condition ,much like our climate,often lasts only for part of the year.The remainder of the time they experience temperatures that even we would consider as cold. Secondly at night time many experience frosts as the temperatures even in the warm season drop to around freezing point. So why won't they survive outside in our climate? This can be summed up in one word,moisture.Unfortunately in our climate our winters are far too damp for the plants survive in the open ground.However in an unheated greenhouse or cold frame the chances of survival are not only increased,but many plants will do exceptionally well.Before tou all switch off your heating though,a word of warning.I am here refering only to a certain few succulents such as certain cacti,mesembs,Agaves, and some members of the Crassulaceae.Unfortunately the survival rate is very dependant on how the plants have been grown.A plant that has continually been over wintered at 50F suddenly to be exposed to freezing would probably kill it off straight away.There is no hard and fast list of species with the exception of a few Agaves and some borderline succulents. However don't be put off.Experiment with spare cuttings and seedlings and then most important of all let other people know.By doing this hopefully we can put together a list of plants that members in the north west have found to survive in certain conditions.

As a guideline separate the results into several categories:

1)Survived outside a) covered b) exposed

2)Survived in unheated greenhouse

3)Survived freezing temperatures (in normally heated greenhouse) for more than one night

4)Died or was severely marked after one exposure to freezing temperatures.

To start the ball rolling I will list a few of my results obtained over several years.These results have been obtained from experimenting,not always intentionally,but i feel that I should mention that I do grow my plants'hard'and the majority (90%) are seed raised.

Rebutia (most spec) - 2
Lobivia - 1a/2
Echinopsis (most spec) - 2
Oreocereus - 2
Echinocereus (most spec) - 1a/2
Parodia (most spec) - 2
Notocactus (many spec) - 2
Gymnocalycium (many spec) - 2
Mammillaria (many spec) - 2
Agave (most spec) - 1a/2
Aloe aristata -1a
Pachyphytum (most spec) - 2
Caralluma (most spec) - 4
Duvalia,Piaranthus,Stapelia,Huernia (many spec) -3
Lithops,Pleiospilos,Trichodiadema andmost Mesembs - 2

Let me know of your experiences,but don't try your prize plants I would not like to hear about those fatalities.

PLANT EXCHANGE

Why not take advantage of the newsletter in trying to get hold of certain plants you want.Simply let the editor know what plants you desire and what you can offer in exchange.I will then print these requests in the following edition of the newsletter.Then the rest is up to you,who knows what desirable plants are just waiting to find new homes?

WANTED.Stapeliads (particularly Huernias and Ceropegias), preferably with data.Can offer over 100 different Stapeliads,many choice cactus seedlings and seed in exchange.Contact Les Pearcy 688 9920.

WORDSEARCH

Les Pearcy

A	D	L	M	E	F	B	P	C	D	I	L	M	A	M	K
W	E	S	R	K	L	E	S	L	I	E	I	H	P	G	A
J	U	L	I	I	E	P	E	R	S	I	C	E	F	U	R
T	K	X	C	F	B	F	U	L	L	E	R	I	H	C	A
U	D	G	S	H	R	C	D	A	L	O	C	I	L	A	S
R	H	A	C	I	T	P	O	U	R	J	V	G	U	H	M
B	B	E	H	L	U	F	T	F	L	W	I	P	N	F	O
I	R	T	W	E	R	E	R	N	I	A	N	A	T	V	N
N	O	I	A	G	B	A	U	C	A	M	P	I	A	E	T
I	M	E	N	S	I	M	N	R	V	A	O	H	S	S	A
F	F	S	T	D	E	F	C	P	S	O	V	I	G	O	N
O	I	H	E	C	I	C	A	B	I	M	L	R	A	V	A
R	E	J	S	C	B	I	T	L	X	A	P	N	U	B	R
M	L	D	I	K	O	B	E	A	C	B	J	M	O	W	T
I	D	A	I	K	M	E	L	O	L	I	V	A	C	E	A
S	I	L	D	I	I	L	L	A	H	M	P	N	Y	R	S
Y	I	T	U	N	T	M	A	R	M	O	R	A	T	A	D

Can you find the following LITHOPS species in the above squares

OPTICA

FULLERI

MARMORATA

JULII

LOCALIS

HALLII

SALICOLA

OLIVACEA

PSEUDOTRUNCATELLA

KARASMONTANA

SCHWANTESII

ERNIANA

AUCAMPIAE

BROMFIELDII

LESLIEI

TURBINIFORMIS