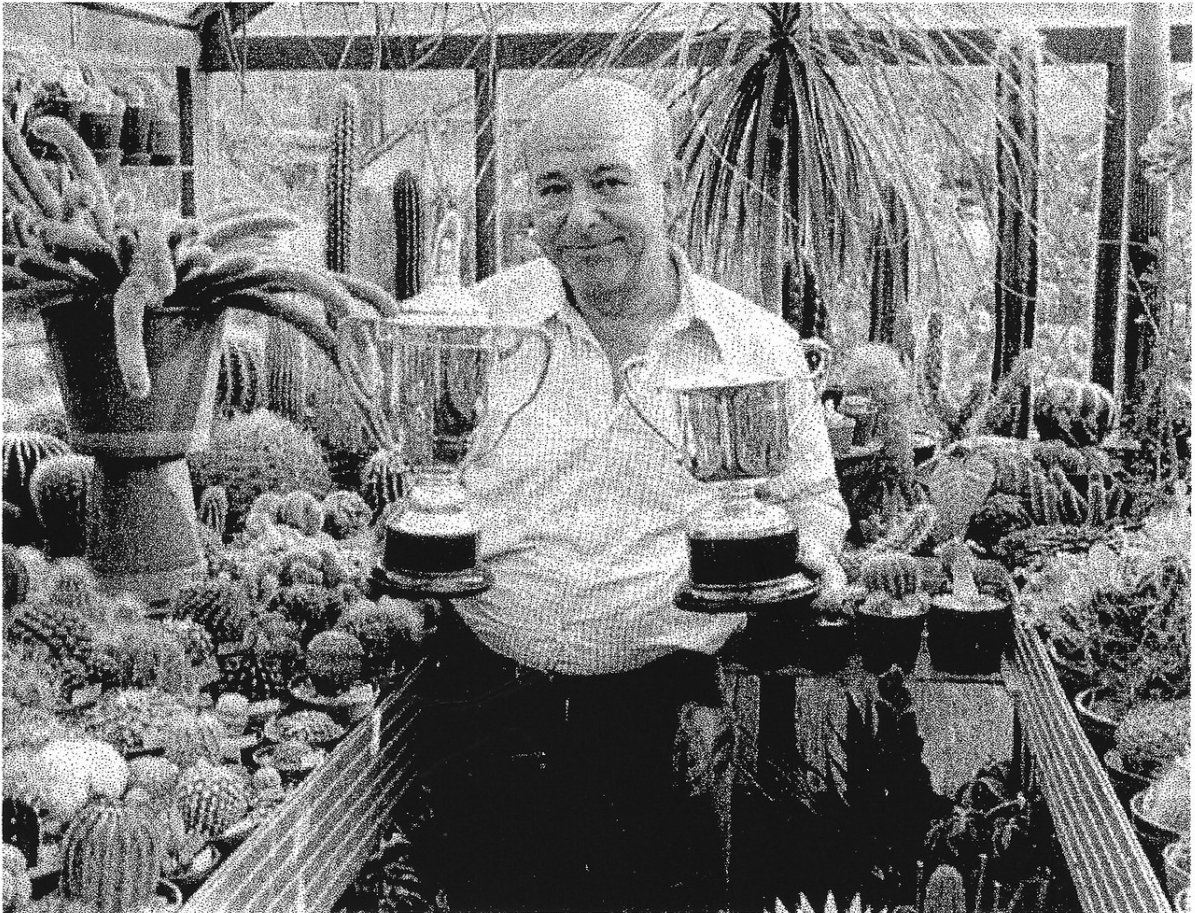


Gaultonia

The Journal of the Manchester Branch of
The British Cactus and Succulent Society



Spring 2001

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Cover photo

Mr Harold Gaulton in his greenhouse with part of his collection of plants and trophies.

Editor

Ivor Crook
Phone/fax
E-mail

Editorial

Many of you who attended the AGM back in December will remember we agreed to name our branch magazine *Gaultonia* in keeping with the trend to name botanical journals after a famous plantsman. Harold Gaulton was one of the founder members of the Manchester branch in 1947. Many of our current members of the branch remember Harold as a tireless worker promoting both the branch and the hobby to a wide variety of people. I am please to be able to honour the memory of Harold Gaulton in the name of the Manchester Branch quarterly newsletter.

This edition of our quarterly newsletter also contains a first in the form of a specially commissioned article on *Cintia* culture requested by one of our members. Thanks are extended to David Rushforth for his contribution. Thanks also to Geoff Bailey and Peter Bint for further contributions to this years theme - The Genus *Mammillaria*.

Cintias.

By David Rushforth

During the late 1970's I was ordering a lot of seed from Karel Knize in Peru and one name kept cropping up in the list and nobody seemed to know anything about it. In fact, the general opinion was that it was not a cactus at all but something that had slipped in by mistake. After a few years I decided to take the bull by the horns (this was before f&m) and order some of the 2 species on the list, namely *Cintia napina* and *Cintia subterranea*, both with KK numbers. These were very expensive, round about a dollar a seed, and he sent me 100 of each. I was somewhat taken aback by the cost, but being a true Yorkshireman, I rose to the challenge. I sowed the seed and sat back to wait (far longer than the other nights Super K which I am told germinated in 4 days), and wait, and wait. Eventually from the 200 seeds I produced 9 seedlings, which were grafted on *Pereskopsis* and then on to *Trichocereus*, and further chopped over a period of 2 or 3 years. I believe that most of the plants you see around today are descendants of those 9 seedlings, as they were distributed widely in Britain and the Continent, with a fair number going to the States. Most of them now flower freely and lots of other seedlings are finding their way into collections.

The biggest problem, whether they are on their own roots (yes they do root easily), or grafted is that they are real gluttons and will soak up any available water like a sponge, going from shrivelled to burst overnight. Slow steady growth is the ideal, with a tight rein on the leaking can. Other plants suffer the same way, like *Lophophora* and *Turbinicarpus*, and turn themselves almost inside-out giving the appearance of a cristate. So try to keep them growing steadily without any extremes and they should be OK. They flower over a long period with rather small yellow flowers, forming fruits, if pollinated, which remain somewhat submerged in the plant body, like a *Neowerdermannia*.

Postcard from Sucre

Brian Bates - our roving reporter in South America sends further news on a new species *Yavia cryptocarpa* recently discovered in Argentina.

Greetings from Sucre,

This is the plant that I spoke about some months ago.

There is an English summary: new genus and species is described. *Yavia cryptocarpa* R. Kiesling & Piltz, from the border of Argentina with Bolivia, in the province of Jujuy, Department Yavi, at 3700 m a.s.l. The new monotypic genus is characterized by the hidden fruits which are sunken into the single stem for several months, drop out only in the late spring, when the new buds develop, just at the beginning of the rainy season. The fruits have the uncommon character to lose the dry perianth, as happens frequently at the subfamily *Opuntioideae*, but very rarely at *Cactoideae*. The putative relationships with *Blossfeldia*, *Cintia*, *Neowerdermannia* and *Weingartia* are discussed.

It is hard to describe the plant. It has a thick taproot and the body is much smaller than the root. In appearance the plant reminds me of *Sulco. arenacea*, but the spines are brown here and the top is sunken into the body. The flower is not like a *rebutia*, it is white with a diffuse pink strip in the middle of the petals. I will however comment on the above.

I was shown the plant 1st in December of 1999. The plants are very hard to see. We looked for other sites at that time without success, but I returned in May 2000 and found the plant on 4 further hills, all in the same range, giving a distribution of about 4 km as the crow flies. In May, the fruits were prominent. They were a dried berry much like *Blossfeldia*. I would not describe the root as a "thick tap root". It is very soft and fleshy rather like the root of *Blossfeldia*, but thicker. I see certain similarities to *Blossfeldia*, i.e. the roots, fruit and

certain body features and to *Neowerdermannia* with the flowers, but I do not see a relationship to *Weingartia* or *Cintia*, except that the habitats are almost identical, being very barren vertical striated rock, with the plants growing jammed in the vertical fissures. The pictures posted by Tony Mace confirm that these are the same plant.

The plant was first found in 1992, by a Swiss/former East German party, and is also in cultivation in Europe. I know of at least 2 other people who have found it.

Best wishes

Brian Bates
Sucre,
Bolivia

Mammillaria sanchez-mejoradae

Series: *Lasiacanthae* (or *Herrerae*, Lüthy)

By Geoff Bailey

This recently discovered *Mammillaria* is one of the most desirable choice miniatures of the genus, and at the present time is both difficult to obtain and expensive to buy. The situation regarding availability, and no doubt price, continues to slowly improve as vegetatively propagated grafts, and later seed grown plants, possibly on their own roots, appear as seed becomes more available. The availability of seed should be made possible by the easy flowering of this plant, where, as is often the case, some clones are more floriferous than others. Plate 1 shows a particularly floriferous clone of this species in my greenhouse in early April of this year, although it has been showing bud since early February but retarded by an awful Spring.

The only reported recognised site for this plant is on a low rocky hill on an unusually heavily guarded ranch with electric fences in the state of Nuevo-Leon. After some skilful but friendly negotiation with a ranch manager and his wife we were eventually admitted and escorted to see the plant, which grows in crevices between the rocks, Plates 2 and 3. The visit to the site was brief, perhaps only 15 to 20 minutes or so, during which time frantic photography occurred under

the close observation of the rancher and his son to ensure (not that there was the slightest intent on our part) that we did not collect or damage these plants.

After our visit we rewarded the ranchman with 100 pesos - about £7 and felt very privileged to have seen this plant in habitat. John Miller and I think that we are the only two Brits, who, together with our Dutch and Greek companions, Wolter ten Hoeve and Andreas Laras, to be so privileged - a group comprising the Fitz Maurices, George Hinton, John Pilbeam, Derek Bowdrey and Bill Weightman did not manage to gain entry as reported in John's latest *Mammillaria* book!

Advertisement

British Cactus and Succulent Society
Zone 19

Symposium

Graham Charles, Sheila Collenette, Anton Hofer

Saturday 29th September 2001 at 10am

Sir James Black Conference Centre
Astra Zeneca Pharmaceuticals
Alderley Park
Macclesfield

Tickets £14 from Geoff Bailey incl lunch
Plant Sales



Mammillaria sanchez-mejoradae

Top left - Plate 2 & 3 Habitat pictures

Left - Plate 1 In flower in the author's greenhouse in Manchester.



Horridocactus curvispinus, at the Chile-Argentinian border,
2000m above sea level
Photo - Konrad Muller

THE GENUS MAMMILLARIA CONTINUED.

By Peter Bint

In the last article I outlined the plants belonging to the three sections of the genus, namely *Hydrochylus*, *Subhydrochylus*, and *Mammillaria* (ex *Galactochylus* because of the milky nature of the sap). In earlier years there were notable plants, which, although they demonstrated some affinity with *Mammillaria*, were treated as separate genera. In this short article I will dwell on their original place in the scheme of things.

MAMMILLOYDIA

This was the name of the genus given to the plant now known as *Mammillaria candida*. This is a popular plant and may well be found in collections under three or four guises.

1. The type, with bristles in the axils, 8 to 12 central spines pure white to pink or brown at the tips, and about 50 radials which are a little weaker and white in colour. The flowers are rose pink and nearly an inch long. The fruit is red and the seed shiny black.
2. *M. candida* v. *rosea*. This is really a form with longer central spines which are pinkish brown at the tips in youth but otherwise the plant is no different from the type.
3. *M. ortiz-rubiona*. It reportedly has fewer spines (25-30 radials, 4-6 centrals), fewer and larger tubercles, long axillary hairs and paler flowers.
4. *M. candida* v. *caespitosa*. This was described in 1970 as a heavily clustering form. However, given time, all the above will form nice clumps resembling piles of neatly formed snowballs.

The plants hail from Northern Mexico.

OEHMEA.

This comprises the single plant now known as *Mammillaria beneckeii*. There are many synonyms: *M. balsasensis*, *M. balsasoides*, *M. nelsonii*, *M. aylostera*, *M. barkeri*, *M. colonensis* and *M. quiengolensis*. It is a plant that will not tolerate low temperatures as it comes from tropical climes in southern Mexico. It will rot off with remarkable ease, shows great reluctance to flower in England and is intolerant of too much water. It clusters readily if you can bring it through the first two British winters, turns a beautiful bronze colour in good light and when it does flower the blooms are large (up to 3cm in diameter),

brilliant golden yellow with dark orange stigma lobes. Central spines are strongly hooked and dark in colour whilst radials are whitish with a brown tip. There are no bristles in the axils but longish wisps of hair are present. Fruits are slender and red, the seeds very large, 2.5 mm, for the genus *Mammillaria*.

DOLICHOTHELE.

This subgenus consists of seven plants.

1. *M. baumii*. This is a densely white spined, clustering plant which forms large clumps. Many scented, large yellow flowers are produced in late Spring. It comes from the state of Tamaulipas, near San Vincente, which I believe to be in the inland hills well away from the tropical coast, where it grows under bushes. It is tolerant of a cool greenhouse in winter. There appear to be two types in cultivation, one with comparatively large heads, 3-5 cm across, slow to cluster but eventually doing so. The other has smaller heads and clusters early in life up to 10 cms across. It seems susceptible to over exposure to the sun and long periods of dryness when heads will die.
2. *M. carretii*. This is a plant which will slowly cluster, in age reaching 7 inches in diameter. Each tubercle is surmounted by one, long, brown, hooked, central spine and many yellowish radials. Flowers are white with a rosy midstripe on the inner petals. It is a shallow rooted specimen and provided it is in a well drained soil it should provide few problems. It will tolerate low winter temperatures.
3. *M. heidiae*. This is the most recently described member of the genus (1975). It forms flat clusters of heads and has hooked central spines. The flowers are yellowish, over an inch long and wide and possessing striking green stigma-lobes. It is found south of Mexico City around Puebla in the Madre Oriental Mountains. Once again I have found no problems if the greenhouse remains just above freezing and the soil is dry.
4. *M. longimamma*. A distinctive plant with long, flabby tubercles and large yellow flowers. Spines are weak and few in number, usually white but sometimes blackening with age. Once it has attained a 4 inch (10cms) or more diameter it will clump. It can become an untidy plant in age.
5. *M. melaleuca*. Not often seen in collections it is perhaps the most attractive of this series. It forms a globose stem and is reticent to cluster. The tubercles are stout and crowned with a set of white radial spines and one dark central spine. It hails from Tamaulipas, south west of Jaumave (not Oaxaca as reported initially). Flowers are bright yellow but smallish.
6. *M. sphaerica*. Like a small growing *M. longimamma* and very ready to clump up. It will readily form a low clump 50 cms (20") in diameter with individual heads attaining 5cms (2"). Large yellow flowers are followed by green to

purplish fruits. Spines are few, weak and white. Found in Texas and Tamaulipas.

7. *M. surculosa*. This species can develop into huge mats of flat heads surmounting thick taproots. It will propagate readily from each individual head but enjoys regular repotting when it will rapidly reach washing up bowl size. It is an attractive plant which provides many flowers particularly if grown on the hard side. The flowers are butter yellow and spines are also yellow and fine in texture. More widespread than the others it is found in Tamaulipas, Miquihuana and San Luis Potosi.

COCHEMIEA

This is a highly distinctive group of plants and, in my personal opinion, hard to reconcile with inclusion in the genus *Mammillaria*. Yes, they grow in similar conditions to Mamms but so do many other genera. However, I am not a botanist so I shall not enter into an argument where I could easily find myself out of my depth. In private I will call them by their erstwhile name, in print I will conform.

1. *M. halei*. As with all the section it has slender columnar stems which readily clump from the base. The short tubercles are surmounted by 10 to 21 light brown to pinkish grey radial spines and 3 or 4 straight, normally, central spines. Hooked centrals are not unknown but are unusual. Flowers are consistently scarlet and roll back at the petal tips giving them symmetry in the vertical plane only. Stamens are exerted beyond the end of the flower. It is said to grow on Magdalena Island off the mainland of Baja California on sandy flats and rocky hillsides where it enjoys copious sunlight. This gives us a strong hint on where to grow them in cultivation. Mine, in the main, are in hanging baskets high in the roof.
2. *M. maritima*. Very similar in many ways to the previous species it has thicker reddish brown spines and the lowest of the centrals is hooked. Again the flowers are scarlet and behave as above. It comes from Punta Blanca in Baja California. It is a handsome plant as it clumps up.
3. *M. pondii*. Not unlike *M. maritima*, in fact Hunt allies it there, The spines are longer, stronger and whiter. The same flowers as before but up to 2 inches (5cms) in length which is just about the largest in the genus. Said to grow on Cedros Island off Baja California.
4. *M. poselgeri*. This is probably the most encountered species in the group. Easily raised from seed, when available, it presents few problems in cultivation. The cylindrical stems can attain dimensions of about 2 metres (6' 6") in length but I have never seen any that come close in collections. It is less heavily spined than the foregoing and only boasts one central spine.

Flowers are typical as described before. It comes from Puerto Escondido, Baja California.

5. *M. setispina*. A lighter green body than those described before. Spines are white with a dark tip. Of the five species it is the least likely to flower in a British greenhouse. It barely attains a foot in height but clumps regularly from the base. Flowers as described previously. From Baja California, San Borgia and San Julio Canyon where the terrain is rocky with gravelly soil.

MAMILLOPSIS.

Again a distinctive species but much more closely allied in looks to *Mammillaria*. The single species, *M. senilis*, is covered by thousands of glassy white spines that obscure the plant body. A shy flowerer, it requires strong light and, reportedly, cold conditions in winter to encourage the early show of flowers. If it is not in bud by mid February then you will not see flowers in that year. I have succeeded in flowering mine but it seems to enjoy pot bound conditions to succeed in addition to the aforementioned criteria. As soon as it is repotted it goes into frenetic body growth, quickly increasing the number of offsets. Flowers are normally a deep scarlet which is impressive against the white spinal background. There is reputedly an orange yellow flowered species which I have never encountered nor do I know of anyone who has. Recently a white flowered mutant has been recorded but it will not have the magnificence in flower of its red counterpart. Out of flower it is indistinguishable. It is reported to grow near Chihuahua, El Salto between Durango and Mazatlan, as well as in the mountains of Jalisco at 2,500m, and in the Sierra de Chabarra near Concordia, Sinaloa.

This concludes the 'other' *Mammillarias*. If I were to have to make a serious choice as to the *Mammillarias* I would grow, should my collection have to shrink in size as it surely will soon, I would undoubtedly choose *Cochemiae* from amongst those described here. From the 'true' *Mammillarias* I would undoubtedly go for the *Longiflorae*, *Ancistrocanthae* and *Lasiacanthae* with perhaps a few plants from the *Supertextae*. I hope you enjoy growing any of the Mamms and that this series of articles will encourage you in your selection.