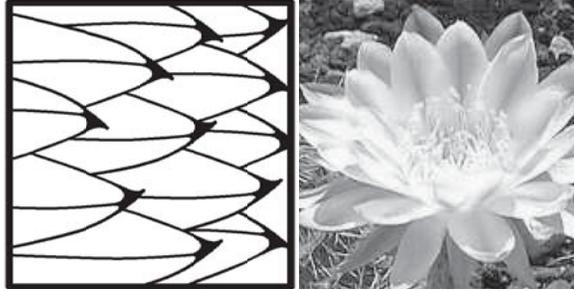


Central Coast Cactus  
& Succulent Society  
c/o Nick Wilkinson, Editor  
1719 14th Street  
Los Osos, CA 93402



# On the Dry Side

October 2008

## Inside this issue —

- Upcoming Speaker
- Upcoming Events
- Hospitality News
- Plant of the Month:  
Eriosepium

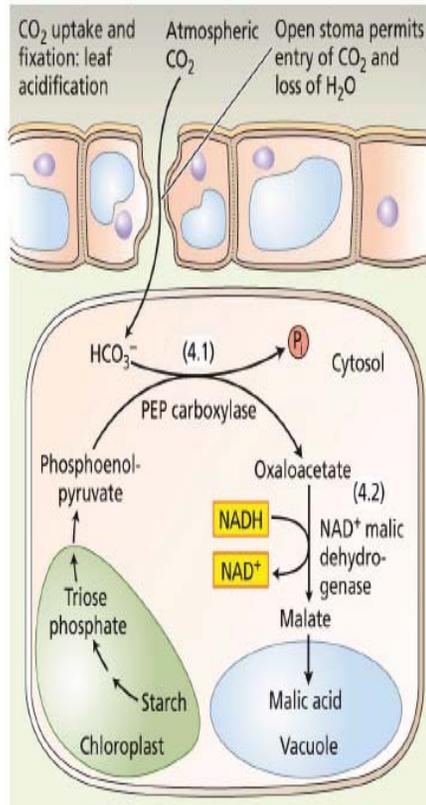
## September Meeting Recap

### CCCSS September Meeting Recap

As always, a warm welcome to all newcomers, and a special welcome to a newborn, Cruz Wilkinson! Dad, Nick Wilkinson, introduced our plant of the month, Senecio. The genus, in the Asteraceae family, has more than a thousand species. The majority comes from South Africa. Many others come from Madagascar, Mexico, and the Canary Islands. Senecios do well on the coast with bright, or filtered light, and protection from frost. Nick recommends Succulent Compositae as a good reference book for Senecios. Charles Spotts was our speaker of the month and virtual tour guide of Oaxaca. He showed slides and talked about the historical, cultural, and botanical treasures of Oaxaca, the most diverse state in Mexico's southeast Republic. Some of the indigenous populations include Zapotecs, Mixtecs, Aztecs, and Spaniards. Oaxaca is full of Spanish colonial architecture, archaeological sites, and art, such as black pottery, painted woodcarving, and hand woven textile, which Mr. Spotts brought samples of for us to appreciate. It was enlightening to experience an historical and cultural background where many succulents and cacti, such as Aprocactus flagelliformis, Ferocactus macrodiscus, Mammillaria dodsonii, Agaves, Beucarnea, and Bromeliads, to name just a few, grow. Thank you Mr. Spotts, for a captivating multi-dimensional tour of Oaxaca!

~ Eva Zayha

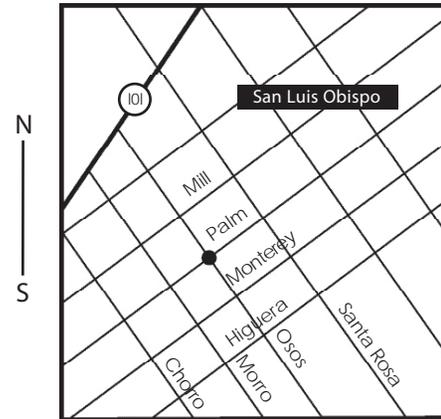
Dark: Stomata opened



## Ernesto Sandival How Succulents Grow

Learn about gardening with succulents from a real expert. Ernesto Sandoval, curator of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, will discuss and illustrate many aspects of succulent gardening including container and field soils, light needs, pot choices, watering and whatever else you may want to know. Ernesto maintains the plant collections at the UCD Botanical Conservatory greenhouses from desert to tropical to carnivorous plants so he should be able to help us with our many questions!

## NEXT meeting:



Sun, Oct. 12'th  
at 2:00 pm  
SLO Public Library  
(large room)  
995 Palm Street  
San Luis Obispo  
805-781-5991

## next.....

### BOARD—MEETING

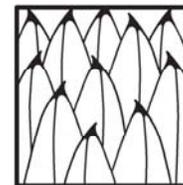
The next Board Meeting will be held on Oct. 12th right after our General Meeting. As always, members are welcome.

## BOARD SELECTIONS

We are looking for **Board**, **Show and Sale** and **Refreshment** volunteers. Interested members can contact our president - Mary Peracca - at this month's meeting.

## OPEN STUDIO POTTERY SALE IN OCEANO

Longstanding club member and potter Charles Varni will be presenting an open studio pottery sale on October 18 and 19. You can visit Charles' studio home at 1743 Rochelle Way, Oceano. Charles creates some great pottery, it's sure to be fun and a great opportunity to purchase some great works.



Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society  
e-mail; markusmumper@gmail.com

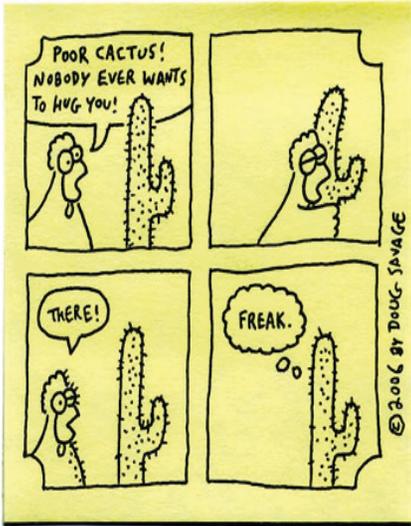
All submissions to the CCCSS newsletter must be submitted two weeks prior to the monthly meeting.

PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	CCSS AFFILIATE	TREASURER
Mary Peracca 550-6977	Charles Spotts 237-2054	Eva Zahya 546-8202	Rob Skillin 473-0788	Edie Price 489-8491
EDITORS	ASST. EDITOR	PUBLICITY	LIBRARIANS	HOSPITALITY
Nick & Kara Wilkinson 528-8880	Markus Mumper 773-1499	Joan Field 773-6644	Martin Howell & Jeanne Hanyasz 544-5389	Maggie Wagner, 773-1499 Pat Gilson, 481-5596

A one time free newsletter will be shipped out to those who sign in at the monthly meetings. After this, dues must be paid in order to continue this service.

*Savage Chickens*

by Doug Savage



www.savagechickens.com

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**The  
 Clayworks**

# Upcoming Events \_\_\_\_\_

- OCT 11 Docent Tour: Aloes and Other Succulents  
 S.L.O. Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creak Rd., S.L.O.
- OCT 11-12 Bakersfield C & S Society Show and Sale  
 East Hills Mall, Bakersfield, CA 661-588-0224  
 (Nick Wilkinson of Grow Nursery will be a vendor)
- NOV 8-9 San Gabriel Valley C & S Society Show and Sale  
 Los Angeles County Arboretum  
 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia CA
- DEC 6-7 Orange County Show and Sale  
 1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton, CA  
 10:00am to 4:00pm, 714-870-4887

## hospitality news:

Thanks to Joann Spotts, Tracy Paz and John Kuden for providing last meeting's treats.

This month Merodie Nelson, Melany Shapiro, Helen Sherry and Alice Cushing will host.

If your interested in providing a snack for future meetings please sign up at the front desk or contact Maggie Wagner, 773-1499 or Pat Gilson, 481-5596.

## CCCSS Library

CCCSS now has a library of books that can be checked out by CCCSS members. You will find the most updated list of books available for check out at each meeting. Please contact librarians Martin Howell & Jeanne Hanysz, 544-5389, for more information and availability.

\* Any book lost or damaged will require a replacement fee.

# Eriospermum



Eriospermum is a genus of tuberous monocots, vaguely related to the lily family. There are about a hundred species, all found in sub-Saharan Africa. The genus is most diverse in western and southern South Africa, in semi-arid to desert habitats that receive winter rain (Namaqualand and the Little Karoo). The plants from these areas grow in autumn and winter, and die back to their tubers for a long dormant period during the warmer months. My discussion will focus on these winter-growing eriospermums, since they include the most interesting species, and are the ones that I am most familiar with.

Eriospermum plants consist of a subterranean, potato-like tuber, which produces flowers and leaves above-ground during the growing season. The tubers of many species have only a single growing point. The growing point, in some cases, is on the lower side of the tuber, facing down into the ground and connected to a fibrous tube of old leaf bases, which grows up and around the tuber to the soil surface. In early autumn, a raceme of pale flowers emerges through this tube. The inflorescence sets seed and then withers, and is followed later by a single leaf which lasts for the entire growing season. The leaf may be a simple, heart-shaped structure, though in many species the leaf is covered with bifurcating protrusions called "enations."

The peculiar structures seen



I was intending to write an article on Eriospermum when I came upon this write-up by Matt Opel. I thought he did a great job so here it is reproduced.



within Eriospermum, like downward growing tubers, leaf enations, and white, hairy seeds, are not found in any conceivably related group of monocots, and provide no clues to the evolutionary position of the genus. It was placed in the family Liliaceae back in the days when Liliaceae was a catch-all group for just about any petaloid monocots that weren't orchids. These days it's often placed in its own family, Eriospermaceae. Evidence from DNA sequencing and morphology indicates that eriospermums arose as an early branch of the line leading to Convallaria (lily of the valley), Ruscus, Sansevieria (snake plant) and Polygonatum (solomon's seal), among other genera. The familial arrangement of this group doesn't quite seem to have gelled at this point, but Eriospermum might best be thought of as an aberrant, basal member of the family Ruscaceae or Convallariaceae.

As far as I know, there are no English common names for either eriospermums in general or for particular species. If anyone knows otherwise, or feels like making some up, drop me a line! One might call *E. paradoxum* the "squirrel-tail plant," for instance (see my watercolor at left.) In Afrikaans, members of the genus are called bobbejaanui, the English equivalent of which (baboon onions) is uninspiring.



Completely plagiarized from Matt Opel: <http://vm.uconn>.