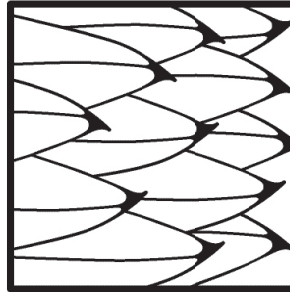


Central Coast Cactus  
& Succulent Society  
c/o Markus Mumper  
780 Merced St.  
Pismo Beach, CA 93449



# On the Dry Side

July 2009

## Inside this issue —

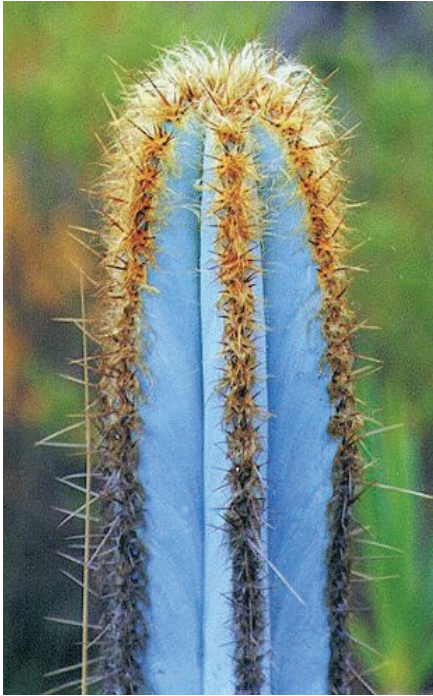
- Upcoming Speaker - Woody Minnich
- Upcoming Events - Shows & Sales
- Hospitality News - Free Plant!
- Plant of the Month - Uebelmannia pectinifera

## CCCSS June Meeting Recap

As always, we welcome all newcomers to the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society!

The June meeting began with awards for members whose cactus and succulent plants won BEST awards during our May annual Show and Sale. Congratulations! View [http://dimages.smugmug.com/gallery/8351187\\_z5dkz#547639437\\_pd73D](http://dimages.smugmug.com/gallery/8351187_z5dkz#547639437_pd73D) to view the winning plants and their owner's names. The library again has money to purchase books. Ideas are welcome. Please contact librarian Jeanne. Our Plant of the Month, introduced by Charles Spotts, was Ficus. They are rapidly growing caudiciforms. Try growing roots of a Ficus over a rock in its container for an interesting display. See the June 2009 newsletter for an article on Ficus Bonsai. Rob Skillin introduced great raffle plants such as boxed collections of Rebutia and Gymnocalycium. Our speaker of the month was Buck Hemenway from Riverside, California. He is the current president of the San Gabriel C&SS, a member of the CSSA Board of Directors, and owner of Prickly Pear Wholesale C&S Nursery. Check out his [www.pricklypalace.com](http://www.pricklypalace.com) website. Mr. Hemenway's presentation entitled Succulent Hot Spots in South Africa focused on his trip to the Quartz Flats and Granite Caps of the South African Veld. The Veld is open land in the southern most country of South Africa. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the west and the Indian Ocean on the east. The country has a vast interior plateau rimmed by rugged hills and a narrow coastal plain. With the exception of a subtropical eastern coastline, the country is mostly semi-arid. Succulents grow in the cracks of the granite caps and amidst the quartz flats. Mr. Hemenway's vivid visual presentation included many species of Crassula, Adromischus, Cheiridopsis, Senecio, Conophytum, Aloe, Tylecodon, Haworthia, Argyroderma and Gibbeum to name just a few. It was most interesting to see so many species of succulents growing in their native habitats, and a treat to hear about Mr. Hemenway's exploration and exciting discoveries in the South African Veld. Thank you Mr. Hemenway!

~Eva Zayha



*Pilocereus fulvianatus*

# BRAZIL - BAHIA TO MINAS GERIAS

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH:

## Woody Minnich

This program features a combined 3 trips into the south eastern portions of Brazil.

The region is commonly called the Brazilian Highlands and includes the two states, Minas Geras and Bahia. In these two states there are more cacti than in any other region of Brazil and a wealth of other plants are to be found, including; Bromeliads, Orchids and Palms.

Our field adventure will feature the back country, the towns and their people, as well as a wide variety of plants and animals. The cacti we will focus on include; Melocactus, Buiningia, Coleocephalocereus, Pilosocereus, Microcranthocereus, Discocactus, Tacinga, Arrojadoa and Uebelmannia. Some of the other plant genera will include; Bursera, Cissus, Dyckia, Encholirium, Orthophytum and myriad of other Bromeliads.

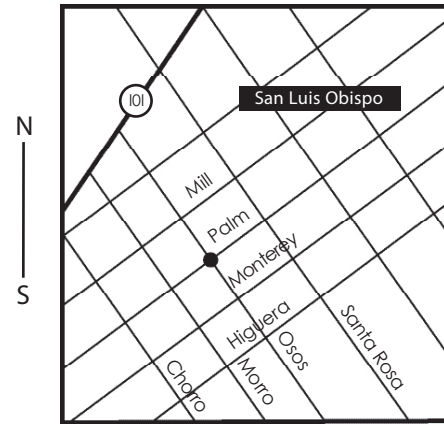
We will also feature some of the severe conservation issues facing many of the plants and animals from this unique part of world. This part of Brazil is one of the most fascinating environments for strange cacti and other plants and if you want to understand and see many of these rare genera, please join me for this presentation.

## NEXT meeting:

Sun, July 12'th at  
2:00 pm

SLO Public Library

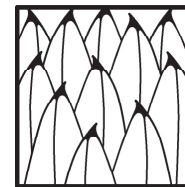
995 Palm Street  
San Luis Obispo  
805-781-5991



*Discocactus placentiformis*

### BOARD—MEETING

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



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.

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Mary Peracca 550-6977	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Nick Wilkinson 528-8880	<b>SECRETARY</b> Eva Zayha 546-8202	<b>CSSA AFFILIATE</b> Rob Skillin 473-0788	<b>TREASURER</b> Edie Price 489-8491
<b>EDITOR</b> Markus Mumper 773-1499	<b>ASST. EDITOR</b> Nick Wilkinson 528-8880	<b>PUBLICITY</b> Joan Field 773-6644	<b>LIBRARIANS</b> Martin Howell & Jeanne Hanyasz 544-5389	<b>HOSPITALITY</b> Maggie Wagner, 773-1499 Pat Gilson, 481-5596

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

**HERMAN®**

by Jim Unger



"I wish you wouldn't sit so close to that cactus."

## PLANTERA PRIMAL

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## Great News!!

Sign up to bring refreshments and get a 4 inch plant.!! **You must sign the Hospitality Sign-Up Sheet** and bring refreshments to get a plant. We need refreshments for each monthly meeting and we need to know who is bringing them. Thanks to everyone who has been contributing to the refreshment fund; donations can be made at the refreshment table.

Pat

## Upcoming Events

**July 24-26**

**Orange County Summer Show & Sale**

Fullerton Arboretum

1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton 714-870-4887

**August 15-16**

**Intercity Show & Sale**

Los Angeles County Arboretum

301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 626-798-2430

**August 29**

**Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium**

Huntington Botanical Gardens

1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino 626-405-2160

**September 27**

**Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction**

Dominguez Rancho Adobe

18127 South Alameda St., Compton 562-419-9646

**November 7-8**

**San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale**

Los Angeles County Arboretum

301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia 626-798-2430



15% off for all CCCSS members

7432 Exotic Gardens Road | Cambria | CA | 93430

PH 805-924-1340 [www.grownursery.com](http://www.grownursery.com)

## hospitality news:

Thanks to all the members who brought food, treats and drink to last month's meeting - Eva Zayha, Mary Parracca, Alice Cushing and Margaret Wagner - It is appreciated. This month Lucile Manrique, Joann Spots and Terry Skillin will host.

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



# *Uebelmannia pectinifera* Buining

Templegatejohn (CactiGuide.com)

**Growth Habits:** This cactus normally has a solitary body (but like anything else in nature there are exceptions to the rule). It usually attains a size of 4 to 6 inches wide (10-15 cm), 20 inches tall (50 cm); with 15 to 18 prominent ribs; close set areoles; 1 to 4 central spines, up to 0.6 inch long (1.5 cm), in the classical look, the spines are straight and give a comb-like effect. The plant has what looks like a waxy coating covered with pores and if looked at close has a strange resemblance to human skin.

**Scientific name:** *Uebelmannia pectinifera*

**Common names:** Not known.

**Synonym:** *Uebelmannia pectinifera* var. *pseudopectinifera*, *Uebelmannia pectinifera* var. *multicostata* .

**Etymology:** Named after Werner Uebelmann, the Swiss nurseryman who imported them into Europe. *Pectinifera* refers to the comb-like spines of the plant.

**Origin:** Brazil (mountain of Minas Gerais)

**Light:** The plant will take full sun for half a day, but does like a little shade for part of the day. If you can place it so that this occurs the plant will be much happier.

**Compost:** I feel like I am repeating myself every month and I am sure most of you have got the message that 99% of cacti need a good open compost. Admittedly with some plants you may get away with a 'heavier' mix, but with this plant if you do not have a perfectly free draining compost, you are committing it to a watery grave. Many sources advocate the addition of some limestone to the mix.

**Water:** The plant like me, likes a good drink now and again, but is prone to rot at the base, particularly if the weather is cool. To help stop this a good deep collar of gravel or chicken grit is an excellent idea.

**Flower:** The flowers if you are lucky enough to get them, bloom in summer and are yellow and funnel-shaped, with no discernible scent.

**Fruit:** The fruit is insignificant, dark red and globular.

**Min. temp:** This plant like most of the Melocactus will not stand the cold in any shape or form. Even keeping it frost free is courting disaster. The plant must be kept no lower than 50°F. 10°C year round and many sources say an all round temperature of at least 59°F. is not too high.

**Cultivation:** The plant is often grafted because of its tendency to rot at the base. If possible a rootstock that is more hardy than the *Uebelmannia* is the ideal. The plant loves warm humid conditions and mist spraying is a must in summer.

**Habitat:** Minas Gerais was formerly inhabited by colonists who dug for gold and gems and later diamonds, so it is quite appropriate that a gem of the cactus world grows there. It is also the source of some of the largest rivers in Brazil. The central and eastern areas are hilly and rocky. Some of the mountains are almost pure iron ore.

**Comments:** This really is a beautiful cactus and is worth a place in any collection. It is not the easiest to keep looking healthy, or alive for that matter, but is well worth the effort. 30 years ago the plant would probably have cost you a couple of hundred US dollars, £80 or £90, but the professional growers now seem to be able to propagate them quite quickly.

