

# British Cactus & Succulent Society

## Southampton & District Branch Newsletter

July 2013



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### Editorial

We've entered July but apart from the odd day here and there, it really doesn't feel like summer just yet. In a way, I am glad since the nights can be pretty uncomfortable when we have scorching hot days, and also many of the plants in our collections just shut down when the temperatures are too high.

Last year, I was very disappointed when a newly acquired young plant (a haworthia/aloë hybrid called "Flo") was targeted by a slug. By the time I spotted it, I think about a third of the plant had been chewed through and I was wondering if the growing core had been damaged. Anyway I did not throw the plant away – and now am glad that I didn't – because this year it has recovered and has formed 4 offsets!

### Announcements

As you may have heard, our Secretary **David Neville** was taken seriously ill 10 days ago, eventually requiring a major operation. He is now recuperating at the Southampton General Hospital. I am sure that everybody associated with the branch wishes him a speedy recovery.

The Branch will be taking part in the **New Forest Show** at the end of the month. A preliminary discussion of who will man the stand on the different days was made at a recent committee meeting. If you would like to attend the event, tickets are available to purchase on line for a 15% discount, if purchased before 11<sup>th</sup> July.

Tony Grech will be hosting an **Open Day** so that members can visit his collection of cacti and succulents. This will be held on the afternoon of Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July. If you have not been to Tony's before, there are maps on the front table.

BCSS Zone 12 (Sussex) is staging a **Zone Show** on Saturday/Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> July at Paradise Park, Avis Way, Newhaven, East Sussex TN37 7LD. The show is open from 10am to 6pm on July 6<sup>th</sup>, and 9am to 4pm on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

### Last Month's Meeting

Ivor had brought along some *Plants of Interest*, and the topic was plants eligible for showing in the Crassula group. The plants he had brought included Sedums, Sempervivums, Echeveria and Aeonium.

### Mammillarias In Flower

Our speaker for June was Chris Davies, who is also Chairman of the Mammillaria Society. He mentioned that he had been growing the plants for a good number of years and does specialise in them. More recently, he has been growing plants of the same species from different field collections from different locations to compare the variations. His collection now consists of 1800 plants. He doesn't have any really old ones – in the year 2000, he lost many plants due to a heating failure.

Mammillaria is a big genus and some DNA work has been done on it. It consists of 4-5 sub genera which are further divided into series, with David Hunt's classification being widely accepted.

We started with Mammilloidia, which has unusual seed and which was excluded from the genus for a while. *M. candida* has pale flowers which complement the white spines – it is a nice little white plant which forms large clumps in cultivation and in habitat. Subgenus Oehmea only contains one species, *M. beneckeii* which is a beautiful plant when in flower. It has big yellow cup shaped flowers with long tubes. It needs 40°F – 50°F over winter and is not too difficult to flower if kept warm and given enough water. It comes from the western part of Mexico and goes down quite south, so not exactly a

desert dwelling species. It has fibrous roots. When not in flower, it is a fairly boring-looking hook spined plant.

The Dolichothele subgenus contains several yellow flowered plants. *M. baumii* has thin white spines, and has yellow flowers which keep coming for a month or so. The flowers are scented and early in the mornings there is a lemon scent to them. It is tap rooted so use an open compost. *M. carretii* has flowers which have a hint of pink and open to 2 inches across. Probably the best known plant in this subgenus is *M. longimamma*. The featured plant had 2 heads, but it will keep on offsetting. It has heaps of yellow flowers. We saw the dark spined form of *M. melaleuca* which has dark yellow flowers, the darkest in this subgenus. It has variable spine colours and can make a pretty plant, although the more usual whitish-grey spines are not as nice. *M. paulii* has probably the nicest flower of this subgenus – they are semi double and quite a size. The plant is slow growing and tap rooted, so cultivation needs care. The most northern dolichothele is *M. spaeherica*. It is a more heavily spined form of *M. longimamma* but is geographically distinct. *M. surculosa* forms offsets which easily come apart – the flowers have a stronger lemon scent than *M. baumii*.

Plants in the Cochemiea subgenus aren't of any great size and come almost exclusively from Baja California. He did not have a picture of *M. halei* in flower, but it's a relatively small plant. *M. maritima* was 3 inches tall, but hadn't flowered for 5 years. When it does flower, they are long and almost zygomorphic. *M. setispina* also has an almost zygomorphic flower (similar to Aporocacti, etc).

The next picture was of *Mamillopsis senilis*, taken 4 years ago. Last year this plant had produced 18 flowers – the brilliant red flowers contrast with the white spines and last for 1-2 weeks and don't close up at night. The dull summer and winter last year meant the plant had only produced one flower this year. They like to be kept cool and also need as much light as possible – they grow in mountains which also get some snow.

Now for a few selected plants from the Longiflorae series. *M. saboae* can fill a pan in cultivation but in habitat you'll do well to find one with 4 heads. It has a long tubed flower. In habitat you won't see the plant - only the flower, since most of the head is in the soil, only poking out if there's been lots of rain. A grafted plant of ssp. *roczekii* showed the prettiest form of flower. *M. haudeana* has bigger heads and Chris mentioned his plant was now up to 6 heads. David Neville said he had been told that these

hardly ever offset on their own roots, but Chris said his were offsetting. *M. theresae* has long stemmed flower and his now has 4 heads. *M. longiflora* usually has striped flowers, but the extent of the striping varies. Some people think that *M. tepexicensis* is an immature neotenic form of *M. longiflora* - it has short stems and multiple hooked spines. It is easy from seed and will offset. *M. deherdtiana* forms a good number of flowers but not a full ring. *M. hernandezii* comes from the south – it also grows flush with the ground so is difficult to find in habitat

Ancistracanthae means hooked spine – and this group has reasonably large flowers as well. They come from the Baja peninsula and parts of Western Mexico such as Durango. *M. guelzowiana* has large flowers which hide the plant body. It is an attractive plant with yellow to brown hooked spines along with softer radials. Going north, you find *M. wrightii* ssp. *wrightii*. Ssp. *wilcoxii* is another form. *M. heidiaae* has hooked spines, yellow flowers and a big tap root – it is difficult to grow, so watch the watering. Also tricky is *M. zephyranthoides*, from Guanajuato – it has large white flowers, sometimes striped and these make a nice contrast against the dark body. *M. blossfeldiana* has stripey flowers. These are small plants and they are short lived with a life cycle of 10-15 years, so he advised growing new plants from seed every few years. *M. boolii* and *M. insularis* are closely related - one is from an island and the other is from the mainland. The degree of striping in the flower again varies. An old favourite is *M. grahamii* - it grows all over the Southern USA (New Mexico, Arizona, southern California) down into northern Mexico. It has hooked spines and forms a complete ring of flowers. It is often solitary but will clump eventually. Another plant from Baja with a white flower is *M. hutchisoniana louisae* – this is short lived and best when young, becoming manky as it ages.

Another plant from mainland is *M. mazatlacaensis* and we saw one of the many forms. These all need light watering and nice open compost. *M. sheldonii* grows all over Sonora and further south. Some plants are solitary, some offset. *M. thornberi* comes from the border of SW Arizona and northern Sonora. It is tricky to grow and has the habit, if doesn't get warmth and water at the right times, of going blind at the apex and then forming pups, making an ugly plant. *M. yaquensis* is a very fragile plant – if you want to grow it, decide what size you want and put a plant in the appropriate sized pot. If you try and repot it, it will fall apart.

Another from Baja is *M. albicans* which has white flowers and purple stamens. A number of forms

with hooked and straight spines exist. *M. armillata* is a hooked spine plant from Baja. We saw *M. capensis* with white flowers, and another form of it with straight spines and yellow stamens in the flowers. *M. dioica* is surprisingly variable and grows from southern California to half way down Baja. The initial population that was found had a high proportion of plants with dioecious flowers - but in reality only about 5% of plants have this characteristic. Another pretty plant is *M. neopalmeri* – the flowers have green stamens. It is fairly slow growing.

Moving on to the Lasiacanthae series, *M. berkiana* is a slow growing plant which has always remained solitary for him. There are yellow and pink flowered forms around. *M. bombycina* can be found in different shapes and sizes and it is closely related to *M. perezdelarosae* – the latter has slightly pink flowers and dark spines. Intermediates exist, and *M. perezdelarosae* ssp *andersoniana* remains small at a inch and a half tall – it doesn't elongate like the normal perezdelarosae. *M. fittkaui* has got larger flowers which are pinkish in colour, which is unusual in this series. We saw a dark-spined form of *M. jaliscana* with a pink flower but you can also get forms with lighter spines and yellowish flowers. The white flowered and dark bodied form of *M. mathildae* reminds him of *M. zephyranthoides*. It is tricky to grow. We also saw a young plant of *M. mercadensis*. It occurs in different forms and is strongly related to *M. jaliscana*, growing in the same areas. We also saw a yellow spined form of *M. jaliscana* (Lau 1050).

*M. moelleriana* forms rings of beautiful little pink flowers which are almost semi double. It will elongate and offset in due course. A form of it called *cowperae* is yellow spined and has much paler flowers. *M. pennispinosa* has radial spines which are hairy. It is not an easy plant to grow, and one needs care with watering. Another form of *M. pennispinosa* is *M. nazasensis*, which some German collectors think is more closely related to *jaliscana* than *pennispinosa*. *M. thompsonii* is named after Brian Thompson from Oxford who worked out in Mexico for a while. Although it's been around for 10 years, it has not been formally described yet. *M. rettigiana* has dark spines. *M. sinistrohamata* is so named because the hooks all seem to go all to the left (anticlockwise). He went to the type location and found it growing with brown spined plants too – the original collectors must have sent back the pretty plants. It may just be another form of *M. crinita*. – *M. weingartiana* is not an easy plant but it is one of the first to flower each year. It has a big tap root and doesn't grow very big, and was doing well in a 2¾ inch pot. Next was the white flowered (albiflora)

form of *M. zeilmanniana*. This is very floriferous species which is commonplace in nurseries. The normal magenta form pups up rapidly, the white one less so. This section would not be complete without showing *M. bocasana*. There is a form called *splendens* where the central spines are insignificant, and the radials are hairy.

Next, we saw *M. crinita* proper, followed by *M. tezontle*, which is only found in one location. It has slightly longer stemmed flowers. *M. variabilis* has pink flowers. The ssp. *manana* was wrongly named initially, but this has since been rectified by the Fitz Maurices. If you look at the body, most of the spines look straight but you'll see the odd hooked spine. Unusually, it flowers from the sides of the plant rather than the upper part. *M. marcosii* is a new introduction which offsets like crazy – a less common form has yellow spines and also yellower flowers. One of the plants saved when the Zimapan dam was made and a valley flooded is *M. scheinvariana*. There are forms of this with and without central spines. Some people think it might be a natural hybrid of *M. glassii*, but this is hard to verify with the habitat gone.

*M. glassii* is found in northern Mexico – it grows on rocks in forests. It will flower on relatively small plants. *M. ascensionis* has darker pink flowers which are bigger. The form *siberiensis* is a flat plant with large pink flowers. In the subgenus Proliferae, *Mammillaria prolifera* is easy to grow and common. It makes a nice sight to see it covered in flowers and red seed pods, which taste of strawberries. In the same series is *M. picta* ssp. *viereckii* from northern Mexico – there are two forms of this, a clean spined form and also a plumose form. It is slow to grow and will offset eventually. With *M. pilispina* some of the radials are hairlike. It flowers well and is quite variable in shape, and colour of spine.

Some of the other “crocuses” or early flowerers are in the Lasiacanthae. *M. lasiacantha* will flower within 2 or 3 years from seed. The flower colour and nature of the spine varies a bit, and we saw a plumose spined form. Another *M. lasiacantha* was a taller growing plant. If grown hard, they won't pup up, but if fertilised they will. It is one of the first to flower each year. *M. magallani* has more open spination. A relatively new introduction is *M. roemeri*, which is very different in growth and shape of flowers. It makes a pretty plant. *M. stella-de-tacubaya* is a hooked spined form of *M. lasiacantha*, and is one of the more southern forms. *M. gasseriana* is hook-spined and has flowers with a midstripe. These are all early flowerers.

*M. schiedeana* ssp. *dumetorum* is a desirable form of *M. schiedeana*, with nicer spination – it is also more floriferous. Ssp. *giselae* is a form of *schiedeana* with pinker flowers. In habitat all these variations are growing with each other so it is hard to distinguish varieties and subspecies. *M. humboldtii* is one of the smaller growing plants with heads 1.5 to 2 inches across, although there is a form with bigger heads up to 3 inches across. The dark red flowers contrast well with the white spines. *M. laui* and *M. laui* ssp. *dasyacantha* and ssp. *subducta* are all attractive plants with nice flowers. These grow at different altitudes in the mountains. *M. laui* sp nova Lau 1470 has much longer spines than any other spines. It might possibly be a hybrid of *M. laui* with *M. carmenae*. *M. luethyi* has really spectacular flowers. It was recently rediscovered. It has a greeny-brown body and the tubercles which look like wool consist of very fine spination under a magnifying glass. *M. sanchez-mejoradae* has pectinate spines and will offset slowly. His plant is now going cristate. With *M. aureilanata* – the alba form has yellow flowers and yellow spines. It has a big tap root and is an early flowerer. *Mammillaria lenta* can grow really large and it's another nice plant with red seed pods.

Missing out the Sphacelatae since there is nothing there in terms of flowers, we moved on to the Leptocladodae. With *M. pottsii*, the spination can vary quite a bit. It forms a pretty plant and grows to 10 inches and will offset at the bottom. *M. densipina* is dark spined and we could see lots of buds forming on the featured plants. *M. microhelix* and *M. mieheana* are also worthwhile plants. We saw the pink flowered form of *M. elongata* which had been grown from habitat seed – it is yellow flowered normally. Last year he was able to visit one of the habitats in Queretaro.

In the Heterochlorae, *M. polythele* ssp. *obconella* has a yellow spined form which is much nicer than the basic type. We also saw another form with stronger spines. Normally *M. polythele* has dullish brown spines, tending to grey. *M. discolor* is named because of difference in colour between centrals and radials. Ssp. *esperanzaensis* is a pale flowered form which is found south of Mexico City – the usual pink forms are from the north. *M. wiesingeri* is a nice tight-spined plant with fleshy coloured flowers.

Polyacanthae means many spined. *M. matudae* grows in a cylindrical shape and gets to a reasonable size. It forms rings of lovely flowers and is very distinguishable. *M. spinosissima* is probably the most well known plant in this section. An interesting plant which he killed because he did not keep warm enough was *M. guerreronis*. It was

always kept in a warmer part of the greenhouse, but died a year after flowering. It comes from Guerrero in southern Mexico. The plant did form seed pods so he's growing new plants from the seeds. *M. nunezii* ssp. *bella* occasionally produces purely straight spined plants and sometimes hook spined. It doesn't grow huge but flowers regularly with spiky flowers.

*M. rekoii* has many forms, with different spine types and colours. *M. rekoii* ssp. *leptacantha* is quite an untidy looking plant. *M. rekoii aureispina* has golden spines and red flowers. There is also a yellow spined form with yellow flowers, which was a Lau collection. Another *M. rekoii* called *krasuckae* has deeper red flowers and really dark brown spines which overall works well. *M. xaltiangensis* is a difficult plant which needs a warmer climate

Supertextae is one of the series that he had a lot of plants of, although perhaps the group does not hold the attraction it once used to. *M. albilanata* ssp. *oaxacana* is a Hunt name which wraps up a dozen or so species. It has whitish wool at the apex and forms rings of purple flowers. Next we saw a young *M. crucigera* – in the picture the head was only just starting to divide, but Chris said it was now up to 4 heads. A plant named as *M. crucigera* with a Woody Minich collection number may actually be *M. huitzilopochtli* - these two species are quite close. *M. grandinosa* first came to his notice after he joined the Mammillaria Society, with plants described in field articles by Michel Lacoste and seed offerings. It was thought to be a form of *M. haageana*, but was much more slow growing and more tightly spined. The plant which goes under the name *M. flavicentra* K145 is not flavicentra but appears to be *M. gieseckeii*. We saw a form of *M. haageana*. This is a very variable species. Another variant had a single central spine pointing upwards. Another offsetting form is called ssp. *schmollii*. *M. halbingeri* is not well known in collections and comes in yellow and purple flowered forms. The species *M. pseudohalbingeri* looks similar to *M. huitzilopochtli*. We saw a white spined form of the latter numbered Lau 1500. *M. supertexta* has very short central spines and forms rings of flowers. Some variants do have longer central spines.

In the Leucocephalae, *M. amachahensis*(?) is related to *M. geminispina* and *M. hahniana*. It only grows in one small area of Hidalgo. He found a foot tall specimen in habitat. We also saw *M. geminispina leucocentra*, *M. hahniana* and *M. klissingiana*. *M. parkinsonii* is often mistaken for a form of *M. geminispina* with red flowers or *M. morganiana*. The true *M. parkinsonii* has yellow flowers. A form of *M. perbella* under the name *infernillensis* was grown from Mammillaria society seed – it never

offsets and grows slowly. We also saw various forms of *M. Formosa* – it has a wide distribution in habitat and is variable. We also saw a young *M. microthele* and another form of *M. formosa* called *ssp. pseudocrucigera*.

In the series *Mammillaria*, *M. boelderliana* has large flowers. *M. coahuilensis* is a difficult plant to get. We saw a form of *M. grusonii* with large flowers and *M. albiarmata*. His *M. lloydii* had a yellowish green plant body, but after repotting it greened up nicely so maybe some nutrient was missing previously. Forms of *M. melanocentra* and *M. linarensis* have beautiful long spines. The only hook spined plant in this series is *M. uncinata* which has a wide distribution. It is relatively easy to grow and will grow quite large as well. We saw *M. gigantea* (*M. saint pieanna*) and also forms of *M. petterssonii*, including *M. apozolensis* v. *saltensis*. *M. hertrichiana* comes from north west Mexico. A plant labelled as *M. lindsayi* is now called *M. coprensis* – it is a red flowered form. *M. lindsayi* has had a confusing history because the initial sample was mislabelled. A nice plant from islands near Baja is *M. tayloriorum* it has a wooly apex, from which white fringe-petalled flowers appear. *M. marksiana* is yellow flowered. *Mammillaria miegiana* has pink flowers. We also saw *M. sonorensis* white flowered and normal forms exist.

One of the best known *M. magnimamma* is a Steven Brack collection, SB40. The flowers are not always as nice as in the picture. The characteristic of *magnimamma* is a long downward curving central or radial. *M. orcuttii* comes from the Valley of the Phantoms. It is easy to grow and flowers emerge from the white wool. There were some doubts about a plant named by Lau as *M. roseoalba*. We saw a large *M. winterae* ssp. *aramberri* can look like this. It went under a species name for a while until renamed by Hunt. It doesn't mound in habitat, where it grows in muddy flats. The flowers open yellow and then fade to pale pink. We saw *M. polyhedra* and *M. brandegeei*, and a white flowered straight spined form of *M. evermanniana* from Baja. *M. peninsularis* comes from the tip of the Baja peninsula – these are small growing plants with big yellow flowers, and can flower in 2-3 years from seed. *M. petrophila* was formerly *M. baxteriana* and is yellow flowered. There is a theory that all the yellow flowered plants from Baja and the yellow flowered plants from Sonora are related.

*M. karwinskiana* was not a nice plant and the flowers are boring but the spines are interesting, being in the form of axillary hairs. *M. carnea* has fleshy coloured flowers and pink spines - *carnea* means meat. *M. erythra* is from the Peublo/Oaxaca

area and is related to *M. mystax* – “mystax” means moustache and the name was perhaps assigned because of the hairy nature of the plant. From the same area is *M. sartorii* – this offset was given to him by Ken Burke in Kent, and it was apparently collected by Felix Otero but never given a collection number. It is an odd plant, the flowers are very insignificant and it flowers right at the end of the year.

Chris ended by saying that he often gets asked if he has to pick a single *Mammillaria* species to grow, which would it be? His choice was *M. guelzowiana* the plant looks like a big white powder puff and the iridescent flowers are bigger than those of *Thelocactus*.

There were some questions at the end. In the winter he keeps most of the greenhouse at 6°C. He has two big fan heaters and also a smaller heater for plants which need extra heat. His standard compost mix is 1/3 John Innes, 1/3 horticultural grit and 1/3 Bims – which is a volcanic type substance that he obtains from Belgium when he visits ELK. It is light in colour and particles are 1mm to 3mm in size. Paul said the material is used for loft insulation in Germany so it is quite cheap compared to other special substrates. Chris said he preferred it over cat litter because of the variable grain size. He also uses rain water when watering the plants.

Vinay Shah

Some useful links:

#### Chris's website

<http://www.woodedge.co.uk/>

#### A useful reference on Mammillarias

<http://plantworlds.org/Mammillaria/mammillaria-main.html>

## Table Show Results

There were 16 entries in the June table show.

	<b>Cacti – Parodia</b>	<b>Succulents – Crassula</b>
Open	(1) I Biddlecombe Parodia escayachensis	(1) B Beckerleg Graptopetalum suaveolens
	(2) T Radford Notocactus magnificus	(2) I Biddlecombe Crassula cv. "Morgan's Beauty"
	(3) B Beckerleg Parodia schwebsiana	(3) B Turner Pachyphytum compactum
Intermediate	(1) B Beckerleg Parodia escayachensis	(1) A Jankovec Adromischus sp.
	(2) T Smith Parodia maassii	(2) A Jankovec Kalanchoe tomentosa
	(3) I Biddlecombe Parodia maxima	(3) B Beckerleg Crassula ausensis ssp. Titanopsis

*Ivor Biddlecombe*

## Bookworm Corner

Welcome to summer at last (or should that be late spring!). Finally the garden and greenhouses are full of colour and the veg patch is growing well despite the combination of the windy weather and the unwanted attention of the slugs and snails. Some of the less fortunate individuals of the latter group finding themselves as a tasty snack for next door's chickens! However, Mark is pleased to see the snails are eating the old flowers and the seed pods off his lobivias, mammillarias and rebutias as he is not too keen on the resultant body rot that sometimes occurs when the pods are retained by the cacti.

We are undertaking a lot of potting up at the moment; well Mark at least is, with the succulents especially showing rapid growth at the moment. Mark has observed that his lithops are growing particularly well this year and emerging from the old skins correctly.

## 'ENJOYED THE LECTURE? THEN ENJOY THE BOOK!'

### June

In June Chris Davis visited us and gave a colourful presentation on flowering Mammillarias. Recommended books from the library include '**Mammillarias – Cactus File Handbook 6**' (Pilbeam J.). This weighty book covers cultivation, distribution in the wild as well as containing some lovely photographs and descriptions of all the species. Other species specific books are also by John Pilbeam: '**Mammillaria – A Collector's Guide**' and '**Mammillaria – A Colour Supplement**'. Also worth looking at is the '**The New Cactus Lexicon**' (Hunt D *et al*) which is the 'taxonomy bible'.

### July

This month's presentation is by our regular visitor Derek Tribble on the highly variable genera of crassula. The book '**Crassula – A Grower's Guide**' (Rowley G.) is a volume well worth reading, which I am sure our speaker would agree with, as he contributed many of the habitat pictures that appear in the book! The book extensively covers the genera through a range of chapters including habitat, species description, propagation and structure. Each species description is usually illustrated with a number of photographs. The range of form of the Crassulaceae is astonishing, to my mind many look like different species altogether such as adromischus, aloes and begonias!

Other books to consider borrowing are '**Succulent Flora of Southern Africa**' (Court D.), '**Succulents – The Illustrated Dictionary**' (Sajeva M. & Constanzo M.) and '**How to Care for Your Succulents**' (Pilbeam J.). All these books can be found in the '**Featured Book Corner**.'

*Sue Wilson*

## Branch Committee Meeting

A branch committee meeting was held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June, having been rescheduled from 17<sup>th</sup> June. An accident on the M3 on that earlier date had caused a massive logjam in the Southampton area making travel that evening virtually impossible.

Branch finances were satisfactory, with the Sparsholt Show having made a useful contribution. Lending at the Library was slow, but the branch had recently received a donation of books Jim Roskilly, along with some journals from Peter Down. The raffle has been well supported in recent months, both in terms of people buying tickets at the meeting and donating prizes.

Arrangements for the New Forest Show (end July) were discussed. We had received a higher allocation of tickets so the need to buy extra tickets would hopefully be reduced.

Since half the committee was absent, the decision on when and where to hold the branch dinner was postponed.

Tony Grech mentioned he would like to host an Open Day on the afternoon of Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July. There is also a possibility of the Maces inviting us to visit their collection later in the year.

Next year is the Branch's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and some discussion was held on how this should be celebrated. We agreed to ask members if they knew of any halls in the Southampton area which could accommodate up to 80 people for a full day convention.

*Vinay Shah*

## Next Month's Meeting

The next branch meeting will be held on August 6<sup>th</sup> and will feature a talk "Aloes Through the Ages" by Colin Walker which will presumably cover the history of the Aloe group. Colin treated us to a very good talk on Agaves a couple of years ago, so this companion talk is something to look forward to.

The August Table Show will consist of the **Mammillaria** group (cacti) and the **Euphorbia** group (succulents). Please note that members can submit more than one entry in any of the classes, and that points will be earned for each placed entry.

The **Mammillaria** group contains 13 genera, including *Mammillaria*, *Bartschella*, *Cochemiea*, *Dolichothele*, *Mamillopsis*, *Mammillyodia* and *Solisia*.

The **Euphorbia** group only contains *Euphorbia*.

## Forthcoming Events

Sat	13 <sup>th</sup>	Jul	Isle of Wight	What I Did Last Winter (Paul Klaassen)
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	Jul	Southampton	Open Day @ Tony Grech. 29 Braeside Road, Bitterne, SO19 7AY (2-4pm)
Sat	20 <sup>th</sup>	Jul	Portsmouth	Conos & other Mini-mesembs (Derek Tribble)
Tue	30 <sup>th</sup>	Jul-	Southampton	Display / Plant Sales @ New Forest Show, Brockenhurst
Thu	1 <sup>st</sup>	Aug	Southampton	
Tue	6 <sup>th</sup>	Aug	Southampton	Aloes Through the Ages (Colin Walker)
Sat	10 <sup>th</sup>	Aug	Isle of Wight	Open Evening at Bary Boden's, 23 Kingslea Park, East Cowes
Sat	17 <sup>th</sup>	Aug	Portsmouth	No meeting
Mon	26 <sup>th</sup>	Aug	Portsmouth	Display / Plant Sales @ Emsworth Horticultural Society Show
Tue	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sep	Southampton	Alpines & Cacti of Merida, Venezuela (John Hughes)

Branch website: <http://www.southampton.bcsc.org.uk>