

The Hooked Spine

Newsletter of *CoronaCactus Nursery LLC.*

Volume 2, Issue 02

Summer 2011

Arizona Habitat

Part 1; *Yucca*, AZ -- Spring, 2011

By: Darryl Craig

We hit the road Memorial day weekend for some new habitat adventures. First up is a 40 acre plot in *Yucca*, AZ that our friend, Jan owns and is constructing several cabins for weekend getaways and has built an incredible natural garden landscape.

We hiked the whole plot all day and saw some really great plants. Not much was in bloom, but the Saguaro's weren't shy with their bright white flowers. This was actually our first time viewing *Agave* in habitat. *Agave desertii* lives up here in a small isolated population on a rocky hillside. In fact, a lot of this area is very rocky providing a great habitat for these plants.

We found a few oddities, but this one Saguaro really had a strange looking apex, we suspected it might be starting to crest. Another perk was a tiny little desert tortoise. It was one of those times when you're walking around and randomly stop in mid-conversation and happen to look down and see a little tortoise looking up at you...hey there little guy!

The plants in this area were: *Agave desertii*, *Echinocereus engelmannii*, *Ferocactus cylindraceus*, *Carnegiea gigantea*, *Mammillaria grahamii*, *M. tetrandra*, *Cylindropuntia ramosissima*, *Nolina sp.* and *Yucca brevifolia ssp. jaugeriana*.

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The Hooked Spine

Summer Edition

June-August 2011

Vol. 2, Issue 02

Summer is here and it brought the heat!

We've doubled up on our newsletters to hopefully fill the void of not having any for a few months.

You'll find a great Arizona habitat adventure in this issue we did back in May along with a few photos on the last pages, but the full galleries are located on our website.

The annual CSSA Show & Sale at the Huntington Gardens was again, a great show. Hope you were able to make it out!

We've redone our label database to include the habitat areas where each plant grows to print right there on the tag, we hope this info is useful to you.

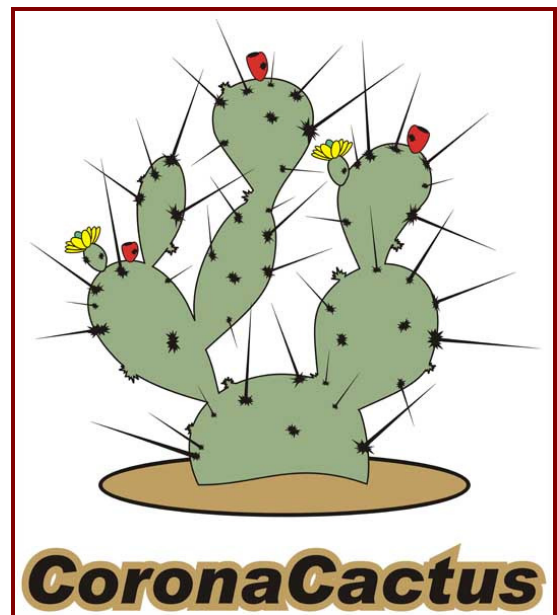
It's been a good year for us for sowing seed, many new species will be available and some out of stock items will once again, be back in stock shortly. Many with habitat location data. ❖

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Arizona Habitat

Part 2; Meadview, AZ -- Spring, 2011

By: Darryl Craig

The next leg of our trip took us up near Meadview, AZ to the *Echinomastus johnsonii* population. So down yet another dusty and washboard dirt road in the (seemingly) middle of nowhere. We didn't even park the car before spotting the bright red spines of the plants scattered all over the place!

Unfortunately, our timing was a little off by about 5 days for collecting seeds. We missed the flowers and the fruit weren't quite ripe yet, but we did find a few plants with ripe fruit. To our surprise, there was a nice clump of *Echinocactus polycephalus*, however, it was the only plant we saw here.

As we walked closer to the foothills, we came across many mounds of *Opuntia ursina* and *Cylindropuntia multigeniculata*. As we are big fans of Opuntiads, this was a highlight for us. The spines were beautifully backlit with a golden yellow hue by the sun. The *Echinomastus* here are in no shortage, couldn't believe how many plants we saw and in all forms, from pink, to red, to maroon and even yellow spined types. *Cylindropuntia acanthacarpa* was also in abundance, we found a really nice pink flowered plant, not one we had seen before. *Ferocactus cylindraceus* also populated the area masterfully. *Opuntia basilaris* was also present, along with *Echinocereus engelmannii* and *Mammillaria tetrancistra*.

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Website Updates

If I had hair, I'd have certainly pulled it all out by now. I really did not expect building a webshop type website was so complicated. I broke down and sent it all off to real web designers. Hopefully, they are doing what they say they are, by putting on the final touches to have it ready by the end of August.

With our new website comes new plant lists! Plants and tool lists have been updated with our latest offerings.

New photo galleries will be added:

- CoronaCactus Collection: Blooms and new growth 2011
- California Habitat: Palm Springs, CA Spring 2011
- Arizona Habitat: Yucca/Meadview/Grand Canyon Spring 2011

CactiGuide.com

CactiGuide.com is quickly becoming the authoritative website on the net for the positive identification of the Cactus Family. With the vast number of plants out there, they are always looking for photos of plants to display in the guide. Due credit will be given to the collection, the plant and the photographer.

So if you see a missing photo on the guide and you have that plant in your collection (and it's been positively identified) please contact Daiv at, daiv@cactiguide.com



CSSA Corner

August 2011

Those who live in the western US should be planning to attend the Succulent Symposium at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens on September 3rd, 2011.

The annual meeting of the Society was held on July 2nd, 2011 at the Huntington Library. President, Laurel Woodley recapped the last year's activities which included the successful Convention in San Diego in April. It's not too early to begin planning to attend the next Convention in April 2013.

For more information, Plant Sales Lists, Cultivation Articles and more, please visit our website: www.coronacactus.com

Check us out on eBay!
CoronaCactusNursery

Our listings generally start on Tuesday and end on Sunday. We offer lower than listed starting prices to give you a chance at some really great deals!



An archive page has been created on our website for viewing past Newsletters. Current Newsletters will be available a few weeks after release.

www.coronacactus.com/newsletter.htm

We're on Facebook

Send a friend request to:
CoronaCactus Nursery



Book Review

Epithelantha 2011

Author: Davide Donati & Carlo Zanovello

A long awaited revision of the genus in a very attractive and easy to read handbook. This book goes into detail about each species, history of the genus and habitat locations, complete with distribution maps. A very common sense approach.

Excellent photos of both cultivated and habitat specimens, including roots, flowers, areoles, spines...the whole deal! Including a brand new species description, *Epithelantha cryptica*.

Soft cover, handbook style, 65pgs with full color photos as well as the distribution maps. Detailed charts describing flowers, fruit, seeds and vegetative morphology from juveniles to adults. To top it all off there are 6 pages dedicated to the cultivation of *Epithelantha* species including growing from seed.



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Arizona Habitat

Part 3; Grand Canyon West, AZ -- Spring, 2011

By: Darryl Craig

Our last stop was a good one, got two words for you...GRAND CANYON! This is an incredibly beautiful area, not just for us cactus hunters, but the scenery just blew our minds. We've been to the Grand Canyon before, but it always seems to impress us.

Yes, more dusty washboard dirt roads...ugh. Despite being well travelled by cars, these washboard dirt roads will shake just about every bolt loose on your car...I'm exaggerating, but it's really annoying. One thing though, watch out for the big tour busses! These guys know these roads and aren't shy to speed through.

Ok, onto the plants, we pulled off the road and parked next to steep climbing areas, probably could have chosen better, but we were so excited to see the plants, we just started climbing. *Echinocereus mojavensis* hanging off cliff edges and scattered all over the place in every sized mound imaginable. We found a huge mound well protected up high on a cliff, with what we can only guess at more than 200 heads! Absolutely incredible. *Agave utahensis* also grew in this area with some rather large clusters. As I was climbing/walking around I saw a little pink flowering plant in the distance...oh wow, I totally forgot about *Escobaria vivipara* being in this area and in flower too! Also a few colonies of *Opuntia basilaris* with some awesome pad colors. Having our fill on this side of the road, we made our way down and then up the other side. *Echinocactus polycephalus*, *Echinomastus johnsonii* covered the area, as with *Agave utahensis*. Interestingly enough the *Echinocactus* and *Echinomastus* only preferred this side of the road. We found many *Echinomastus* seedlings, always a good sight! More *Echinocereus mojavensis* and *Escobaria vivipara* scattered the very rocky slopes.

All in all, we had a great time, took 100's of photos, ate some great *Echinocereus* fruit, collected a few seeds, blew all the dust out of our hair and saw some incredible plants and habitat! ❖

Photo Galleries of each area are on our website, along with a few photos on the last page here.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: FALL 2011

SEPTEMBER 25

Long Beach CSS Annual Plant Auction
Rancho Dominguez, CA

NOVEMBER 5-6

San Gabriel Valley CSS Show & Sale
Los Angeles Arboretum

Yucca, Meadview & Grand Canyon West; Arizona Habitat Photos



Agave desertii – Yucca, AZ



Ferocactus cylindraceus – Yucca, AZ



Echinocereus mojavensis – Grand Canyon West



Escobaria vivipara – Grand Canyon West



Mammillaria grahamii – Yucca, AZ



Mammillaria tetrancistra – Yucca, AZ



Cylindropuntia multigeniculata – Meadview, AZ



Opuntia ursina – Meadview, AZ



Echinocactus polycephalus – Grand Canyon West



Agave utahensis – Grand Canyon West



Carnegiea gigantea – Yucca, AZ



Desert tortoise – Yucca, AZ



Cylindropuntia acanthacarpa – Meadview, AZ



Echinomastus johnsonii – Meadview, AZ