

the field notes from his 1988 botanising/seed collecting trip to South America, confirming that the locality details of WRAI 8886 on the printout are indeed incorrect, and should have been: Chile, Región VIII, Prov. Nuble, Nevados de Chillán, well within the known geographical range of the species. It transpires that in the location section of his notebook, instead of writing "as 8883" to save repetition of the location data, it had been erroneously entered as "as 8833", WRAI 8833 being a species of *Verbena* from Torres del Paine! Then this unfortunate typographical error was again repeated when the field records were copied at Kew.

As the southernmost habitat for a cactus, Torres del Paine was still a possible contender, since an *Austrocactus* had also been recorded from there. However, the depiction of what is called "cacto patagónico" (= *Austrocactus patagonicus*) on the trekking map mentioned in my article is evidently modelled on the illustration of *A. spiniflorus* in Adriana Hoffmann's *Cactáceas en la flora silvestre de Chile* (1989: 237, pl. 80a), which is a species from the mountains east of the capital Santiago, almost 2000km to the north! So this is almost certainly again just another red herring, and therefore leaves the

Figs. 3 & 4 Two flower colour forms of *Coryphantha echinus* (Photo: Root Gorelick)



southernmost authenticated record for a cactus as *Pterocactus australis* at latitude 50°20'S from El Calafate in Argentina.

(I thank David Wraight, of The Garden Company, Biwer, Luxembourg, and Kiri Ross-Jones, Archivist, RBG Kew, for their help in resolving this puzzle.)

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Coryphantha echinus

Coryphantha echinus (Figs. 3 & 4) goes by the common name of Sea-urchin Cactus, probably due to the single erect central spine. The species is native to Trans-Pecos Texas. Stems of the type variety are spherical and almost always unbranched. Mature stems are 4–10cm in diameter and typically flower intermittently from late April to late June. I acquired both specimens illustrated simultaneously from the same source and have been growing them side-by-side ever since. The form with the red-throated flower is more common, but specimens with solid yellow flowers are often found in native populations.

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Stereo viewing – an update from Ray Stephenson

I read with great interest the 'Stereo' article by Mike Shawyer. As he says, stereo-viewing is almost as old as photography. I have over the years assembled about half a dozen systems from all eras (Fig. 5). I don't have a 'What the butler saw' Mutoscope, but I do have some rather nice Victorian stereo cards of cacti and succulents (monochrome unfortunately).

Perhaps readers would like to know that the Chinese are mad keen on stereo photography. Two modern systems seem to run side-by-side over there. Both rely on the use of a 'beam-splitter' which sits on the front of an SLR camera (normal with standard or slide film, or digital), which can take left and right photos simultaneously. If you can still acquire slide film, the Chinese also sell a viewer with two eye-pieces to hold a single 35mm slide (split).

I think Northumbria Branch might be the only branch to have seen a 3D projection show. This was more than twenty years ago when my cousin, who is in the 3D Society (someone has to be!!!!), projected some old 'Viewmaster' discs. Because the two images were projected simultaneously, the audience needed to wear Polaroids (not the green/red cinema stock) to enable 3D viewing in full colour. I remember gasps of amazement as arms of cereoid cacti appeared to stick out through the audience.

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Biological controls

We read with interest Roy's experiences of biological control of pests. We grow our succulents in two conservatories which open directly into the house and so using pesticides is not for us. Instead we have dealt successfully with vine weevils, root mealy bugs and sciarid flies by using predatory species. These are available by mail order from several specialist companies which can be found on the internet.