



*Gates Cactus
and
Succulent Society*

MARCH 2008

NEXT MEETING: " WEDNESDAY " MARCH 5th

AT THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM

I- 10 AT CALIFORNIA STREET IN REDLANDS, CA.

PROGRAM

Our March speaker will be Kelly Griffin. He will give us a pictorial review of his one month in Madagascar last year. The talk is full of great shots of succulents and a lot of the special critters that are endemic to that wonderful island nation.

Kelly is one of this country's most expert authorities on aloes, agaves and other succulent genera. He is on staff at Rancho Soledad Nurseries in Rancho Santa Fe. His talks are always full of great information on how the plants grow. He will bring several flats of his prized plants for sale as well.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

In spite of all the illness, and other family issues, the 20 plus of us who went on the recent outing had a delightful time. The Living Desert has expanded and there was much to see (and plants to buy). **Trish Marino** even trained Ben (Tony is the Gates VP; Ben

is their three year old) for three hours at the G scale model railroad exhibition.

THEN, we went to The Moorten Botanical Garden to see the "the worlds first cactorium" (and buy more plants). **Clark Moorten** advised that his mother **Pat**, the First President of our Gates Society, is suffering from severe Parkinson's.

And THEN, **Daryl Craig** led a short foray into the (natural) wilds of Palm Springs. He found a habitat area where we could see *Cylindropuntia echinocarpa*, *Cylindropuntia bigelovii*, *Opuntia basilaris*, *Ferocactus cylindraceus*, and *Echinocereus engelmannii* var. *armatus*. After the recent rains, the grasses obscured everything and we had to actually explore the area. Thank you Darryl for a very interesting excursion.

This will be the last month to fill out the questionnaires to help shape the (near) future of the Gates C&SS. We need your input.

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LEADERSHIP TEAM -- 2008

Start planning now for our **Annual Show and Sale coming up on June 14th**. We want to set a record for the number of plants entered.

See you Wednesday evening! mig



THANK YOU for **ALL** the many plants you brought to the February Mini Show. There were 21 Mammillarias, and 23 Echeverias and Dudleyas. And, there were even a few first time participants; welcome.

The Gates C&SS Board approved an increase from the previous 10, to 15, the yearly award of Joe Wujcik custom pots, for High Point winners. As you know the 'pots' are awarded at the Annual December Christmas party.

Any questions about the mini-show, rules, subjects or judging you may call me on my cell, 951-318-3705.
Dennis Kucera.

MINI-SHOW RESULTS FEBRUARY 2008 CACTUS White, straight spined Mammillarias

John O'Kane and Dennis Kucera judging

NOVICE small, 6" pot or less
1st Don, Mary McGrew Mammillaria gracilis
2nd Carlos Ruiz Mammillaria gemnispina
2nd Carlos Ruiz Mammillaria candida
3rd Betty Ann Kent Mammillaria species
3rd Vivian Nightingale Mammillaria species
H.M. Betty Ann Kent Mammillaria plumosa
H.M. Betty Ann Kent Mammillaria species
(may be Parodia scopa)

NOVICE LARGE, over 6" pot
1st Carlos Ruiz Mammillaria perbela
1st Don, Mary McGrew Mammillaria decipiens
3rd Don, Mary McGrew Mammillaria spinosissima

INTERMEDIATE small, 6" pot or less
1st Roholt Mammillaria karwinskiana

INTERMEDIATE LARGE, over 6" pot 1st M.
J. Green Mammillaria albispina
2nd Judy Horne Mammillaria hahniana

ADVANCED LARGE, over 6" pot
1st Bertie Lou Hazell Mammillaria plumosa

2nd Barry, Kim Urman Mammillaria glassii
2nd Dennis Kucera Mammillaria formosa
3rd Bertie Lou Hazell Mammillaria species
3rd Tony Marino M. vetula ssp. gracilas
H.M. Tony Marino M. karwinskiana
ssp.nejapensis

MINI-SHOW RESULTS FEBRUARY 2008 SUCCULENTS ECHEVERIA, DUDLEYA

Bertie Lou Hazell, Dennis Kucera judging

NOVICE small, 6" pot or less
1st Carlos Ruiz Dudleya 'White Sprite'
2nd Lynn Thrane Echeveria "Lola"
2nd Lynn Thrane Echeveria subsensilis
Variegated
3rd Vivian Nightingale Echeveria species
H.M. Sheldon Lisker Dudleya traskiae
H.M. Vivian Nightingale Echeveria species
H.M. Vivian Nightingale Echeveria pulvenewita?

NOVICE LARGE, over 6" pot
1st Lynn Thrane Echeveria 'Orange Bouquet'
1st Lynn Thrane E. setosa 'Doris Taylor'
H.M. Sheldon Lisker Dudleya edulis ?

INTERMEDIATE LARGE, over 6" pot
1st Roholt Echeveria elegans

ADVANCED small, 6" pot or less
1st Tony Marino Echeveria purpureum
2nd Dennis Kucera Echeveria 'Topsy Turvey' 2nd
Bob Laughlin Dudleya species
2nd Bob Laughlin Echeveria nodulosa
3rd Tony Marino Dudleya cymosa
3rd Dennis Kucera Echeveria agavoides
3rd Bertie Lou Hazell Echeveria species
H.M. Dennis Kucera Dudleya farinosa

ADVANCED LARGE, over 6" pot
1st Berry, Kim Urman Echeveria subrigada
2nd Bob Laughlin Echeveria species
H.M. Bob Laughlin Echeveria agavoides

NOVICE JUDGES INFO

"What's This" you ask?

In our efforts to get the membership more involved in all of our activities and especially to educate our shy, quite, audience, we are asking you to join an interesting part of each meeting.

Welcome to the judging circle. You will have a chance to critically study and judge the merits of these plant entries and choose the best of each

division, First place, then rank the others Second, Third or Honorable Mention. Once a year we will judge photographs of cactus and succulents.

Each partner will choose which division he or she will judge, cacti or other succulents.

An experienced judge, Dennis, will work with you to answer questions and help you make decisions . You will make the final choice of how these plants are ranked. You will mark the entry cards as to the plants ranking and later explain to the membership that evening why you chose this plant over the others and explain why the ranking of the first place plant.

A plant in good show condition will have mature growth, be clean with no dirt or debris and no diseases or insects. Any plant with mealy bugs or any ants will be disqualified and must be removed from the show. Plants in too much shade will look elongated and skinny with lighter color. Plants grown in too much sun can show sun burn with brown or tan scars on the leaves and stems. Plants should not be over grown or crowded in a pot or over potted, in too big a pot. Mesembs like Fenenstraria, baby toes of Sedums can fill a pot, that is O.K. Flowers and fruit on your plant are a great plus. In staging your plants make sure your pots are clean and undamaged. Plastic or clay pots are accepted but glazed or ceramic pots are preferred as long as the color or design is not too extreme and distracts from the plant. Natural earthy colors are usually better. Top dressing of sand, gravel of small rocks should be clean an cover all bare soil. This top dressing should have a more subdued natural color that does not distract from the plant. Color coordination of the pot and top dressing with the colors of the plant is very good such as white gravel with the white streaks of Agave victoria-reginae.

We will give only one first place to each category, but we can be generous and give more than one second place and more than one third place if the plant qualifies. Other plants in reasonably good show condition should get an honorable mention. Plants in poor show condition will receive no rank and no points.

Dennis Kucera will ask Society members to participate.. This can be a good learning experience for you and be much fun. We ask the novice judges to be at the meeting by 7:10 P.M. Of course you too can enter plants in the show.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/05	Felix Mosso	(73)
3/10	Earlene Ketchum	(54)
3/10	Lois Ritter	(71)
3/15	Marilyn Alford	(72)
3/17	St. Patrick	Old
3/ 17	Barry Urman	(59)
3/22	Joe Wujcik	(66)
3/23	Karl Osborn	(72)
3/24	Mrs. Dieter Kruger	(47)
3/26	Vivian Nightinggale	(75)
3/28	Kimberly Urman	(51)
3/29	Jim Westerhoff	(66)

Our Best Wishes to all.

We salute our Seniors, *Vivian Nightinggale* on her 75st BD. We send our very best wishes to all the over half Century BD's. and to Kim, our youngster!

Again, look at all the seniors still attending, how wonderful and are we proud!

Do have a very Happy Birthday!



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

NONE! Did I miss anyone?



MINI-SHOW RULES *(We are reprinting the Rules because so many have changed for this year).*

This show is open to all members. The 3 levels are **Novice**, blue form, **Intermediate**, pink form after 2 years of active participation, and **Advanced**, white form after 4 years of active participation or when you feel comfortable to move up to the next level. In each level there are two pot sizes; small, 6" and under, and LARGE, over 6".

You may enter NO more than 4 plants.

areoles with numerous yellow spines, 25 to 60. In winter or spring it produces numerous bright orange-red flowers. From So. Brazil.

P. leninghousi, syn. Eriocactus l. is one of the more commonly grown Parodias. It can cluster with columnar stems to 12 inches tall and 4 inches thick. The many ribs, to 35, have white woolly areoles and yellow spines. It produces bright yellow 2 inch wide flowers in summer. From So. Brazil.

P. maassii is usually a solitary cactus with mid green stems 3 to 10 inches wide. Red to yellow flowers occur in spring and summer. From So. Bolivia.

P. magnifica, syn. Notocactus magnifica, is usually solitary but sometimes clusters with stems up to 12 inches wide and 6 inches tall. Two inch wide yellow flowers occur in summer. From So. Brazil.

P. mammulosa, syn. Notocactus mammulosus. This single, dark green cactus, 2 ½" wide and 5" tall has a woolly crown with warty ribs. The white areoles have numerous white or brown spines. Funnel shaped 2 inch yellow flowers develop in summer. From S. Brazil, Uruguay, and N. E. Argentina.

P. microsperma, syn P. mutabilis, P. sanguiflora. This single round stemmed cactus, 2 1/2" by 6" tall, is a dull green with a white wooly crown with 25 plus ribs, spirally arranged. The white, woolly areoles have numerous spines, white yellow or brown. Funnel shaped yellow flowers, 2 inches wide, occur in spring and summer.

P. nivosa is a single stem plant with a round or short cylinder shape, 2 ½" by 8" tall. They have 16 to 20 spirally arranged ribs with white areoles and spines. Flowers, 1 ¾ inches wide, appear in spring. From N. Argentina.

P. ocampoii is a clustering cactus with 2 ½ by 8 inch tall dark green stems, with gray areoles and reddish-brown spines. Funnel shaped, yellow flowers 1 1/4" wide, occur in spring and summer. From N. Argentina

P. ottonis, syn. Notocactus ottonis, is a solitary later clustering cactus with 2" to 6" thick stems. It has a white woolly crown with white yellow or brown spines. Funnel shaped deep yellow flowers, sometimes orange-red, 2 ½ inches wide, occur in summer. From S. Brazil, S. Paraguay, N. E. Argentina, Uruguay.

P. penicillata, syn Notocactus p. is a solitary round cactus 5 inches wide to 12 inches tall. This green stem plant has up to 20 spiraling ribs with close set tubercles. Brown, woolly areoles have numerous pale yellow or brownish spines. In summer, 2 inch funnel shaped, orange-yellow or vermilion red, flowers occur. From N. Argentina.

P. rutilans syn. Notocactus rutilans. Is a round to cylindrical plant with dark bluish-green stems, 2 inches wide and high. White, woolly areoles have numerous reddish-brown spines. In summer it produces 1 ½ inch wide flowers, with yellow-white throats with pink tipped petals. From N. Uruguay.

P. schumanniana is a large usually solitary plant, to 6 feet tall and 1 foot thick. It has up to 48 straight ribs, with white woolly areoles with rather few yellow or brown spines. Yellow flowers to 3 inches wide appear in summer. From S. Paraguay and N. E. Argentina.

P. scopa, syn. Notocactus scopa is the Silver Ball Cactus. This is often a tight clustering plant with up to 4 inch wide green stems with up to 40 ribs. They usually have whitish very spiny, woolly crowns. Bright yellow flowers 1 ½ inches wide occur in summer. From S. Brazil and Uruguay.

There are many more species. From the above descriptions you can make a buy list of the most beautiful flowering easy to grow plants

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SUCCULENTS OF THE MONTH MARCH 2008 PACHYPHYTUM,, GRAPTOPETALUM SEDUM

PACHYPHYTUM is a genus of 12 or more species of rosette forming perennial succulents from dry parts of Mexico. They are closely related to Echeveria with which they can hybridize. They have branching spreading stems with swollen fleshy simple leaves that are dark green, yellow to white frosted depending on the species. The bell shaped flowers are on few branched racemes occurring in spring.

P. compacta, thick plant, is a compact succulent with lance shaped leaves that are white frosted to 1 1/4 inches long. They have racemes of 3 to 10 pendent blue tipped orange red flowers.

P. oviferum is commonly called moonstones or sugar almond plant because of its oval white frosted light green leaves. It has racemes of 10 to 15 vivid red or orange red flowers 1/2 inch long winter to spring.

P. viride has stems thickly set with yellowish leaves to 6 inches long. It has reddish flowers in spring.

SEDUM is a genus of about 400 species that are extremely between the species. The different species grow as annuals, biennials, perennials, subshrubs, or shrubs, most of which are succulent. They are widely distributed mostly in the mountains of N. America, Europe, and Asia but also in arid areas of S. America.

S. acre called golden carpet is a vigorous mat forming evergreen perennial with crowded spirals of 1/4 inch long succulent leaves. In summer it blooms with masses of yellow star shaped flowers each about 1/2 inch across. It is native to Turkey, Europe and N. Africa.

S. dasyphyllum is an attractive light blue cover plant with many horizontal branching stems densely covered with oval leaves 1/8 to 1/4 inch long. It is native to the Mediterranean countries.

S. morganianus, the burro's tail, has hanging branches covered entirely with fleshy light greenish blue leaves about 3/4 inch long. It makes an attractive hanging basket or hanging over a wall. It comes from Mexico.

S. multiceps is a very small shrubby succulent resembling a miniature Joshua tree. It is a branching shrublet to 5 inches tall with dense clusters of narrow green leaves at the branch tips. It comes from Algeria.

S. nussbaumerianum forms a small shrub with horizontal branching stems covered with yellow pointed leaves edged in red about 1 1/2 inches long. A native of Mexico it blooms in spring with clusters of 3/4 inch white stars.

S. pachyphyllum from Mexico forms a 1 foot high many branched shrub with clusters of cylindrical, pale blue green leaves about 1 inch long. It has orange yellow star flowers.

S. praealtum of Mexico is a branchy shrub up to 5 feet tall with simple succulent rounded leaves 2

inches long. It is good for a low maintenance informal hedge with minimum care. It will reward you with masses of yellow flowers spring or early summer.

S. praealtum cristatum is the crested form with branch fans topped with a dense row of smaller leaves. It makes a fascinating specimen plant.

S. rubrotinctum syn. S. guatemalense, is commonly known as the jelly bean plant. It is a shrublet with many arching branched stems often with hanging roots. The stems are crowded with green and red leaves club shaped 3/4 inch long. It comes from Mexico.

S. spathulifolium, syn. S. californicum is a mat forming plant of our local mountains in shady areas above 5000 feet elevation. This branchy miniature is densely clothed with 1/2 inch rounded leaves and can bloom in summer with masses of bright yellow flowers. It will not survive our summers here in the low lands, but I have tried. It is native to mountains of California northward into British Columbia. In the high Sierra Nevada I have found it growing at over 10,000 feet on rocky outcrops.

S. spectabile known as the showy stonecrop is a clump forming succulent that is deciduous, dying to the ground in fall and sprouting again next spring. It grows clusters of unbranched stems up to 18 inches high with whorls of oval light green leaves to 3 inches long. In late summer each branch tip will bloom in a large flat cluster of white to pink flowers depending on the variety. It comes from China, Japan and Korea.

GRAPTOPETALUM is a genus of about 12 species of perennial succulents from the southern U.S. and Mexico. Most species have rosettes of succulent leaves and showy flowers making them good pot plants.

G. bellum, syn. Tacitus bellum, is a compact succulent with a basal rosette of whorled gray green leaves to 3 inches across. In late spring it will produce very showy pink or red star flowers each about 1 inch across. It also comes from Mexico.

G. paraguayensis if the odd one of the genus with long branches sprawling in all directions a foot or more. It has pink tinged light gray green leaves up to 3 inches long. It has common names of ghost plant and mother of pearl plant. It has large open clusters of white star flowers with red spots each up to 3/4 inch across in early spring.

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Dennis Kucera.

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PEST OF THE MONTH

A Monthly Feature by Michael J. Green

Agaves going south? Pests got you down? Fight back! Eat them!!!?

By Michael J. Green

See www.gatescss.org for complete article

Scyphophorus acupunctatus adults attack the bole or trunk of the agave causing mechanical damage by boring an approximate 6mm hole close to the soil line, and continuing to the heart of the plant. Diagnostically, the bore hole is the key symptom; the center leaves will appear to wilt and get wrinkled. If these symptoms appear it is too late for this plant to survive. If this mass is poked into, there will probably be larvae of other insects there also, eating the decaying tissue or the other larvae. Infested plants are very likely to be attacked by bacteria and break down into a slippery, smelly mass of tissue and

woody fibers. The adults consume the agave's stored resources while infesting the bole with microorganisms variously identified as *Aspergillus niger* and *Erwinia carotovora*. The larva infestation and resulting fungus leads to the ultimate demise of the agave.

Physically, *Scyphophorus acupunctatus* is a moderately large, slow moving, 12-18 mm in total body length, elongate-oval form, and uniformly black beetle. Adults tunnel into the stem where they feed on tender tissue. Eggs are laid inside the tunnels and larvae bore into the crown of the plant. Larvae pupate within the roots. Infestation rates seem to vary by Agave specie, locale, weather and bloom status. Early studies indicated that *Scyphophorus acupunctatus* was only found in blooming or nearly blooming plants due to a change in chemical defense where saponins are translocated from the the rosette to the inflorescence. More recently, studies involving cultivated *Agave tequilana* Weber, blue var., plants for tequila production found up to 25% were infested at the crowns of Agaves received at tequila factories.

Biological controls do exist. Predatory insects include *Hololepta yucateca* and *Iphiaulax* specie braconid wasps. The largest predator is *Homo sapiens*, though this specie seems to prefer the larva pickled or as a protein source. As a *H. sapiens* foodsource, **Conconi et al (1983b)** reported a high protein chemical value, 81%, for the larva of *Scyphophorus acupunctatus*, which breeds in agave. These larvae, according to **Ramos-Elorduy and Pino(1989, p. 83)**, "taste like tender beans and are eaten roasted in tacos, or mixed with a sauce." They are high in the amino acid tryptophane and considered to be of nutritional importance.



brown core, first visual symptom



plant pulled from pot



access hole bored in stem



Calendar of Garden Events - 2008

***March 29-30** The Hemenways' 9th annual Open Gardens and Sale, 9-4 Sat, 9-4 Sun, 5890 Grinnell Drive, Riverside, CA 951-360-8802

***April 5-6** UCR Botanic Garden Spring Plant Sale, UC Riverside. 951-784-6962

***April 18-19** Riverside Flower Show, Elk's Lodge, 6166 Brockton Ave., Riverside, CA.

***April 18-19** Redlands Horticulture & Improvement Society Flower Show & Garden Tour, ESRI Café, 370 New York St., Redlands, CA. www.rhis.org

***April 19-20** Green Scene Plant Sale, Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA. 10-4 both days.

***April 27** South Bay Epiphyllum Show & Sale, South Coast Botanic Garden 26300 Crenshaw Blvd. Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA. 310-833-6823

DUES ARE DUE (Last Call)

Yes, It Is past That Time again. The dues remain at \$12, Twelve Bucks, a dollar a month, far less than the cost of our world famous Society Newsletter, Open Gates.

To make it easier on me, and to pick up mistakes on our mailing list, I'll have some renewal slips at the Meeting. You'll need to fill one out in order to renew.

Or send to: GCSS % Joe Casey, 307 Westwood Lane, Redlands, CAS 92373.

OTHER TABLES

Plant Sales, Discussion, and Refreshments Tables will be opened for the March 2008 Meeting.

Bring your Show and Tell plants to discuss or to get identified or to brag on.. A good picture will also do!

If you can, bring some 'Goodies' to support our popular *Refreshment Tables*.

And a special thank you to those who frequently bring the goodies we enjoy so much.

SAY HELLO TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Carlos Ruiz & Greg McKindly FEB 08
Riverside, CA

Jacqueline Schuk FEB 08
Riverside, CA

Joe & Carmen Strzelec JAN 07
Highland, CA

Let them know the Gates Cactus and Succulent Society appreciates their Membership. Help them with their concerns. Solve their issues. That's why they came to see us! Most of all **TALK TO THEM!!**

HOSTESS DUTY THIS MONTH.

Mary Alice McGrew and Anna Marie Granillo have graciously accepted the responsibility for the operation of the kitchen and refreshments tables for this Meeting. It is a lot of work so help them where you can. Thanks.

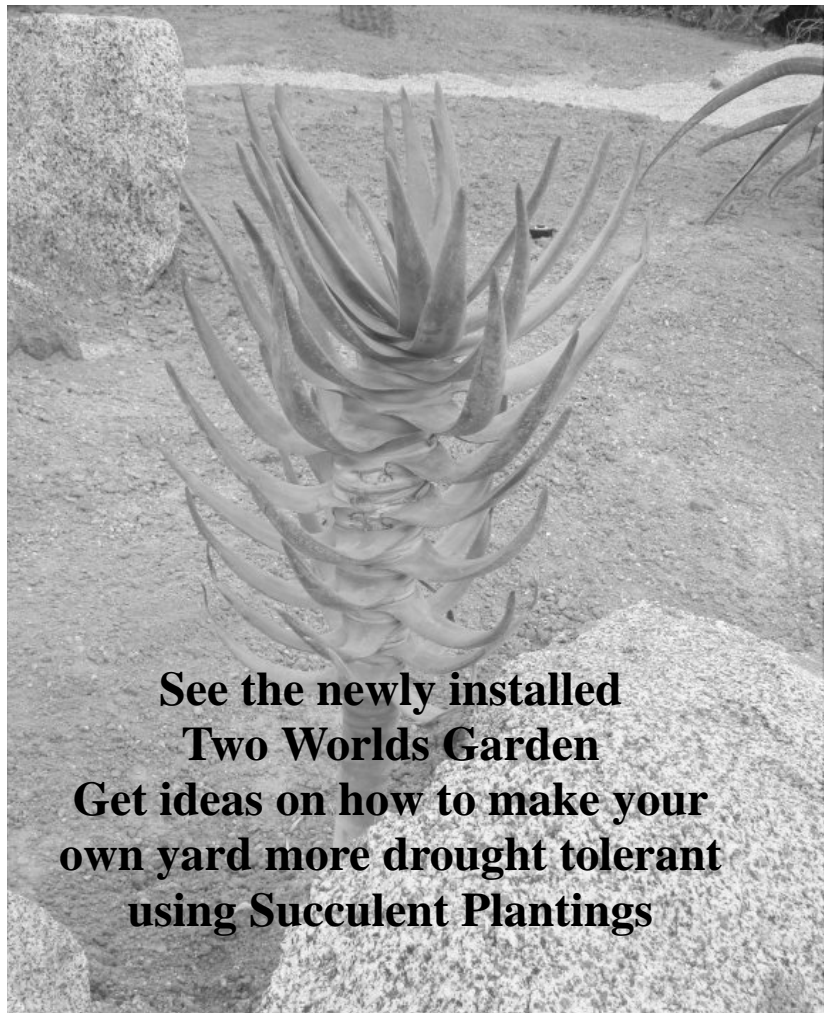
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TO
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GARDEN TOUR
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PLANT SALE
2008**

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9:00AM till 4:00PM**

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