

**NATIONAL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT GARDEN AND  
RESEARCH CENTER, PANCHKULA, HARYANA, INDIA**

By

**Dr. J. S. Sarkaria**



## Preface

My father, Dr. Jagdish Singh Sarkaria, passed away on August 15, 2004. He left behind a manuscript recalling the genesis of the famed Cactus Garden in Panchkula and containing a brief guide on the propagation of Cacti and other Succulents, as well as a detailed description with numerous photographs of the various species growing on the rockeries and in the glasshouses of this garden.

I have completed and compiled this material with invaluable advice and assistance from the Garden's staff and the members of the Cactus and Succulent Society. However, this is still a preliminary version of an intended book. Besides shortcomings of layout and composition---which really come under the purview of, and can be adequately taken care of, only by a professional type-setter---there probably remain botanical and textual inaccuracies. My main object in circulating this document is that these latter be brought to light. I'll appreciate very much if these *mistakes/corrections* are communicated to me as soon as possible (preferably by e-mail) and thank all such people in advance.

I emphasize that the legal heirs of Dr. J. S. Sarkaria have decided that profits, if any, from the possible publication (enquiries regarding this

should be sent to the address below) of this book will be donated to the Cactus Garden and/or Society. These were both founded by my father, and their continued well-being is our only interest in this matter.

Some suggestions have already been received by me from members of the Society regarding the further *improvement and development* of this book, e.g., that material be added in the text or as an appendix so as to make the methods of growing these plants transparent even to a rank beginner; or again, that an appendix be added on their medicinal aspects; and another, on the rules followed in writing and pronouncing botanical names; yet another, on the human interest stories connected with some of these plants, with photographs and brief biographies of some of the discoverers whose names figure in the text; and so on, and so forth (see last page, 248). I hope that this desire to actively participate in perfecting what is, essentially, *their* very own book, on *their* very own Cactus Garden, will become pervasive, and thus ensure that both the Garden and Society will continue to thrive.

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## Acknowledgements

MR. ANIL KAUSHIK helped out my father for the last several months of the latter's life, and prepared the first typescript from my father's handwritten version. The initial photographs were taken mostly by my father and by MR. PARAMJIT THAKUR, some digital pictures were taken later by MR. B. P. SINGH, and a revised map of the garden was provided by BRIGADIER BEWLI. The garden's staff, especially MR. SUSHIL KUMAR and MR. HANS RAJ, were most helpful in clearing many doubts and in identifying the location of the plants on the various rockeries. They are the ones taking day-to-day care of, and maintaining in good shape, this glorious heritage bequeathed by my father to the city of Panchkula, and to all plant-lovers in general. The Sarkaria family extends its heart-felt thanks to them, to the Panchkula horticulture department and the administrators of Haryana Urban Development Authority, and to all the members of the National Cactus and Succulent Association, for the passion and zeal with which they are carrying forth the torch lit by my father. I emphasize that this is a provisional and *very incomplete list* of those who have contributed, and will swell many times as the book develops. Yet, I fear, there are bound to remain some whose contribution I will be remiss in explicitly, or adequately, acknowledging: I can only hope that they will forgive me this lapse.

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