

15. ROCKERY XI



It has an assorted collection of *Opuntia* species. Unfortunately most of these remain unidentified. Hardly any cactophile in India is interested in *Opuntias* due to their vicious spines. *Opuntias* form a backdrop to this rockery. In the beginning is a small *Opuntia tunicata*. This plant with its golden spines forms a good photographic subject. *Opuntia subulata* and *Opuntia imbricata* plants can be easily identified. There is a tall *Consolea rubescens*, and a very big *Opuntia ficus-indica* plant. Several plants of *Opuntia macrodactylis* var. *pallida*, *Opuntia macrodactylis* var. *rufida* and *Opuntia macrodactylis* var. *albispina* can be easily identified. These have formed robust plants. A couple of plants of *Opuntia depressa* are also here.

There are four very big *Opuntia* species plants at the end. These plants are good attraction for visitors and photographers when in flowers or full of ripe fruit.



Adenia venenata

In front at the beginning of this rockery are two plants of *Adenia spinosa*. These were showing robust growth, but during the severe winter this year, the epidermis of their caudices has been badly scorched. Luckily they have survived the winter. Next to these are two plants are of *Adenia venenata*. It came as a three cm. diameter tuberous plant from JOHN

LAVRANOS in the early seventies. It was a field collected plant from YEMEN. The plant showed a very vigorous growth and over the years developed caudex about seventy-five cm in diameter. Then suddenly for no obvious reason, rot set in the caudex. Most of the caudices was salvaged after removal of the rot. The two plants of *Adenia venenata* with large caudex are from the original parent. *Adenia globosa* was also planted. It was a small plant that could not survive the severe winter. There are four large groups of *Ferocacti*. The first one is a group of 12 *Ferocactus glauscensis*. The next is a group of ten *Ferocactus herrerae* followed by a group of *Ferocactus hamatacanthus*, *Ferocactus herrerae* and two large plants of *Echinocactus platycanthus* which are nearly sixty cm in diameter. The last group consist of *Ferocactus herrerae*. A 2.75 meter high *Pachycereus prinjlei* plant is also near the end of this rockery. In front of the *Pachycereus* there is a large tree of *Bursera hindsiana*, trained in topiary style. Several small groups of *Xerosycios danguyi* are also there. There are a couple of groups of some *Tephrocacts* species as well.

16. ROCKERY XII



Across from Rockery XI, this is a group plantation, on an undulating ground. This feature has plantation of 20 *Pachypodium lealii* ssp. *saundersii* plants. Most of the plants now have large caudices some being about 70 cm in diameter. During the rainy season these plants give good display of their white flowers. Interspersed with these *Pachypodiums* is an extensive plantation of *Adenium obesum* plants.

There are five large plants of *Adenium obesum* var. *multiflorum*. During the summer these plants are covered with hundreds of pink flowers and attract lot of visitors to them. There are three plants of *Adenium bohemians*. They flower during the rainy season and their flowers are pink

with magenta tinge. There is one plant of *Adenium obesum* var. *arabicum*. This plant is a propagation of a field collected plant from SOMALIA by the late MR S. P. MEHRA of Delhi. The other ten plants are from cuttings of other clones of *Adenium obesum*. This feature has a good ground cover of *Aptenia cordifolia*, a member of the *Mesembryanthemum* Family. This is a freely branching prostrate species, with thick cover of small deep green succulent leaves. During summer it has plenty of small purple red flowers. Six small plants of *Pachypodium lamieri* have been planted near the border skirting the large water pond.

The path running between Rockeries XI and XII across a small bridge over the pond brings us to the last mound.

17. ROCKERY XIII



This feature was developed as the first outdoor plantation of taller growing *Pachypodiums*. At first, two *Pachypodium geayi* and three *Pachypodium lamieri* were planted. As these plants showed good growth, later one plant *Pachypodium rutenbergianum* var. *rutenbergianum*, one *Pachypodium lealii* var. *lealii* and one *Pachypodium ambogensis* were planted on this feature. All these have shown good growth. One *Pachypodium geayi* and *Pachypodium rutenbergianum* had their tops

scorched during one winter frost, but they managed to survive. Except *Pachypodium lealii* and *Pachypodium rutenbergianum*, other species flower profusely during summer, but only *Pachypodium lamieri* and *Pachypodium ambogensis* set seeds. Three *Adenium obesum* plants are also on this rockery. One of them *Adenium obesum* var. *multiflorum* is about two meters tall with a caudex of about fifty cm diameters. This plant is a shy bloomer. Six smaller *Pachypodium lamieri* and five *Pachypodium lealii* var. *saundersii* are also here. There are three grouping plants of *Euphorbia dideroides* at the back along the border of this rockery.

This completes the plantation of Cacti and Succulents on different rockeries. In front of the fence of this garden several groups of different species of palms have been planted. Open spaces near the city park boundaries have plantation of several species of forest trees. Near the parking lot adjacent to the Administrative building, two species of *Moringa* and *Uncrina* have been planted. The large water pond near these rockeries has three varieties of WATER LILIES. Their yellow, mauve and pink flowers during the summer make the landscape attractive. This pond has been stocked with MIRROR CARP fish. These have grown about a meter long. One can easily spot them sheltering near the water lily groups. Some of them are golden orange in colour, commonly called KOI FISH.