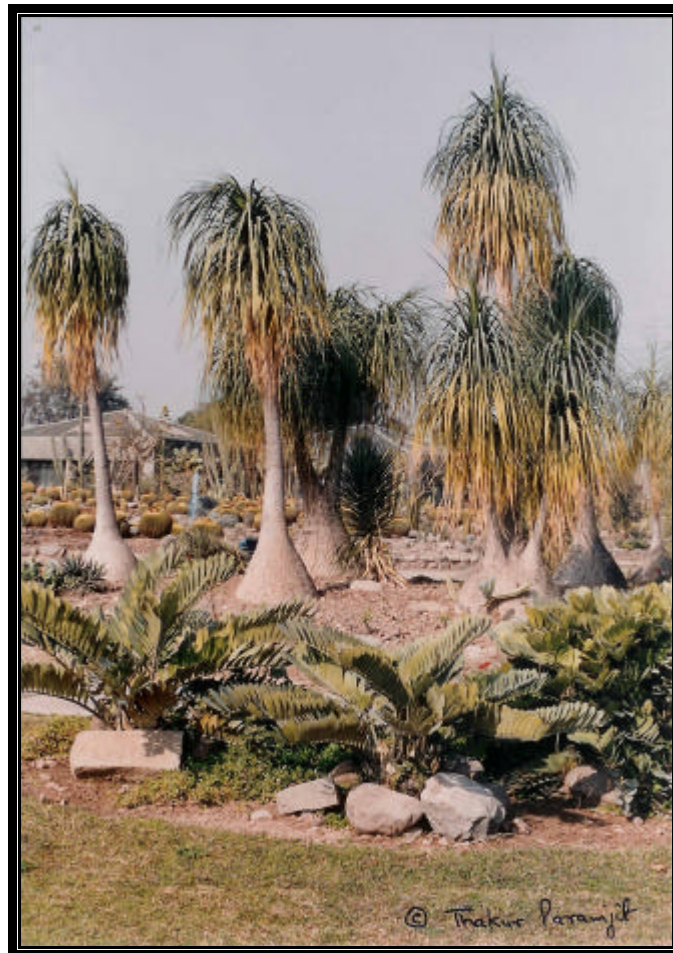


9. ROCKERY V



This is more or less triangular in shape. At the broad-based eastern end is a very beautiful collection of *Nolinas* and/or *Beaucarneas* (some plants of these genera, of families *Nolinaceae* and *Agavaceae*, respectively, are now considered identical). This collection, planted during its early days,

is one of the most attractive sights of the garden. All the plants have very big caudices, some being more than one metre thick, and two to three metres high. Seeds of some of these plants came to us as *Nolina longiflora*, but the leaves of our plants are not so long as shown in JACOBSON's book on Succulents. Otherwise the character of the leaves, apart from their length, is identical to their description in the text. There are a few plants of *Nolina recurvata* as well.



There are plants of *Beaucarnea gracilis* and *Beaucarnea stricta* also in this group. In front of this group in the middle is a very big plant of *Dasyilrion longissimum*. The long gracefully bent bluish green leaves with small teeth on margins make it a very graceful plant. This species flowers every year but unfortunately they do not set seeds here. The same is true of *Nolinas* and *Beaucarnia* which do not set seeds. A couple of very large *Jatropha podagrica* plants grow at one end of the *Nolina* plantation. This species forms very large, up to two metres high, plants with caudices about twenty to thirty centimeters in diameter, and bloom profusely during summers.

Behind the *Nolina* plantation along the North-Eastern side is the *Euphorbia* collection. At the Eastern end there is a large plant of *Euphorbia royaleana*. Near this there is another large majestic plant of *Euphorbia cooperi* and a smaller struggling plant of *Euphorbia grandicornis*. *Euphorbia antisiphilitica* has grown into a very long bush. Another large *Euphorbia trianlii* plant further north in the background has grown into a small tree. A field collected plant of (probably) *Euphorbia riebeckii* from Yemen also grows here. Further North in the background is a tall three stemmed plant of *Euphorbia virosa*. This too is from a field collected seedling sent by JOHN LAVRANOS. *Euphorbia xylophylloides* growing in

front of *Euphorbia virosa* has grown into a very big bush. Near the Northern end are large plants of *Euphorbia nerifolia*, *Euphorbia cauducifolia*, *Euphorbia barnhardtii*, and a couple of *Euphorbia trigonafa* variegata. In the middle zone spread over this rockery are several plants of *Euphorbia milii*, its variety *splendens*, and a couple of unidentified but beautiful varieties. There are a few big groups of *Euphorbia hislopi*. A very big group of *Euphorbia dideriodes* is in front near the middle. There are two smaller groups of this attractive species. There are a couple of groups of *Euphorbia heteropoda* and *Euphorbia lowii*.

Recently several smaller growing attractive species have been planted. Seven *Euphorbia miruui* plants form an attractive group near middle. Outdoors this plant is showing robust growth. Small plants of *Euphorbia caput-medusa* and *Euphorbia maleolens* have also been planted. Two plants of *Euphorbia horrida* and a single plant of *Euphorbia fruticosa* have also established here. In front several plants of *Euphorbia mammillaris* and its hybrids have been planted in small groups. These plants have started offsetting and should form very attractive groups in a couple of years. There are two plantations of some *Monadenium* species. A smaller group near the Eastern end has *Monadenium ellenbeckii* and *Monadenium guentheri*. There is large group of *Monadeniums* near the middle. A couple of plants of

Monadenium schubei at the back already show branching and will form attractive groups in the near future. *Monadenium guentheri* and *Monadenium ellenbeckii* plants show robust growth. *Monadenium staplekiudes* is also in the process of forming groups. There are two more species which are unidentified so far.

Recently several plants of *Euphorbia splendens* hybrids have been planted. These large bright flowers add colour to this rockery in winter.

On the South-Western face of this rockery efforts are being made to plant members of the *Crassulaceae* Family and few plants of *Mesembryanthemum* Family.

During the last winter followed by some heavy rains during this monsoon, most of the recent plantation of *Crassulaceae* Family was wiped out. A few plants of *Echeveria metallica*, a hybrid *Pachyveria*, a few *Pachyphytums* a couple of species of *Kalanchoe*, some *Sedum* and *Pachyphyllum* plants have survived. Now efforts are being made to reintroduce the species which could not survive earlier. They have been planted in small pots and are being acclimatised in cooler areas of the rockery and will be fully exposed gradually. It is hoped that this procedure will have better success rate.

Some large groups of *Aptenia cordifolia* and a species of *Delosperma* have established nicely. Efforts will be made to introduce *Lampranthus* species in the coming months.

This area has the honour to have a majestic, about four to five meter tall *Pachypodium gaeyi* plant. This was the first *Pachypodium* plant acquired by me from CHARLES GLASS when I had visited his collection. In nature *Pachypodium gaeyi* becomes eight to ten meters tall. This plant is about five meters tall and about thirty-five cm. thick at the base. The tall spiny trunk tapers very gradually and the end divides into two main branches, and then further branches to form a canopy about one and a half meters across. The thin leaves with a prominent red rib form small terminal rosettes. This plant flowers every summer but has not set any seeds. For the last five years a squirrel and some birds have an annual fight to nest in its branches. Two more plants of *Pachypodium lamieri* have also been planted which are about three meters high. Several very large plants of *Jatropha podagrica* with very big caudices are also in this area.

CYCAS COLLECTION. An effort has been made to develop an outdoor collection of *Cycads*. These are long living plants and sometimes old *Cycads* are described as living fossils. We have succeeded in developing a small collection of these plants. The area across the path near the

Crassulaceae collection extending up to the large water tank has several species of cycads. Three beds near this path have several large offsetting *Zamia furfuracea* plants. These are beautiful groups. Another species of *Zamia* which came to us as *Zamia floridana* has been recently planted. At the South-eastern area are large plants of *Cycas circinalis*. I had field collected these plants from a hill about ten miles North of Madurai in Tamilnadu. These plants are showing robust growth. Several groups of *Cycas revoluta* are growing along the banks of the large water body. Apart from these we have five more species which have not been properly identified. It is very difficult to procure authentically identified *Cycads* in India. Moreover the plants are very costly.