fall of Jandia will give clues to successful cultivation, but it must also be remembered that the cold Canary Current frequently causes mist and that both the seasonal and diurnal temperature ranges in such a region are minimal.

References


MRS. WINKLER AND PEDIOCACTUS WINKLERI HEIL

During a 1975 excursion in the Capital Reef National Park area, the Winkler family of Albuquerque, New Mexico, stopped beside the road for a picnic lunch. While there, Mrs. Winkler found a cactus that was later named in her honor. Not recognizing the species, she collected a few plants and took them to Dr. Edward Castetter (1891-1978, Professor of Botany, University of New Mexico, and an eminent cactologist) for identification. He misidentified the species as Pediocactus bradyi and assumed the new site was just an extension of the plant’s known range. Later, Mrs. Winkler could not recall the location where the species was collected, and the cactus remained an enigma for nearly a decade.

About 1976, while Prince Pierce, a student of the Cactaceae, was helping Dr. Castetter write The Cacti of New Mexico (never published), the distribution of Pediocactus bradyi was debated. He mentioned to Kenneth Heil that this species had been reportedly found in Canyonlands National Park, Utah. Heil, who was familiar with the area and had never observed the species there, was skeptical. It turned out that Pierce had been mistaken about the site. Upon questioning Mrs. Winkler further, Pierce learned that the cactus was found in Capital Reef National Park, not Canyonlands. Pediocactus bradyi had not been reported from Capital Reef, either, so Heil telephoned Mrs. Winkler for more information. She could not remember the site where the plant had been collected, but promised to check on the matter and let Heil know. After a 6-month lapse, Heil received a letter from her. Mrs. Winkler wrote that she simply could not recall the plant’s location but remembered distinctly that it was growing in oyster shells, a type of carbonate soil she knew very well. Mrs. Winkler enclosed a picture of the plant which convinced Heil that the cactus was not P. bradyi.

In the spring of 1977, Heil and companion Chris Russell set out to find the plant. A check on a topographic map showed an oyster shell reef, and Heil figured this would be a logical place to begin. But after a thorough, all-day search of the area, they failed to find the cactus. Quite discouraged, they debated whether to go south to Bullfrog, Utah, for the night, or head north and continue searching. Fortunately, they went north and began following a Chevrolet “Blazer” driven by a woman. They followed her until she parked at her ranch house door. She wondered why she had been followed. When Heil explained his quest, she informed him of another oyster shell reef in Wayne County and told him how to find it. Heil and Russell drove to the location, arriving at nightfall. Immediately upon leaving the vehicle Heil spotted the cactus. He knew at once that it was a new species.

However, he was forced to wait another year to describe the plant. The drought of 1977 was so severe that the cactus failed to bloom in habitat, forcing him to return the following year for flowering specimens. Once seed was obtained, Heil published the description for Pediocactus winkleri in this journal, 51:25-30, 1979.

On April 30, 1981, Heil’s father, Oliver D. Heil, died in Albuquerque. Visiting him at the French Mortuary on May 2, he observed a notice that Agnes Winkler’s funeral would be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Albuquerque that day.

Agnes Morton Winkler, a retired Albuquerque Public Schools teacher, had been a resident of Albuquerque for 43 years. She died at her home on April 29, 1981, at 77.

Larry W. Mitich