stand a particular member of the Stylothelae, and how it fits into the entire picture, without having studied it in the wild.

The most extreme position to protect plant habitats is that of Peter Lechner, publisher of the excellent new publication dedicated to Turbinicarpus sensu stricto ("the real turbinicarpi, not those gymnocacti!"). We met in the field on two occasions and he politely took me severely to task for having published, with Salvador Arias, the new Turbinicarpus alonsoi, stating that he had known of the plant for ten years but did not publish it, knowing the great sacking that would follow!

For what, then, are we all working? To increase our knowledge and understanding of these plants, especially in the wild, and to facilitate the investigations of others! What are the obstacles? Obviously, the main obstacle is illicit collecting. Which do we stop, the investigations or the robberies? We try to stop the robbery, and that is what has made us so many enemies, who in most cases are those profiting, directly or indirectly, through the illegal material taken out of Mexico and openly offered for sale in Europe, the United States and Japan! I have not illegally sold one seed or one plant since I came to Mexico to live and work with Cante, yet I am repeatedly accused of this by some (who often are profiting from the sale of Mexican cacti) in order to discredit me as a voice against what they are doing! As Fitz Maurice and I have stated (in harmony), there is, to date, no legal way for a plant of Geohintonia mexicana or Aztekium bintonii to have left Mexico, the only exception being plant material legally made available to Dr. Rob Wallace and his student, Hugo Cota, for DNA studies at Iowa State University. Similarly, there is no legal way by which plants or seeds of this newest discovery, Mammillaria luetbyi, could have left Mexico!

The most glaring examples of plant abductions from Mexico are now well known: the individual from Germany (whose name we know but cannot publish) who removed 2000 plants of Turbinicarpus boerii from the type locality and who went to collect T. alonsoi even before it was published; the hundred plants of T.suobodaee smuggled out of Mexico; the plants of what Riha named as T. mombergeri (a hybrid, by the way), and T.schmiedickeanae var. panarottoi, which Dieter Supthut refused to publish because the plants had been exported illegally!

Among the good news is the fact that I do not know of a single cactus species extinct in the wild due to illegal collecting. The Fitz Maurices and I and a young Mexican biologist, Rafael Ortega Varal, are studying a new mammillaria which will soon be described but which is probably extinct in the wild, but thanks to the waters of the Zimapán dam, not to collectors. It is almost inevitable that M. mathildae will soon be extinct in the wild, but through the expansion of the growing city of Querétaro, not collectors. The other good news is that the Mexican government and local governments are taking forceful steps to protect their native flora and fauna, and it will undoubtedly become very dangerous to pursue the game of cactus collecting in the wild in Mexico without a permit! And then, finally, not only will scientists and serious students of cacti be free to conduct their investigations, but seeing and photographing cacti and other succulents in the wild can become the legitimate tourist attraction it deserves to be!

Charles Glass, Curator of Plants
Cante, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

GILBERT HAROLD TEGELBERG, JR
5 September 1924-19 February 1997

Gilbert H. Tegelberg, Jr., was born 5 September 1924 in Inglewood, California, and died 19 February 1997 in Lucerne Valley, California, after a long illness. He was 72. Gil was buried next to his father and mother in Lucerne Valley on 25 March 1997.

Gil was an accomplished nurseryman and promoter of the cactus and succulent hobby. His seed-grown plants and prize-winning specimens set high standards in the cactus world. For these achievements, he was presented the CSSA Friend Award on 13 May 1992.

Tegelberg Cactus Gardens was started in 1921 by Gil Sr. and his wife Frances. During the 1930s the nursery was one of the very few sources of seed-grown cacti in the U.S. The first nursery location was in Inglewood, California, and Gil Jr. grew up with succulent plants, since a large cactus and succulent nursery surrounded the family home. The Tegelbergs moved their nursery to Lucerne Valley in 1958.

The magnificent award-winning plants that the Tegelbergs entered in CSSA shows were raised from seed. Gil and his father made several seed-collecting expeditions into Mexico.

After Gil Jr. became ill with cancer, he made a tough decision to relinquish his world-class collection of specimen plants. The CSSA contributed money to buy 152 choice plants and additional sums were raised from various donors. The plants were transferred to the Huntington Botanical Gardens Conservatory in late spring, 1992.


Larry W. Mitich