rooting and forming groups, 4-angled, the angles rounded. Leaves 1–2 mm long, soon drying but persistent. Peduncles 1–2, arising from the sub-obtuse apex of stems, erect, filiform, to 12 cm tall, 1–1.5 mm thick at base, few-flowered, drying off after flowering or fruiting. Pedicels to 30 mm long, wiry, 0.3 mm thick but thickening abruptly at the base of the corolla, each subtended by a single deltoid bract. Flowers single, erect, at the end of the horizontally spreading pedicels; sepals glabrous, deltoid, acute, ca. 1 mm long; corolla glabrous, 8–10 mm long, divided almost to the base; tube absent; lobes linear, ascending-incurved, connate at their apices, strongly replicate low down, less so and narrowing somewhat toward their apices, dark maroon low down, thereafter yellowish with maroon transverse stripes, uniformly yellowish in their apical ½; outer corona lobes ca. 1.3 mm long, subulate, ascending, rugulose, wine-red, each bearing at its apex a single, valvate, vibratile, simple, dark wine-red, thin hair 3–4 mm long; inner lobes ca. 2 mm long, 0.25 mm broad, incumbent at first over the gynostegium, thence erect, connivent and produced in a column, apically truncate and slightly emarginate, very dark purple brown.

In several characters C. baradii differs considerably from all other members of its section. The “Chinese lantern” type of corolla is indeed more reminiscent of the corollae of certain species of Brachystelma Sims than of those of any members of Caralluma. This seems to lend further support to the views of Bruyns and Forster (1991), who included the Ceropegieae (and the Marsdenieae) within an amplified concept of the Stapelieae.

C. baradii seems closest to C. moniliformis Bally, from the mountains of NE Somalia. From this species it differs, inter alia, in the following characters:

a. C. moniliformis is single-stemmed, branching well above the base and its branches do not root, usually, when in contact with the soil. The new species suckers freely and the lateral branches root, forming sizeable groups. The stems are much thinner and unspotted.

b. The inflorescences, apical and ephemeral as in C. moniliformis, are borne on remarkably thin, wiry, literally thread-like peduncles and are often in pairs, arising abruptly from the rather blunt apex of the stems. In Bally’s species they are much thicker and “beaded” (hence the specific epithet) and always single.

c. As in Bally’s species, C. baradii bears its flowers on the thinnest, thread-like pedicels but, while in the former these are soft and flexible, resulting in pendent flowers capable of moving in the slightest breeze, in the new species they are wiry, exceptionally long and held at right angles to the peduncle, with single flowers held rigidly upright.

d. Finally, in Bally’s species, the corolla lobes are unguiculate and not connate at their apices.

I have much pleasure in naming this remarkable plant in honour of Dr. Gerald S. Barad, in recognition, not only of his loyal friendship and support over three decades, but also for his many contributions to the study of the Stapelieae.

Reference


THOR METHVEN BOCK

Thor Methven Bock is remembered as the co-author of Cactaceae, in which he collaborated with W. Taylor Marshall in updating the work of Britton and Rose. The 248-page book was published in 1941 by Abbey Garden Press, Pasadena, and has become a minor classic. Bock contributed the 30 plates of drawings that covered 146 genera. Little was known about him, except that he was named a CSSA Fellow sometime prior to 1945 and died in April 1973. Now, additional information has come to light. He was born in Illinois on January 20, 1907, the son of Richard W. Bock, an immigrant from Germany, and Martha Methven, an Ohio native. In the 20 years prior to his death on April 25, 1973, at age 66, he had been a technical artist with North American-Rocketdyne in the aerospace industry. He was a resident of Northridge, California, at the time of his death. His spouse, Mabel, survived him.

Larry W. Mitich