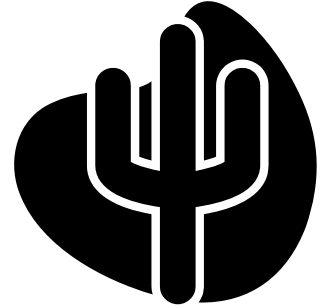




NEW YORK CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY



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NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is on Tuesday October 16, 2007 at 6:00 p.m., at Jan Hus Presbyterian Church, 351 East 74th Street, NYC, Room 101 (above Lobby). The meeting will be from 6.00 PM to 7:45 PM.

PROGRAM

Fellow member and NYCSS webmaster Suzanne Bernard will give us a presentation on Stapeliads. She will be discussing the many varieties of this very popular succulent, their cultivation and care, and will have several plants on hand for all members to view. If any of you out there have any Stapeliads, bring them along for showing off. For those of us that have seen the many Stapeliads and their spectacular flowers at Dr. Barad's greenhouses, this presentation should be a real treat.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Quite a few membership dues are still outstanding, so please mail in your dues as soon as possible or bring your dues to the next meeting.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

The September meeting at Phil Elenko's home was a huge success. Phil's plant collection was enjoyed by all, as was his gracious hospitality.

Thank you again, Phil!

PLANT TABLE

Don't forget to bring in some plants for our first plant sale of the new meeting season.

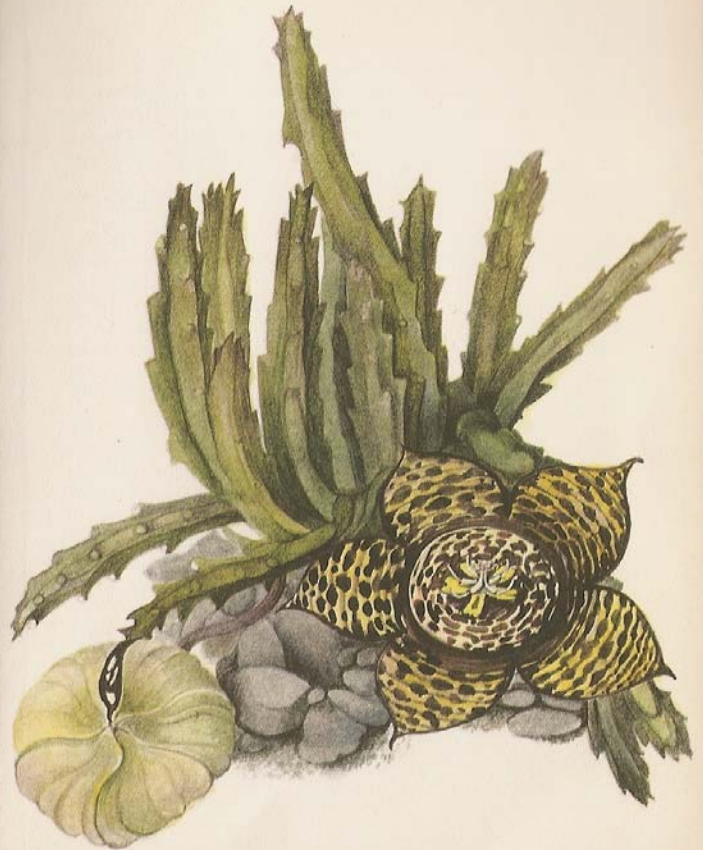
Stapelia variegata L.

This plant forms thick clumps of short stems, about 10 cm long, coloured green to grey-green, often reddish in the sun, with narrow, erect teeth. The buds, one to five in number arise at the base of new shoots; they are pale green, swollen and borne on short stalks. The open flower is flat, fleshy, 5 to 8 cm across, wrinkled, dull yellow inside with dark brown spots scattered over the surface or arranged in irregular rows. Inside the flower is a thick somewhat rounded ring, coloured dull yellow with small brown spots. The corolla lobes are broadly ovate, bending back in time. Like *S. grandiflora*, the odour is that of rotting meat.

Habitat: South Africa — Cape Province.

The specific name *variegata* means variegated.

Specialized collections contain many varieties differing from one another in coloration and also in the size and arrangement of the spots on the flowers. *Stapelia variegata* is one of the succulents that grows well under many kinds of treatment. It does just as well in heavy clay soil as in light sandy leaf-mould, in the sun as in partial shade. It is popular for the easy and rapid propagation from the shoots and for its flowering properties, the blooms emerging throughout the summer until late autumn. In winter it requires light, the sparing application of water — only enough to keep the shoots from becoming too dry, and a temperature of 7° to 10°C. It is propagated from the shoots, which are planted in flower-pots as soon as they have dried, and also from the seed, but the latter only if it is certain that it is a pure strain.



Stapelia grandiflora Mass.

This plant forms clumps of quadrangular stems up to 30 cm high, 3 to 4 cm thick, intense green, convex, and covered with fine hairs. The edges of the stems are compressed and toothed. The pointed, swollen pink buds emerge at the base of a new shoot on short stalks, always several in a group. The corolla lobes are triangular, purple, horizontally striped, and thickly covered with soft, grey hairs.

Habitat: South Africa — Cape Province.

The specific name *grandiflora* means large-flowered.

Stapelia grandiflora attracts even the uninitiated by the structure and size of its flowers, which are among the largest in the whole genus. All species of *Stapelia* are interesting, unusual succulents, cultivated by specialists along with *Caralluma*, *Trichocaulon*, *Hoodia*, *Huernia*, *Piaranthus*, etc.

Stapelia grandiflora is easy to cultivate. It grows just as well in a sunny spot as in partial shade in the greenhouse, hotbed or on the window-sill. Each stem bears five or six purple flowers a year. These are up to 15 cm in diameter and have an unpleasant odour. *Stapelias* should be planted in low flower-pots or bowls filled with porous, clay soil. They are propagated from shoots which are left to dry in the sun for several days and then planted in sandy soil where they quickly take root, at which stage water is applied. The plants can also be propagated from the seed which germinates in two to three days in a warm and moist atmosphere. The seedlings are delicate.

