

SEDUM BURRITO A New Species from Eastern Mexico

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In a small nursery in Coatepec, Veracruz, in 1935, Eric Walther found a handsome pendent succulent plant, known locally as *Cola de Burro* — meaning burro's (or donkey's) tail (Walther 1936). Flowering three years later in California, in the garden of Dr. Meredith Morgan, this proved to be a new and very distinct species of *Sedum*, which Walther (1938) named *Sedum morganianum*. Easily propagated by its leaves, it is now widespread and well known in cultivation, where it makes beautiful hanging baskets, with densely leafy stems trailing to three or four feet.

Walther could learn nothing of the native source of this plant. Gilbert Tegelberg Sr. told Paul Hutchison a few years ago that he had seen Burro Tail growing with orchids and bromeliads on the vertical walls of a deep barranca some place south of the highway from Orizaba to Veracruz. This tantalizing report is too vague to be helpful; but very likely the plant is native somewhere in this eastern part of Mexico.

From the same town of Coatepec, Veracruz, in 1972, the late Barry Coats brought Paul Hutchison a rather similar plant said to be from Mount Orizaba. In 1970 Fred Boutin and Myron Kinnach had found the same plant in a nursery in Guadalupe (Boutin & Kinnach 3221; Huntington Botanical Gardens No. 25059); but it had come from another nursery, and they got no suggestion as to a native source. Paul Hutchison has distributed this plant from Tropic World, Escondido, under the name of "Burrito" [= little burro]; and the Huntington Gardens have distributed it as "Baby Burro's Tail" (or "Burrito"). It seems likely to become as popular as the original Burro Tail.

Plants flowering at Tropic World in June showed this to be a new species closely related to *Sedum morganianum* but quite distinct. To extend the original idea, this plant might be called "Colita de Burro" or "Cola de Burrito." However, the more concise and catchy "Burrito" seems to be spreading with the plant; and despite some culinary associations, it may be taken up as the specific epithet.

Sedum burrito Moran, sp. nov.

Caules pendentes ad 5dm longi 3-5mm crassi dense foliati, foliis patentibus glaucis turgidis ellipticis obtusis 12-16mm longis. Cyma corymbosa 10-30 florata, ramis 3-6 confertis uniparis, pedicellis 8-12mm longis. Calycis segmenta ovata 2-5mm longa. Petala erecta rosea ovata 7-8mm longa

apice rotundata subcucullata dorsaliterque valde apiculata. Typus: P. C. Hutchison 1328A (SD 97022). *Sedo morganiano* valde affinis, sed foliis patentibus obtusis, pedicellis brevioribus (8-12 vs. 14-30mm), sepalis brevioribus (2-5 vs. 5-9mm) obtusioribusque, petallis brevioribus (7-8 vs. 10-11mm) erectioribus subcucullatisque facile distinguitur.

Plant glabrous. Stems branching freely near base, the branches at first erect but soon pendent, to 5dm or more long, 3-5mm thick, glaucous-green becoming tan, densely leafy for 4dm or more, the stem-with-leaves 2-3.5cm thick, the internodes averaging ca. 0.7-1.7 (-2.5)mm, the surface divided by low ridges into areas each conforming above to outline of leaf base but extending ca. twice as far below, the attachment scars oval, ca. 1mm wide, projecting slightly, each with one vascular bundle. Leaves crowded to slightly separated, in 5 obvious spirals, \pm perpendicular to stem at maturity, bluish glaucous, turgid, elliptic, obtuse, 12-16mm long, 6-9mm wide, 5-7mm thick, convex ventrally, rounded dorsally, the margins broadly obtuse, almost rounded, the



Fig. 1. *Sedum burrito*, grown by Glass and Foster in Santa Barbara.

base shortly terete, ca. 3mm thick, contracted to narrow attachment. Inflorescence terminal, a corymbose cyme of ca. 10-30 flowers borne on ca. 3-6 crowded non-circinate uniparous branches with sympodial axes shorter than pedicels. Pedicels 8-12mm long, slightly thickened upward, 1.5-2mm thick. Calyx cup-shaped, 5-7mm long, 6-8mm wide, rounded to subumbilicate below, grooved to base below sinuses, the segments erect, slightly imbricate at base, unequal by as much as 1mm, triangular-ovate, subacute to obtuse, unequally connate to ca. 1mm, the free part 2-5mm long, 3-3.5mm wide, 1-1.5mm thick, slightly concave ventrally, convex dorsally, the margins acute. Corolla in bud ovoid, obtuse, in anthesis narrowly campanulate, pentagonal, the petals erect, slightly incurved in upper fourth, imbricate, connate ca. 1mm, pink, dorsally deeper pink on margins, ventrally closely marked with irregularly confluent short deeper pink longitudinal lines, ovate, narrowly rounded and subcucullate, subdorsally mucronate, 7-8mm long, 3.75-5mm wide. Filaments pink,

Fig. 2. Branches of *S. burrito* (type), 3 June, 1977, X 1.0.

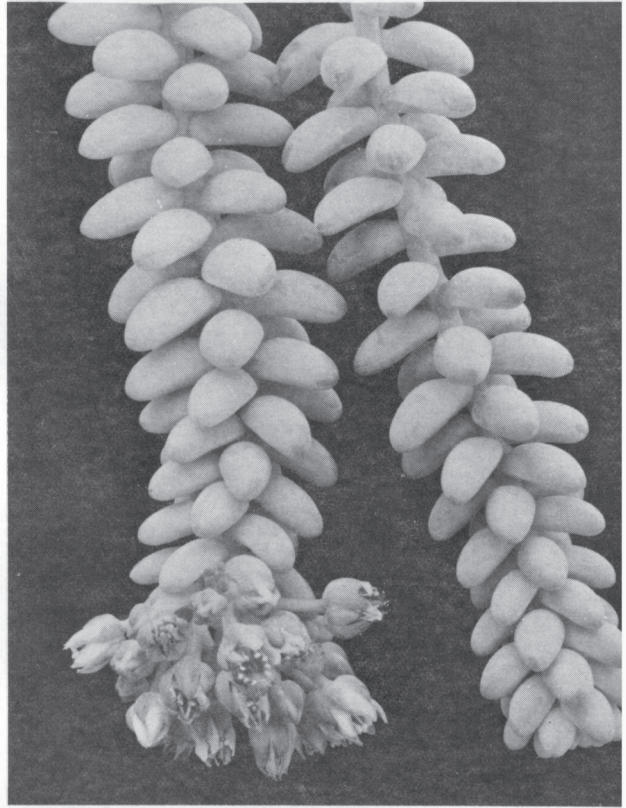
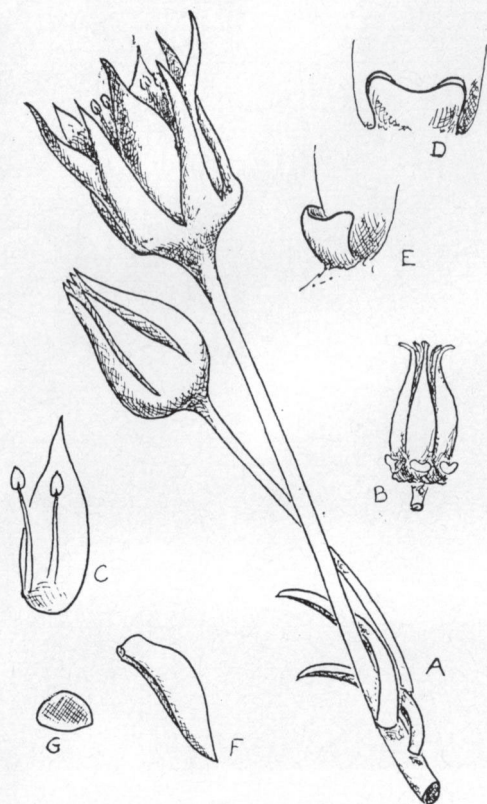


Fig. 3 (below). Flowers of *S. burrito* (type), 3 June 1977, X 1.8.





Figs. 4 & 5. Flowers of *S. morganianum* (left) and *S. burrito*, X 2.5. [Fig. 4, also with nectar glands (D, E) X 10 and leaf (F, G) X 1.0, from Walther (1938). Fig. 5 drawn by Anthony D'Attilio.]

erect, 0.7-0.9mm wide, 5.5-6.5mm high from corolla base, adnate 1-1.5mm, the epipetalous closely and the antesealous more loosely; anthers light yellow, oval, ca. 1.2mm long. Nectar glands deep pink, 1.5-1.8mm wide, 0.3-0.4mm high, 0.3-0.4mm thick. Gynoecium deep pink, 6.5-7mm high, 3.5-4mm thick, the pistils erect, appressed, nearly distinct, the ovaries keeled dorsally, tapering gradually into styles ca. 2-2.5mm long. Ovules ca. 55, oblong, 0.45 x 0.2mm.

TYPE: Bought by Barry Coats in Coatepec, Veracruz, Mexico, in 1972; said to be from Mount Orizaba; flowering at Tropic World, Escondido, California, 2 June 1977, P. C. Hutchison 1328A (SD 97022).

Sedum burrito obviously is closest to *S. morganianum* Walther, which it resembles in habit, leaves, inflorescence, and flowers. How-

ever, it is clearly distinct. The leaves are spreading at maturity and straight, not curved forward; they are slightly shorter; and they are obtuse rather than acute. The pedicels are shorter and a little thicker. The flowers are shorter and their parts blunter: thus the sepals are triangular-ovate, subacute, 2-5mm long, rather than triangular-acuminate, 5-9mm long; the petals are ovate, acute, 7-8mm long, rather than lanceolate, acuminate, 10-11mm long; and the stamens, pistils, and nectar glands all are somewhat shorter. For comparison of the flowers, Walther's original drawing of *S. morganianum* is reproduced here as fig. 4 and the flower of *S. burrito* is shown in the same scale in fig. 5.

REFERENCES

- Walther, Eric. 1936. Collecting succulents in Mexico, Part V. *Cact. Succ. J.* 8:70-72.
 ———. 1938. Notes on Crassulaceae: *Sedum* species, new and old. *Cact. Succ. J.* 10:35-37.

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