



## A Collector's Sketchbook: *Sulcorebutia langeri*

by E. W. Putnam

*Drawing by Gwyn Rees*

Very few members will need to be told what attractive and floriferous cacti *Sulcorebutias* are. Many species are available nowadays and, as with some other genera of cacti, one does sometimes wonder whether there are as many different plants as there are different names. However, *Sulcorebutia langeri* is truly distinctive and outstanding and is immediately recognisable among a collection of *Sulcorebutias*.

The darkish plant body is described as "reddish-violet green" in the original description and the neat white spines contrast very attractively with this background. The rich yellow flowers are produced freely, and the plant is easily cultivated and propagated under ordinary cactus-growing conditions. With everything going for it, this new *Sulcorebutia* will certainly be in great demand as soon as propagations become generally available.

The plant was first described in 1981 by Falkenberg and Neumann in the German journal *Kakteen und*

*andere Sukkulenten*. It had been found by Father Andreas Langer at Pampa Grande in the department of Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The name, given in honour of Father Langer, is at the moment provisional, but it seems likely to be validated as a 'good species' in due course.

Until last summer my only acquaintance with this beautiful plant was through John Pilbeam's book on *Sulcorebutias* and Gwyn Rees' superb drawing. In August I visited a Czech *Sulcorebutia* specialist, Antonín Hlinečný, in the city of Brno, and among his vast array of well-cultivated plants I instantly recognised *S. langeri*, although I had never seen an actual plant of it before.

In 1979 Köhres collected a *Sulcorebutia* from an area about 50 km south of Pampa Grande. This plant has been distributed under the name *Sulcorebutia koehresii*. It now seems likely that this is in fact the same species as *S. langeri*.

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