

DUDLEY GOLD BIOGRAPHY

Chuck Staples, CSSA Historian

Gold, Dudley Blackburn (1897–1990) — scholar of Cactaceae of Mexico and a co-founder of Sociedad Mexicana de Cactologia (the Mexican Society of Cactology).



Born in Butte, Montana on 13 January 1897, Dudley Gold worked in the mining industry and became a scholar of Cactaceae of Mexico. He and his family moved to Seattle, Washington when he was 8 years of age and later to Riverside, California where he finished his high school education. He worked for a time in Warren, Arizona, near Bisbee in the mining industry; however, at the age of 21 he moved to Sonora, Mexico to work for Phelps-Dodge at Nacozari, and then for Anaconda at Cananea (both copper mining companies in the Mexican State of Sonora) where he was sent to Mexico City as a representative in the copper refinery. Dudley retired in 1966 to Cuernavaca, Mexico where he lived for the rest of his life.

Dudley began his cactus collecting in earnest in 1946 while working for Phelps-Dodge. It wasn't long before it became a passion to know more about the plants by studying books on botany about the region's native cacti. He took up gardening with succulent plants, becoming an expert on the plants of the inter-mountain basin surrounding Mexico City. Most of his Mexico City collection was in concrete planters on the roof of his home — many succulent plants from collecting trips throughout Mexico.

Moving to Cuernavaca allowed him to build up an impressive garden of succulent plants (mostly cactus plants).

Dudley, with Dr. Helia Bravo-Hollis (1901–2001), Dr. Jorge Meyran (1918–), Hernando Sanchez-Mejorada (1926–1988), Dr. Juan Balme and Carlos Chaves, founded La Sociedad Mexicana de Cactologia in 1952. He was its treasurer for many years. By 1955 the journal *Cactaccas y Suculentas Mexicanas* was established where Dudley wrote many articles over the years.

For the interest of succulentist three current species were named in his honor: *Echeveria goldiana* (*E. halbingeri* var *goldiana*), *Graptopetalum goldii*, *Mammillaria goldii* (*Mammillaria saboae* ssp *goldii*), and *Sedum goldii*. Dudley also discovered and rediscovered a number of plant species.

Dudley Gold received the prestigious Fellow award at the CSSA Convention held in Tucson, Arizona in 1977 for outstanding scholar of Cactaceae of Mexico, founding member of Sociedad Mexicana de la Cactologia (with 25 years of service therein) and a wonderful friend of all cactophiles. Dudley died among his beloved cacti at the age of 93 on 31 October 1990.

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