



**Figure 5.** *Agave aurea* var. *capensis* north of Todos Santos, Baja California Sur.

small and consist of flowers 50-65 mm long that are reddish brown or purplish in bud and yellow when mature, opening yellow inside.

*Agave aurea* var. *capensis* can be found growing side-by-side with *A. aurea* ssp. *aurea* in the Cape Region, but is easily recognized by its prolific offsetting habit and the smaller, narrower leaves with marginal spines, sometimes set on prominent teats. Gentry (1978) believed that the connective gland located on the stamen where the anther is affixed to the filament is a structure unique within the Campaniflorae and is well developed in *A. aurea* var. *capensis*, and although we believe this one floral character to be important enough to segregate the taxon at a varietal level, it is insufficiently important to justify maintaining this as a unique species.

***Agave aurea* BRANDEGEE var. *capensis* (GENTRY)**  
R.H.WEBB & G.D.STARR comb. nov (Fig. 5)

**BASIONYM:** *Agave capensis* GENTRY, *Occas. Pap. Calif. Acad. Sci.* No. 130: 72. 1978.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Cabo San Lucas and vicinity, BCS, July 1964 (Gentry & Fox 11247, US) (Fig. 2).

This variety differs from other members of the Campaniflorae primarily because it prolifically offsets by axillary budding, which creates large clusters of short-stemmed rosettes 60-80 cm tall and 80-120 cm wide. The gray-green, lanceolate leaves with a light glaucous covering are mostly 30-60 cm long by 4-7 cm wide and can be straight to arching with an undulate margin. The reddish brown to grayish marginal spines are 4-5 mm long, spaced about 1-2 cm apart on short mammillate bases, and the terminal spine is dark brown, 1.5-3 cm long, and decurrent for 1-2 cm on the leaves. The inflorescence typically is 2.5-3.5 m tall with 15-24 lateral branches that are up to 30 cm long and ascending, and the umbels are