

*Cleistocactus baumannii***FACTFILE****Size:**

Stem to 1 in (2.5 cm) broad and 3-7 ft (1-2 m) long.

Number of ribs:

Up to 16.

Spination:

Yellow, brown, dark red, black or whitish. Radial spines 15-20, to 0.6 in (1.5 cm) long; central spine 0.4-1 in (1-2.5 cm) long.

Flower:

Tubular, to 2.8 in (7 cm) long, slightly bent, flame-red.

Distribution:

Northern Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay

Winter treatment:

Keep above 36°F (2°C).

Flowering time from seed:

4-5 years.

This is one of a small number of cacti that inhabit the very hot lowlands on the eastern side of the Andes. These relatively flat areas are dominated by thorny trees and scrub, beneath which the cacti grow.

The stems of this species start off by growing upright, but soon begin to flop over, reflecting their habit of seeking support from low-growing bushes and other surrounding vegetation. If this sprawling

habit is inconvenient in cultivation, the plant will need to be staked upright to keep it out of the way. In cultivation the flowers are produced much less freely than in some other members of the genus *Cleistocactus*.

The plant illustrated is growing in habitat near Cruz del Eje in northwestern Argentina, flowering in mid-November (May-June in cultivation in the northern hemisphere).

*Lobivia hertrichiana***FACTFILE****Size:**

Single heads more or less globular, 1.6-4 in (4-10 cm) high and some 1.6-3.2 in (4-8 cm) across, soon offsetting to form clumps of 100 or more heads.

Number of ribs:

10-20, rather acute, with deep transverse furrows.

Spination:

Brownish-yellow. Radial spines about 7, 0.6 in (1.5 cm) long; central spines 1-2, 0.4-2.4 in (1-6 cm) long.

Flower:

1.6-2.4 in (4-6 cm) long and broad, bright red, often with a white throat.

Distribution:

Southern Peru, in the valley of the river Urubamba.

Winter treatment:

Keep above 32°F (0°C).

Flowering time from seed:

2-3 years

This is one of the most free-flowering members of a genus that is noted for its generous production of flowers. In cultivation large clumps (say in a 12 in (28 cm) pan) will produce 100 or more blooms over an exceptionally prolonged period of several weeks, peaking in late May and then tailing off through June and into July. Each flower lasts two days. This species is

rather variable, and has received a few additional and superfluous names, of which *L. binghamiana*, *L. echinata*, *L. incaica* and *L. minuta* are the synonyms most often seen offered for sale. Its more correct botanical placement is as *Echinopsis hertrichiana*.

The plant shown was growing on a steep hillside below the old Inca terraces at Pisac, one of the last plants in flower.



*Mammillaria nana***FACTFILE****Size:**

Individual heads more or less spherical, up to 1 in (2.5 cm) across (to 1.6 in (4 cm) in cultivation).

Tubercles:

Cylindric, to 0.2 in (6 mm) long.

Spination:

Radial spines about 35, very thin, glassy whitish; central spine usually single, hooked, brownish red.

Flower:

Some 0.4 in (1 cm) long, 0.6 in (1.5 cm) across, yellowish-white with a reddish midline.

Distribution:

Mexico, in the State of San Luis Potosi, near Lourdes.

Winter treatment:

Keep above 32°F (0°C).

Flowering time from seed:

1–3 years.

In habitat this species remains as single heads almost sunk into the ground and difficult to spot unless in flower. In cultivation offsets begin to form in just a few years from seed and eventually quite a large clump can build up perched on top of quite a substantial amount of tap root. A more recently discovered and closely related

species, *M. duwei*, is a superb plant covered in feathery whitish or yellowish spines.

The plant pictured is in a 5 in (12 cm) pot and was grown from seed collected by Alfred Lau at Lourdes, his number Lau 1091. *M. monancistracantha* is a common synonym. In habitat this species remains as single heads almost sunk into the ground and hard to spot.

*Neoporteria chilensis***FACTFILE****Size:**

Stem globular, becoming elongated, eventually reaching as much as 5 in (12 cm) across and 3.3 ft (100 cm) long, by then usually procumbent.

Ribs:

20–21, more or less notched.

Spination:

Whitish to yellowish, densely covering the body; radial and central spines difficult to differentiate, to 0.4 in (1 cm) long.

Flower:

Some 2 in (5 cm) across, bright pink, often edged with white or with a white center.

Distribution:

Chile, on the coast south of Pichidangui.

Winter treatment:

Keep above 32°F (0°C).

Flowering-time from seed:

3–4 years.

This plant occurs in thousands on sea cliffs and on rock stacks offshore where they are regularly drenched in salt spray. It occurs with *N. subgibbosa* from which it is impossible to separate when not in flower. Around the town of Pichidangui all the plants of *N. chilensis* have white flowers. Just south of town, this changes to pink and

white, and then a few miles farther south, all-pink flowers predominate. Unfortunately this stretch of coast is being 'developed' for holiday homes and hotels, and thousands of these cacti, which grow nowhere else in the world, are being destroyed.

The plant shown was growing near Pichidangui, flowering in November.



*Parodia chrysacanthion***FACTFILE****Size:**

At first broadly spherical, eventually becoming rather columnar, up to 6 in (15 cm) across.

Ribs:

About 24, in spirals.

Spination:

Golden-yellow, densely covering the body, comprising numerous bristly radial spines mixed with several slightly stouter central spines of which one can reach 0.8 in (2 cm) long.

Flower:

To 0.8 in (2 cm) across, yellow.

Distribution:

Jujuy Province, northern Argentina, mainly around Volcan.

Winter treatment:

Keep above 32°F (0°C).

Flowering time from seed:

3-4 years.

Despite the rather small size of the flowers, this has long been a favorite plant with collectors on account of the dense yellow spination. Plants in habitat are much smaller than the size eventually reached by old plants in cultivation. The roots are rather small, so under-potting is the rule, minimising the amount of wet compost available.

The plant illustrated was grown from seed (very tiny) collected by the author on steep, rocky hills above the small town of Volcan, reference number PM328. This species also grows at lower altitudes a few miles away on rock faces densely shaded by trees, a most unusual habitat. In both sites *Rebutia wessneriana* is also present.

*Rebutia sumayana***FACTFILE****Size:**

Individual heads to 1.2 in (3 cm) across, eventually becoming cylindric, offsetting when still quite small to form small clumps.

Ribs:

About 15.

Spination:

Rather sparse and weak, glassy whitish, exposing most of the green body beneath.

Flower:

1 in (2.5 cm) across, glossy bright scarlet.

Distribution:

Bolivia, Sud Cinti, near Sumaya.

Winter treatment:

Keep above 32°F (0°C).

Flowering time from seed:

2-3 years.

The particular shade of scarlet found in this relatively recently discovered species is quite distinctive, even in a genus with many red-flowered representatives. Like all rebutias, this is a mountain plant which remains much smaller in habitat than in cultivation.

The plant illustrated is a vegetative propagation from

some of the original material collected by the discoverer, Walter Rausch, his number WR738. The particular shade of scarlet found in this relatively recently discovered species is quite distinctive, even in a genus with many red-flowered representatives. This is a mountain plant which remains much smaller in habitat than in cultivation.

