



ECHINOPSIS LEUCANTHA



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## White Torch-thistle

*Native of Argentina*

Family CACTACEAE

CACTUS Family

*Echinocactus leucanthus* Gillies; Salm-Dyck, Hort. Dyck. 341. 1834.*Cereus leucanthus* Pfeiff. Enum. Cact. 71. 1837.*Echinopsis leucantha* Walp. Repert. Bot. 2: 324. 1843.

Plants solitary, globular to oblong, often more than a foot high, usually overtopped by the long connivent spines; the ribs are twelve to fourteen, with the spines eight to ten in each cluster, brownish, the central one usually longer and more or less curved. The flowers are very large for the size of the plant, six inches long or more, with a long slender tube, bearing small scales with tufts of hairs in their axils. The spreading petals are oblong, obtuse, about one inch long, the outer ones pinkish, the inner ones nearly white.

This cactus has a rather wide distribution in western and central Argentina and shows a great variation in form; several types have been described as distinct.

In the living collections of the New York Botanical Garden are several plants of this genus collected by the writer in Argentina in 1915, a number of which have flowered. The plants do well in cultivation and flower freely each spring. The one here illustrated flowered in April 1918; it was obtained in the Andes, west of Mendoza near Portrerillos in 1915.

The plant has several English names, the one here adopted having been used by Lindley.

The genus *Echinopsis* as we now understand it is characterized by one-jointed stems, which are globular or more or less elongate, by slender funnelform flower-tubes, by short perianth-segments and by hairs in the areoles on the ovary and flower-tube. The flowers are similar to those of *Trichocereus* but the habit is very unlike the typical species of that genus.

We now recognize about twenty-five species, all native of South America, east of the Andes.

J. N. ROSE.