



ECHINOCEREUS BAILEYI

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Bailey's Hedgehog-Cereus

Native of Oklahoma

Family CACTACEAE

CACTUS Family

Echinocereus Baileyi Rose, Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb. 12: 403. 1909.

The genus *Echinocereus* is one of the most interesting in the Cactus family. The species, of which we recognize 60, show a wide range in the size and color of the flowers, in the form of the stem, and in the arrangement of the spines in clusters. Some of the species are simple while others are cespitose, often forming clumps or mounds with hundreds of branches or heads.

In spite of these differences there are certain characters which they have in common, which bring the species together into a rather consistent group or genus. For instance, they are all comparatively low, one-jointed plants, with the spines arranged on ribs while the flowers come from the upper part of old spine-areoles, the ovary is spiny, and the fruit is a juicy berry, while the stigma-lobes are always green.

The plant here illustrated was described some years ago; it was discovered by James H. Gaut in 1904 and re-collected in 1906 by Vernon Bailey of the Biological Survey at Washington in the Wichita Mountains of Oklahoma far out of the known range of the genus. One of his specimens soon flowered and then died, and for years we were unable to get other specimens. In 1921 Major E. A. Goldman reported seeing this plant in the Wichita Forest Reserve and through his efforts we obtained from the forest ranger a simple plant and also one large cluster with 25 heads.

One of these heads flowered in the New York Botanical Garden May 1922. It is about four inches and one-half in diameter; it has about thirteen ribs upon which are borne closely set elliptic spine-areoles; the spines are needle-like and brown; in this specimen the flower was borne on the side of the plant a short distance above the middle but they sometimes come out near the top of the plant; the corolla is rotate, about two inches broad, with the segments narrowly oblong and acuminate.

J. N. ROSE.