

# Taxonomy of the Cactaceae : New Investigations

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Since the release of Taxonomy of the Cactaceae, vol. 1 & 2, based on genera, I am now working on species (vol. 3), and during my investigations, I discovered some interesting facts that deserve to be told.

## ***Acanthocereus baxaniensis*** (Karw. ex Pfeiffer) Borg, in Cacti 132 (1937)

About this taxon, Hunt (The New Cactus Lexicon 2006) says: “Although this is the type of ***Acanthocereus*** its identity and provenance are uncertain (Hunt 1998/CCI 5: 13). Zuccarini l.e. quotes Karwinski’s name and source (Cuba) for what was presumably the same plant, but no place-name corresponding to ‘Baxani’ is known in Cuba or has been traced in Mexico, the source of most of his other collections”. But Zuccarini was indeed wrong by saying Cuba as the origin. In Carl Friedrich Forster’s *Handbuch der Cacteenkunde* 1886, a town that seems to have escaped the investigations is specified with the name “Baxos” Mejico, and in *Biologia Centrali-Americana. Botany* v.1 p.540 (ed. Frederick Ducane Godman & Osbert Salvin, 1888), there is a valuable indication of the locality and the source: “South Mexico, between Cordoba and Veracruz (Karwinski)”, while Hunt (CSI 5, Oct1998) gave the same information as the K. Schumann source.

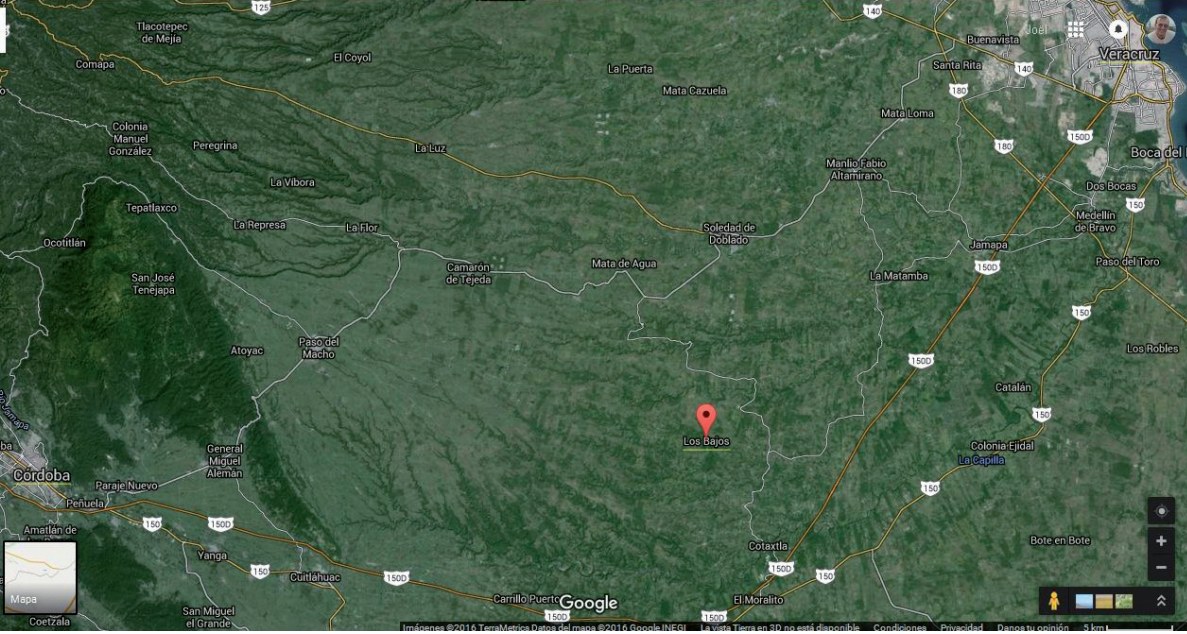
We should remember that the spelling of México, also written with a “j”: Méjico, which is the evolution of the local Spanish pronunciation of the Nahuatl word - that is spelled with an “x” and is pronounced “ch” (xocoatl = chocolate) - to the “j”, the Spanish jota.

In other words, returning to the locality name “Baxos” I searched a place that can be called so, or spelling “Bajos” and located between Cordoba and Veracruz. It was enough to check on “Google Earth”, drawing a line between the two cities (see map), and it comes across a place called Los Bajos, which is obviously not a coincidence.

Now that we have the place indicated by Karwinsky, it only remains to see if this taxon is still present, and if it is indeed a separate species or just a redescription of ***Acanthocereus tetragonus*** as Hunt suggests.

In any case, the possibility of a Cuban origin for ***Acanthocereus baxaniensis*** is now definitively discarded.

Joël Lodé



Placement of Los Bajos on “Google Earth”; the locality is situated exactly between Córdoba and Vera Cruz, as signaled by Karwinski.



*Acanthocereus tetragonus*, Huasteca canyon, Nuevo León, Mexico

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# TAXONOMY: New Combinations, etc.

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## ***Acanthocereus griseus*** Backeberg

Das Kakteenlexikon 58. 1966.

**Type:** not specified; Hacienda Monserrate, Chiapas, Mexico, coll. *MacDougall* A201.

**Neotype:** Arias 1183 (MEXU).

**Note:** C. Gómez-Hinostrosa and H. M. Hernández (2005) consider ***A. griseus*** a synonym of ***A. chiapensis*** while Hunt (2000, 2006) thought it might be a synonym of ***P. macdougallii*** (= ***Acanthocereus macdougallii***). However, a molecular study proved that ***Acanthocereus griseus*** is closer from ***A. chiapensis*** than ***A. occidentalis*** (Arias *et al.*, 2005).

Although declared invalid, because being based on a living specimen, the original plant of ***Acanthocereus griseus*** Backeb. does exist (*MacDougall* A201), is still grown at The Cèdres, St Jean Cap Ferrat, France, and the notes of the collector, *MacDougall* have been preserved (Gómez-Hinostrosa & Hernández, 2005). A neotype is designated above.

## ***Acanthocereus (P.) haackeanus*** Backeb. ex J.Lodé

**Basionym:** *Peniocereus haackeanus* Backeberg, *Descr. Cact. Nov.* III : 12. 1963.

**Type:** Mexico? Found by *MacDougall* (M131), coll. J. Marnier-Lapostolle at The Cèdres, St Jean Cap Ferrat, France, (*Cact. Lex.*, Backeberg 1976, ill. 329-330; holotype: ZSS-000540, in spirit, clonotype MGC 84079).

**Synonyms:** *Neoevansia haackeana*, *Peniocereus haackeanus*.

**Notes:** first invalidly described because based on a living specimen (nom. inval., Art. 37.1), a holotype and clonotype are designated here.

## ***Acanthocereus (P.) marnierianus***\* Backeb. ex J.Lodé

**Basionym:** *Peniocereus marnierianus* Backeberg, *Cactus (Paris)* 85: 103–108. 1965.

**Type:** Mexico, cult. in Jardin Bot. Les Cèdres (*MacDougall* s.n.) (neotype MGC 84078). Not rediscovered since.

**Synonyms:** *Peniocereus marnierianus*.

**Notes:** first invalidly described because based on a living specimen (nom. inval., Art. 37.1), a neotype is designated here.

## **AIRAMPOA** Frič (Opuntioideae-Opuntieae)

Akklimatisations und Versuchs-Garten [1] (1933)

**Type:** *Airampoia aurata* Frič, *Neue Kakt. Sudamer. Hochgeb.* 1. 1929 (typus n.p.? cf. Mottram, 2004: 9). **Neotype:** *Opuntia microdisca* F.A.C.Weber. Designated by Backeberg, *Cactaceae Jahrbucher der DKG* 1941(2): 17. 1942.

The generic name *Tunilla* Hunt & Iliff was proposed by Hunt & Iliff (2000: 8-12) on the grounds that Frič's description could not be identified. However, they appear to have overlooked the specimens left by Frič and the illustration in Kreuzinger (1935: 43) (Fig. 5), which made the Frič concept very clear. He might even have a specimen of *Airampoia aurata* in one of his three herbaria (we only know of the limited one at Prague, which has

only 300 Frič specimens, compared with the 1000 specimens in his private herbarium - still in private hands. Frič was preparing duplicates for Prague, until they defaulted on payment. Sheets in his private herbarium are not currently accessible to researchers, but it would in any case be referable to *Opuntia corrugata* Salm-Dyck, as are the specimens of *Airampoa albispinosa* Frič nom. nud. & *A. rubriflora* Frič nom. nud., preserved by Frič in 1928 that are readily available for inspection.

So ***Airampoa*** is validly published, and identifiable as the group of plants we know today. It is also typifiable from original material, since in the absence of a specimen labelled *A. aurata*, one of the other two sheets are available for relectotypification.

The genus *Tunilla* would therefore seem to be superfluous and illegitimate under Art. 52.1. (Mottram, 2004).

***Airampoa soehrensii*\*** (Britton & Rose) Lodé **Comb. Nov.**

**Basionym:** *Opuntia soehrensii*, Britton & Rose in Cactaceae (Britton & Rose) 1: 134. 1919.

**Type:** Perú, below Pampa de Arrieros, 1914, *Rose* 18967 (US 761558, holotype).

**Synonyms:** *A. boliviensis*, *Opuntia boliviensis*, *O. cedergreniana*, *O. soehrensii*, *Platyopuntia soehrensii*, *Tephrocactus soehrensii*, *Tunilla soehrensii*.

**Notes:** I come back to ***Airampoa soehrensii***, the *Ayrampoa ayrampo* (Azara) Doweld (name used in the first volume of Taxonomy of Cactaceae) being impossible to formally identify.

JL

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