



© GraphicMaps.com



★ Capital City    ☆ Regional Capital City  
 ● Significant City    • Important City - Town  
 □ Attraction - Landmark    ▣ River    ▲ Highest Point

## *Pilosocereus pancheriorum* Xhonneux, New species for Colombia

Guy Xhonneux (Colombia)

Fam : Cactaceae.

Sub. Fam : Cactoideae.

Tribe : Cereae.

Subtribe : Pseudopilocereus.

Scientific name: *Pilosocereus pancheriorum* Xhonneux spec. nov.

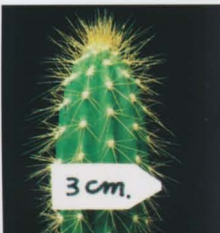

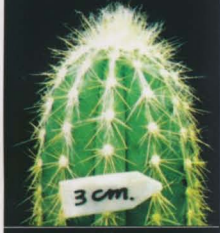
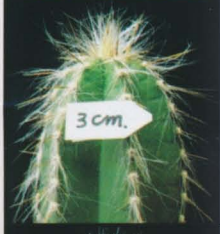


Latin diagnosis: *Planta suberecta, basi, medio ramis (altus 2-3,5m) caules 0,5-2m longi, lati, costae +/-9. Areolae 1,5cm distantes, compositae 12 spinae radicalis, 0,2-1,5cm longa, 2-3 spinae centralis, 1-1,7 cm longi, aurea. Floris nocturnus, alti-ramis, cm longi, cm lati. Petaloidea: rosea, sepaloidea brunea-alba bractee violae-grisacea, pistilus alba-rosea, etaminea alba. Fructus appanata-ovatus, violacea viridis. Semina nigra, 1,3 -2mm x 1-2mm, obovoidea.*

Typus: Colombia, Cundinamarca, Municipio Jerusalem, km 1,5 via Jerusalem-Guataqui, altitude +/- 450 m. Col. G.Xhonneux #2840. Sheet preserved at the National Herbarium of Bogota, Colombia 395332, May, 1996.

Etymology: in honour to the precolombian native people of this region, the Panches.

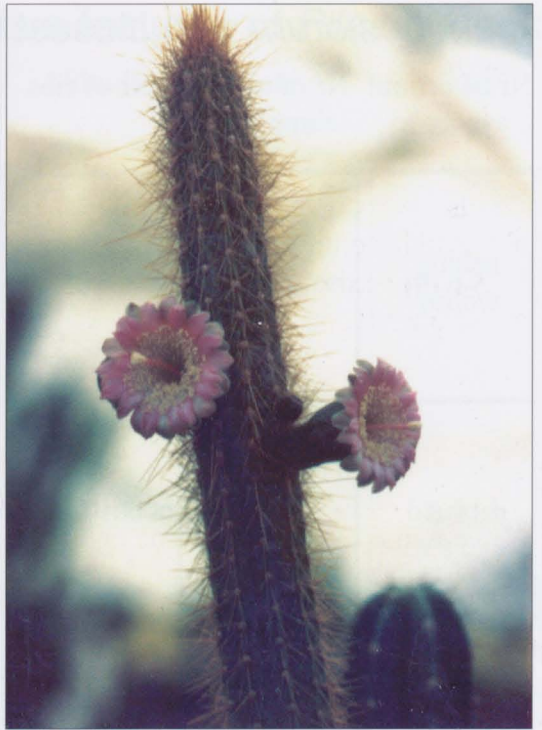
Description: plant branched out near the base with a short trunk (+/-10 cm in diameter). It can reach a height of 2-3.5m up to 4m, according to its situation, if under a tree or a shrub which helps it in supporting its stems; without this help, it does not exceed 2.5 m because the stems are fragile. The stems are 5-8cm in diameter, with +/-9 ribs, of a beautiful light green colour, areoles are separated by a gap of 1-1.5 cm, with 12 marginal spines, golden yellow, the longest of which are filamentous at the bottom (0.2-1.5 cm long) and 2-3 central

## Comparative features of *Pilosocereus*

Taxon	Origin	Altitude	Colour of epidermis	Colour of spines
	<i>panchesiorum</i> Alto Magdalena	200m	grass green	golden yellow
	<i>colombianus</i> Cañón Dagua	800-1200m	deep green lightly bluish	blackish
	<i>moritzianus</i> Santa Marta-Guajira	0 – 200 m	grass green	light yellow
	sp ( <i>patiensis</i> ) aff. <i>tweedyanus</i> Cañón del Patia	1000m	greyish-green pruinose	brownish yellow
	<i>santanderensis</i> Cañón del Chicamocha	400 – 1.600 m	greyish-green	brown with a yellowish tip
	<i>tillianum</i> Venezuela	830m	bluish-green pruinose	intense golden yellow

## *panchesiorum* with closest species

Nr of central spines	Nr of radial spines	Nr of ribs	Diametre of stems	Space between areolas	Wool
5-6 (9)	0	10	5cm	0.8mm	absent
2-3	9	9	8-9cm	1.5cm	1.5 cm long
1	5	11	8-9cm	0.8-1cm	very short
1	6-7	6-7	8-10cm	1cm	3cm long
1-2	8	7	7-8cm	0.8cm	1.5cm abundant
0	25-26	11-12	8-10cm	4-5mm	short



Young plant (left) and flowering (right) of *Pilosocereus panchesorum* (Photos : Guy Xhonneux).



Fruiting of *Pilosocereus panchesorum* (Photos : Guy Xhonneux).

spines of 1-1.7cm long, at the base of the plant, the old areoles have central spines 3-4 cm long, brown in colour.

Flower: nocturnal, 6 cm long, pink with light brown inside, the pericarpel bluish grey, 5-5.5 cm in diameter. Petals lanceolate, 1.5 cm long and 0.8 cm wide, pink. Sepals 1-1.5 cm long light brown, ending in scales covering the receptacle greyish blue and becoming smaller. The stamens are white and are fixed at the base of the petals into the heart of the receptacle, filaments are also white. The pistil is exerted of 1-1.5 cm from the petals, the style is pink, the stigmas (+/-11) 6 mm long, white, the pericarpel greyish-green to bluish is 17 mm in diameter, slightly grooved with some small scales 1-2 mm long.

Fruit: globular, green, 2 cm thick, smooth, waxy, becoming bluish when mature, 3.5 cm in diameter and flattened; when ripe, opening at first lateral, then complete (5-6 cm in diameter, the inside is filled with a red-purplish, very attractive pulp.

Seed: black, drop-shaped, 1.3-2 mm long and 1-2mm wide.

Origin & distribution: until now, I only encountered this species in lower Cundinamarca at a height of 400-600m, between Jerusalem and Guatiqui, it is not easy to find and seems rare.

Comment: nowadays usually included under the name of *Pilosocereus lanuginosus*, but this is a different species of the region considered by some as synonymous. This should be revised, because if the mature plants are rather similar in habitat with the age, the seedlings show that they seem to be very different taxa. A comparative genetic study could allow the complete understanding of the situation, allowing verification and justification - or not - of this regrouping.

Note: this plant is very ornamental as a small plant in a pot due to its yellow spines, but as an adult plant, unfortunately the stems are rather breakable.

Text & photos: Guy Xhonneux  
e-mail: [gxhonneux@hotmail.fr](mailto:gxhonneux@hotmail.fr)

Aknowledgements: thanks to the Institute for Biology of the National University of Bogota, Colombia, to receive and preserve sheets in the herbarium. To Joël Lodé for correcting and publishing this new taxon.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:**

- ANDERSON Edwards: "The Cactus Family", Timber Press, 2001.  
BACKEBERG Curt: "Cactus Lexicon", Blandford Press, 1977  
HUNT David: "The New Cactus Lexicon", DH Books, 2006.  
LODE Joël: "Encyclopédie des Cactées & autres Succulentes", Edisud, 1989-2005.