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April Cactus of the Month

David Van Langen

Echinocereus papillosus



https://www.cactus-art.biz/schede/ECHINOCERE-US/Echinocereus_papillosus/Echinocereus_papillosus_angusticeps/Echinocereus_papillosus_V_angusticeps_SB1787_810.htm

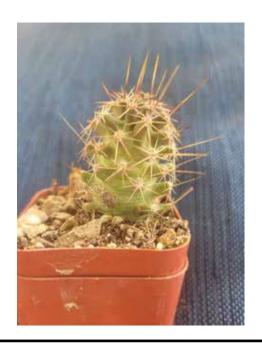
Echinocereus papillosus is a small clumping cactus found in Northern Mexico and in a rather small area of South Texas. Its historical range in Texas is from Laredo thru Freereastward to near Alice, then south thru Hebbronville to near Edinburg, then back toward the Rio Grande River. I would guess much of that habitat has been converted to agriculture. The soil there is mainly a limestone based sandy loam and the typical landscape is one of many thorny shrubs, mesquite and massive Opuntia. Echinocereus papillosus is most commonly found growing under all this mass of thorns and brush.

The green stems of E. papillosus are generally less that 2 inches across and mainly upright to 3-5 inches tall, although some will grow taller and become more prostrate. The main species of this plant usually has 3-12 stems. There is also one other variety found within its range - var. angusticeps-- which stays short but can have up to 50 stems. The inch long spines are fairly sparse and are multi colored with a dark base and light-

er tip. It is the flowers that make this cactus so attractive !!! They are bright yellow with a dark red center-much similar to many Opuntia flowers!!

Though hard to find in the wild and just as hard to find available in cultivation, grab one of these cute little cactus if you get a chance. They claim to be easy in culture, but I find they have an attraction for falling in love with MEALY BUGS !!! So if you do ever get to grow one-- keep a close eye for those critters !!





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