

Echinocereus viridiflorus var. Davisii

Family: Cactaceae

Subfamily: Cactoideae

Genus: Echinocereus

Species: *viridiflorus* var *Davisii*

This very small cactus is only endemic to Texas in Brewster county. It grows on beds of selanginella on a substrate of rocky soil of Novaculite origin. It is seriously endangered, and not expected to expand due to its very specific substrate. This plant was not field collected, but is special to me because we once had a field trip to a Novaculite area. This area is described as Chichuachuan Desert scrublands.

It is a dwarf cactus, green with 6-9 ribs. It is turbinate to ovate, and is only 1" tall and .8" in diameter as a mature plant. It is usually solitary. Areoles have 8-11 spines, which are white, gray, or red-tipped. It is very sensitive to overwatering and should be watered only lightly, with water withheld in the winter months. It is very drought-tolerant, and recedes below the soil with only a few spines visible in extreme drought. Because of this, a well-draining soil mix is mandatory.

The blooms are yellow, green, or bronze and narrow at the tip. The bloom period is February through April.

The plant can tolerate full sun to light shade. It is also very heat-tolerant. It obviously can take freezes, but is in a very dry environment in habitat.

The plant is propagated by seed or stem cuttings.

I purchased my plant in 2017 at TACSS and it was the size of the tip of my little finger. I'm sure it would not be considered a good show plant because it would be judged as immature by judges who were not familiar with this particular species and its small size, although other *Echinocereus* clump and grow much larger. I enjoy it because of its small size and pretty flowers. It resides in my greenhouse and is planted in my cactus mix. It has never had any insect problems, but is becoming corky at soil level.



References

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