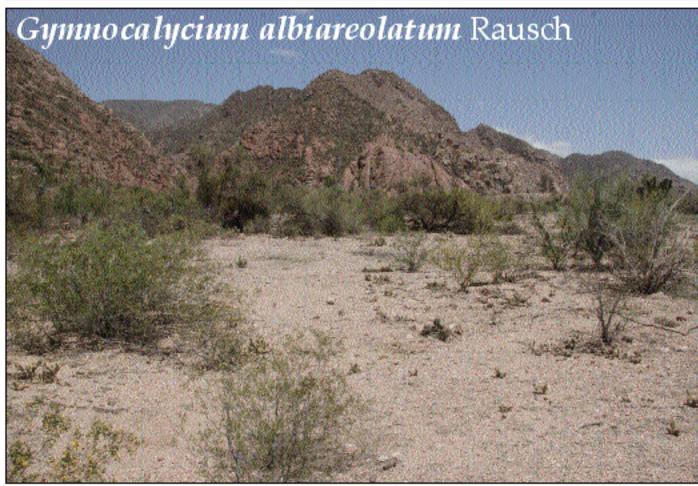
Microsemineum - G. albiareolatum Microsemineum - G. albiareolatum



## First Description (Rausch)

Succeletta 64(10): pp 213-214 (1985)

Gymnocalycium alboareolatum Rausch spec. nov.

Simple, flattened-globular, up to 60 mm diameter, greenish-grey, often tinted violet, with a turnip-like root. Ribs 9-11, straight, upright, with cross-cuts, that form c. 10mm long, chin-like humps. Areoles, round to oval, 5mm long, strongly white felted in new growth, Radial spines 6-7, awl shaped, curved to the body, brown, rough, up to 10mm long Central spines absent.



Fig.269 G. albérardatum, GC977.01 near VIIIa Sanagasta. Piov. La Abja. Aigentha

Flowers appear from close to the centre of the Fig. 269 Habla of crown, 65mm long and 45mm wide. Ovary long G. attagration, narrow, up to 17mm long pointed at the bottom: GC977.01 near Tube dark green, with wide, whitish edged scales; VIIIa Sanagasta. outer petals whitish-pink with a green central Prov. La Abia. stripe; inner petals silvery-white with a greenish- Argan ha pink toned middle stripe. Throat, stamens and anthers pink; stamens are set in 2 series, the lower being curved in towards the style. Style is short and thick, with 11 stigma lobes, whitish. Fruit ovel to club shaped, thin at the bottom, 25-30mm long with a blue bloom, scale wide pink, fruit splitting vertically.

Seed round, hat shaped, 1mm diameter, black, rough, with a wide basal hilum.

Habitat Argentina, La Rioja, near Villa Bustos,

Type: Rausch 716, deposited in the Städtische Sukkulentensammlung, Zurich.

#### Etymology

From the Latin 'albus' meaning white, referring to the white areales .

### Distribution

This taxon has a very limited distribution near to Villa Sanagasta (previously Villa Bustos), Prov. La Rioja, Argentina. It is said to be usually buried in the ground making it very difficult to see when not



La Riga, Argentha

in flower or fruit. Rausch later described a smaller, caespitose form as var. ramosum, although plants with offsets have been reported from near the type

The type locality is said to be about 2km south of Villa Sanagasta on the way to Dique de Los Sauces. Recent housing development and road construction is thought to have damaged the type locality, although during my recent visit I was able to see hundreds of plants in bud and fruit on a gravelly slope near to the town.

### Conservation Status

Vulnerable. Although there are still plenty of plants where there is no obvious immediate threat to them, the total distribution area is believed to be small and near the expanding town of Villa Sanagasta, Recent road development and housing expansion have affected the population near the town, but there is no obvious threat to the remaining plants on the nearby slopes of the Sierra. Velasco.

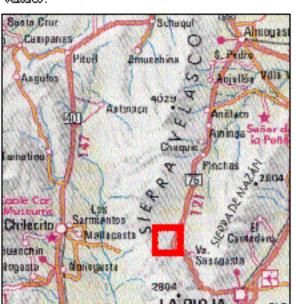


Fig.271 G.albiareolatum, Pilla 384 (rom Guesia Huaco, Pigy, La Rbja, Aigen, ha-

# History

The spelling of this species name was changed from the original by Huxley et al. (1992) supposedly to comply with the ICBN rules. However, although this correction was questioned by H. Till (2005), the revised spelling is used here.

Although at first it was said to be a member of the subgenus *Gymnom lyvium*, it in fact belongs to Microsemineum.

Rausch later described var. ramosum for plants with smaller heads, but this form occurs in the main population

#### Commentary

This is one of the best examples of convergence, where two species of Gymnocalycium from different seed groups grow near to each other and bok so much alike that they can easily be confused. A form of the more widespread G. kisslingii (confusingly called forma alboarsolatum) occurs in a similar habitat nearby, I can find no reference to them actually growing together, rather that there is an altitude gap with G. albiarsolation below 1000m and G. kisslingii above 1500m.

This taxon appears to be a tap-rooted geophytic relative of the G. hossei complex. Like members of this complex, the anthers are red, clearly visible after the pollen has been shed. Meregalli et al. (2000) confirm further similarity in the microrelief of the seeds.

#### Cultivation

This species is quite rare in cultivation Most plants derive from Piltz 221 originally collected near Villa Sanages ta.

It presents no problems in culture and its similarity to G. kisslingii, which is so striking in habitat, is soon lost so that the two are readily distinguishable in cultivation.

Map 37 Localbriof G. albiaredaken In Prov. La Riola. Argen, he

130 131