

# *Gymnocalycium glaucum* subsp. *ferrarii* (Rausch) Charles



### First Description (Rausch)

*Gymnocalycium ferrarii* Rausch

Kuass 32(1): pp 6-7 (1981)

Simple, flattened-globular, 30-40mm high, and 90mm diameter, greenish-grey, with a turnip-like root up to 15cm long. Ribs 10-14, vertical, wavy, humps under the areoles protruding chin-like. Areoles sunken, sitting in the humps, oval, up to 7mm long, grey felted, later becoming bald. Radial



Fig.316 *G. glaucum ferrarii* GC28.04 near Villa Mazán, Prov. La Rioja, Argentina

spines present, in 3 pairs, all slightly curved, up to 30mm long, awl-shaped, thicker at the base, brown to blackish, later becoming grey, the top most pair and the single one at the bottom are a little weaker.

Flowers 45mm long, 35mm diameter. Ovary (skittle shaped, up to 10mm long), tube yellowish-green, with wide whitish-pink scales, outside petals round, dirty pink with a brownish-green central stripe, inner petals round and ragged, whitish pink with a pink central stripe. Throat pink. Filaments whitish-pink, anthers yellowish-white. Fruit and seed type, the same as *Gymnocalycium mazanense* Backeberg.

Habitat: Argentina, Catamarca, near Santa Theresa, on the rough stony sandy hillsides.

Type, Rausch 718, deposited in the Städtische Sukkulentensammlung, Zürich.

### Etymology

Named for Omar Ferrari, Argentinian horticulturist, cactus collector and friend of Roberto Kiesling who often accompanied Rausch on his journeys.

Fig.314 The habitat of *G. glaucum ferrarii* GC982.02 near Villa Mazán, Prov. La Rioja, Argentina

Map 46 Distribution of *G. glaucum ferrarii* border of Prov. Catamarca & La Rioja, Argentina



### Other Names

*Gymnocalycium ferrarii* Rausch in Kuass (1981)

### Distribution

This plant is found along the southern edge of the Pipanarco Basin on the Sierra de Mazán where it grows on steep exposed hillsides in crumbling granite. It often shares its habitat with the most northerly populations of *Pyrrhocactus buibocalyx*. The habitat receives low rainfall, mainly in summer storms which probably occur just when the fruits are ripe. Merzli et. al. (2000) state that the most easterly location is on the Cuesta de Sebile. It looks similar to *G. hossei*, which also grows there, and I suspect that I collected mixed seed under my number GC27.02.

### Conservation Status

Least Concern. Plants at the best known locality near to the main road are less plentiful now than years ago, presumably due to collecting, but there are likely to be unaffected populations elsewhere in the mountains.

### History

Often considered as just a synonym of *G. glaucum*, its smaller size and disjunct habitat in the Sierra de Mazán persuaded me to make it a subspecies of *G. glaucum* in *Cactaceae Systematics Initiatives* 20: p.18 (2005) in preparation for the *New Cactus Lexicon* (2006).



Fig.318 *G. glaucum ferrarii*, Pilz 106 from Est. Mazán, Prov. La Rioja, Argentina



Fig.317 *G. glaucum ferrarii* GC982.02 near Villa Mazán, Prov. La Rioja, Argentina

### Commentary

Similar to the type subspecies but smaller, this taxon grows in the eastern part of the overall distribution. It grows on very steep, hot hillsides composed of crumbling granite.

### Cultivation

The same as for subsp. *glaucum* although the plants are smaller and usually have attractive pink flowers. A deep pot is needed to accommodate the tuberous root.

### Illustrations

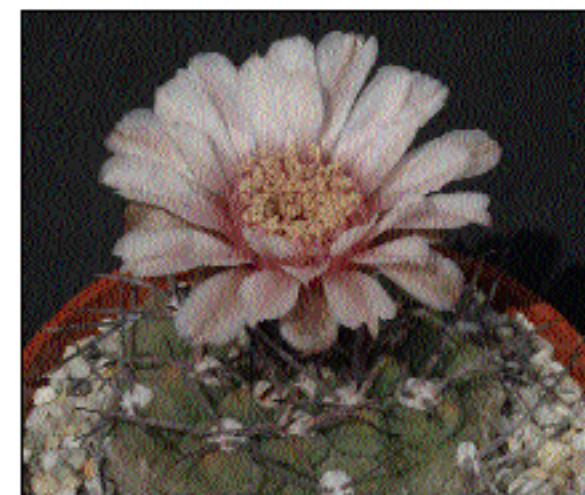


Fig.319 *G. glaucum ferrarii*, Pilz 106 from Est. Mazán, Prov. La Rioja, Argentina