

Cactaceous afterthoughts

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This talk concerns three plants I described that turned out to be not what I thought them to be. *Selenicereus innesii* was based on plants and data sent to the Huntington by the late Clive Innes who claimed to have discovered it not once but three times growing wild on the West Indian island of St Vincent. Years later I visited Innes's old nursery and recognized an old unlabelled plant. The then owner, Terry Hewitt, found a duplicate plant that did have a label; it read '*Aporocactus* × *Weberocereus*'. It might have been an Innes hoax, but more likely poor recordkeeping or a mix-up of labels. *Nopalxochia horichii* was not a result of mixed labels. Clarence Horich found it in Costa Rica growing on a tree with bromeliads and orchids. He sent the plant to me in 1971 while I was still working at the Huntington. Since I published it in 1984 I have been rethinking its status and I now believe that it is probably a hybrid that became established in the wild. The site was only several miles from the capital, San José, and something cultivated in the latter city could easily take root or germinate on a wild tree. The flower and thick stem remind me of *Epiphyllum crenatum*, except that the stems are even thicker and the petals are a rosy red. I suppose *Disocactus ackermannii* or an ally may be the other parent. Horich told me that there were no 'epis' [*Epiphyllum* etc hybrids] in Costa Rica until he brought some from Europe. Regrettably, *Epiphyllum floribundum*, which I described from a plant at the Huntington allegedly collected in Peru by Mildred Mathias, was another case of mixed-up labels. It proved to be yet another garden hybrid, probably involving *Disocactus macranthus*.