

# SULCOREBUTIA CYLINDRICA

A new species from Bolivia

by J.D. Donald

*Sulcorebutia cylindrica* Donald et Lau sp. nova, corpus plus minusve columnaris ad 120 mm altum et 45 mm latum est, epiderme atrovirido. Costae 16 in spiris tuberculorum conterminor um oblique sunt. Tuberculae quadrangulare 5-10 longae, 4-6 mm latae, 3-5 mm altae sunt, areolis 5 mm longis et 2-3 mm latis in sulco dorso summo sitis, 10 mm inter se remotis, 10-12 spinae radiales et ad 4 centrales ad 15 mm longae, omnes albae vel flavae cum rubrofulvis vel nigris acuminibus, sunt. Flores 35-40 mm latae et ad 30 mm longae sunt tepalis flavis saturis, bracteolis flavis cum acuminibus purpureis; receptaculo breve, filamentis stilo et 6-cuspidata stigma omne flavis. Fructus 5 mm diam. baccula aurantiaco-fulva applanata globosa est, seminibus 1,5 x 2 mm nigris, pileiformis, testis verrucosis ferentibus polygonalibus lineis erectis, hilo ovato depresso.

Habitus inter Vila Vila et Cruce prope Puccha (Pushqua) ad 2600 m in colle supra stationem ferrovian. Bolivia.

Holotypus HEI sub numero Lau 335, in Herb. Univ. Heidelberg. depositus.

The plant body is more or less columnar rather than globular, especially in cultivation, up to 120 mm high and 45 mm in diameter, with a deep green epidermis. Mature plants usually produce offsets on the plant body above ground. The body is divided into approximately 16 spiralled ribs resolved into quadrangular tubercles with oblique abutment to each other. Individual tubercles range from 5 mm long by 4 mm wide by 3 mm high normally to 10 mm long, 6 mm wide and 5 mm high on well cultivated specimens on their own roots. The areole is sited on the upper ridge of the tubercle close to the plant body, up to 5 mm long and 2-2,5 mm wide (occasionally 3 mm), with white or buff felt and sunken in a groove. There are 10-12 white or pale yellow radial spines 5-10 mm long and up to 4 stronger centrals, white or yellow in colour, up to 15 mm long with reddish brown or black tips which can give an overall rusty appearance to the plant. The radials can be either pectinate or radiate with the shorter spines at the base and top of the areole. The spines are frequently slightly curved and stiff and horny in appearance. The flower bud appears from areoles on the side of the plant and is pointed, covered by olive-brown to orange-brown naked bracts. The pericarp is pale pinkish brown ca. 4 mm in diameter with naked yellow, tipped mauve, spatulate acuminate scales. The perianth is pure deep yellow consisting of lanceolate segments up to 25 mm long and 3-5 mm wide. The filaments arise over the whole receptacle wall, yellow and 5-10 mm long. Style and 6-

lobed stigma are also yellow. Overall dimensions of the fully expanded flower are 35-40 mm wide by 30 mm long, some forms have somewhat smaller flowers with deeper coloured scales and bracteoles. The receptacle tube is rather short; 5 mm long and 3-5 mm wide, yellow with broad, naked, yellow-tipped mauve, spatulate acuminate scales.

The fruit is a small flattened berry ca. 5 mm in diameter, orange brown in colour with persistent scales and floral remains attached, becoming papery at maturity with dehiscence occurring by a transverse basal slit. The black seeds are ovoid, with a verrucose testa with raised polygonal ridges crossing the surface, the hilum is oval and slightly depressed across the base of the seed.

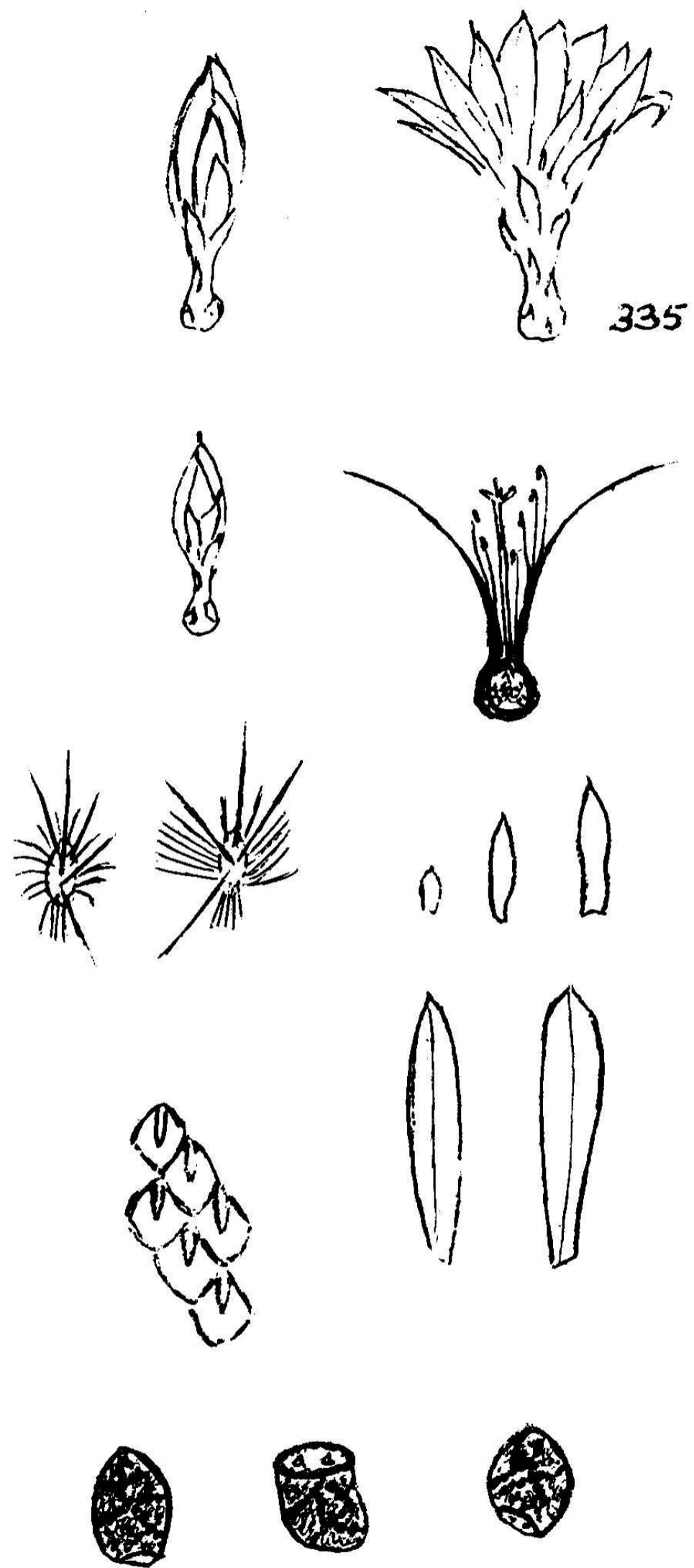
*Habitat* is between Vila Vila and Cruce at 2600 m close to the railway station at Puccha (Pushqua) on hills to the south, Bolivia.

*Holotype* is deposited in the University of Heidelberg Herbarium under the number Lau 335. The plants were discovered by Alfred Lau in 1970.

Alfred Lau comments that the plants grew on very steep slopes of both limestone and granite, mostly on the edge of the slopes and often amongst moss and lichen and fairly frequent in occurrence over a limited area. This species is distinguished by its columnar habit. It is probably closest to the group of yellow flowered *Sulcorebutias* from the Rio Caine area, *S. caineana*, *S. haseltoniana* and *S. breviflora*, which are all flattened globose in habit and found around La Vina in Cochabamba Department.

The remarkable similarity between the seeds of these two new plants reinforces the argument for a combination of the genera *Weingartia* and *Sulcorebutia*, but until this question is unambiguously solved there will always remain some difficulties in deciding the correct genus for these borderline cases. The choice is mostly intuitive.

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*Sulcorebutia Cylindrica* Don. & Lau  
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