

LEPISMIUM CRUCIFORME

By Sue Haffner



Photograph by Daiv Freeman (from Cactiguide.com)

This easily-grown basket plant (sometimes included in Rhipsalis) is fairly common in plant collections. It is also seen more and more in succulent container gardens. For instance, check some of the pictures in Debra Lee Baldwin's book "Succulent container gardens."

It is native to NE Brazil where it grows on coastal rocks and in seasonal forest. It is greatly variable in habit and flower color—cream, yellow, pink or even magenta—depending on ecological factors. Basically, Lepisium cruciforme is a slender cereoid with up to 6-ribbed stems and tiny flowers. There is a larger-growing form available, with stems up to 3 inches in diameter. Stems of both forms can assume a bright red or purple color in good light.

Water it well in summer; keep drier in winter. It is easy to propagate from cuttings.