

## Taxonomic history of *Echeveria desmetiana* & its synonyms

### *desmetiana*

*Echeveria desmetiana* De Smet, in Morren, Esquisse du genre *Echeveria* DC. avec la figure de l'*Echeveria gibbiflora* DC. var. *metallica*, *La Belgique Horticole* **24**: 159. 1874.

*Cotyledon desmetiana* (De Smet) Hemsley, *Biology of Central America* **1**: 389. 1880.

*Etym*: Named for the Belgian horticulturist Louis DE SMET (1810-1887), owner of a nursery at Ledeborg, Ghent, which specialised in succulent plants.

*T*: Mexico, high mountains.

*HT*: No original material is known to be extant. Requires neotypification.

### *peacockii*

*Echeveria peacockii* T.Moore, *Echeveria Peacockii*, *The Florist and Pomologist*, ser.3 **8**: 121. 1875 nom illeg. (Art. 53.1). [non Croucher = *Dudleya pulverulenta* (Nutt.) Britton & Rose]

*Etym*: Named for the plantsman John T. PEACOCK, of Sudbury House, Hammersmith, London, whose extensive private collection of succulent plants was purchased by Kew in 1889.

*T*: Mexico.

*HT*: Plate accompanying the protologue in *The Florist and Pomologist*, ser.3 **8**: 121. 1875. Autotype.

*Obs*: The protologue includes a reference to a different taxon first described as *Echeveria peacockii* Croucher, in *The Gardeners' Chronicle* (23 May 1874). That referred to a plant with pulverulent leaves, introduced from California. A little later, in August of the same year, Baker published a much more detailed description of the same plant as *Cotyledon peacockii*. He explained that "it comes nearest the well-known and now widely-spread *Cotyledon pumila*", at that time the name for *Dudleya cymosa* var. *pumila*, but that it is larger and has a spicate instead of a racemose inflorescence.

In view of the origin of this plant, according to Croucher in California and according to Baker in New Mexico, where only dudleyas occur, in view of its "intensely glaucous colour and persistence of the waxy coating" and its spicate inflorescence, there can be no doubt that the plant in question was a *Dudleya* (*D. pulverulenta*) and not an *Echeveria*, as confirmed by a later engraving of a *Dudleya* under the name *Echeveria peacockii*. That means the name *E. peacockii* belongs to the synonymy of *D. pulverulenta* and cannot be used for a central Mexican *Echeveria* species.

*Ref*: *Echeveria desmetiana* De Smet.

### *subsessilis*

*Echeveria subsessilis* Rose, in Britton & Rose, *North American Flora* **22**(1): 19. 1905.

*T*: Mexico, Puebla, nr. Tehuacan; *William TRELEASE* 718, 719, 720.

*HT*: MO 1300430.

*Ref*: *Echeveria desmetiana* De Smet.