

# Corynopuntia marenae



I obtained a tiny cutting of this gorgeous, diminutive, Sonoran Desert (Mexico) native formerly known as *Marenopuntia* on 16 June 2001 from one of Marc Baker's collections via a plant in Bob Johnson's garden, and it has flowered each summer since. The petals are white with a greenish throat. The anthers are yellow to cream colored and the style is white to cream-colored. This species has long fibrous roots and never seems to grow very tall (up to 20 cm) nor broad. It is one of the least invasive chollas in cultivation, seemingly less invasive than any other species of *Grusonia* or *Corynopuntia*. It grows well in the full sun of Phoenix, Arizona, and it doesn't seem to know (or care) what its name is, though I know of several: most recently *Marenopuntia marenae* (S. H. PARSONS) BACKEBERG was recently reclassified as *Corynopuntia marenae* (S. H. PARSONS) M. P. GRIFFITH (In *Haseltonia* 9, 2002), but it has also gone by the names *Opuntia marenae* S. H. PARSONS, *Pterocactus marenae* (S. H. PARSONS) G. D. ROWLEY, and *Grusonia marenae* (S. H. PARSONS) E. F. ANDERSON (whew!). ❖