

been located (L. Wheeler, s.n.), a 1967 specimen recorded as “flowers rose red; persisting in old garden,” Merritt Island, but handicapped by the absence of all foliage, identified (by J. Beckner, 1967) and later annotated (by D. E. Soltis, 1983) with synonyms of *K. delagoensis*.

The future of *Kalanchoe xhoughtonii* in Florida is perhaps clearer than its past. Though all plants of this genus are interesting, and *K. pinnata* has long held a special fascination because of the ease with which its viviparous plantlets are propagated, the colorful, abundant flowers of *K. xhoughtonii*, the vigor with which the plant grows, and the moderate cold-hardiness which will permit its cultivation at least to the northern peninsula, suggests that with time this taxon will join the multitude of other introduced exotics that increasingly dominate the flora of Florida. But with this expanded cultivation, and the inevitable consequence of escape and naturalization, will also come the problems of invasiveness and toxicity that elsewhere characterize members of this genus.

The epithet chosen here is in acknowledgment of Arthur Duvernoix Houghton (8 June 1870–23 January 1938) who was first to bring this plant to public attention. Though a past president of the Cactus and Succulent Society and memorial-

ized by Scott Haselton⁷ as a “friend of all cactus people,” any surviving contemporaries who remember being irritated by his often innovative taxonomic judgments, and the haughty indifference with which he dismissed a query by at least one then-young aspiring California botanist, may take satisfaction in the synonymy of “hybrid” as attached to his name. ❖

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Cylindropuntia molesta

C*ylindropuntia molesta* (synonyms: *C. clavellina* and *C. calmalliana*) is one of the most ferocious chollas, with dense golden spines and joints that readily detach. It is native to the Vizcaino region of Baja California, Mexico. It grows quickly from cuttings to a 1.5–2 meter tall thicket.

I believe that this is an octaploid species and probably reproduces almost exclusively asexually by means of detached joints. The reddish flowers are not particularly large nor numerous, but are of an unusual bronze-red color for the genus. —Root Gorelick

