



---

## Superb Succulents

Author: Benadom, Duke

Source: Cactus and Succulent Journal, 83(5) : 214-215

Published By: Cactus and Succulent Society of America

URL: <https://doi.org/10.2985/0007-9367-83.5.214>

---

The BioOne Digital Library (<https://bioone.org/>) provides worldwide distribution for more than 580 journals and eBooks from BioOne's community of over 150 nonprofit societies, research institutions, and university presses in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences. The BioOne Digital Library encompasses the flagship aggregation BioOne Complete (<https://bioone.org/subscribe>), the BioOne Complete Archive (<https://bioone.org/archive>), and the BioOne eBooks program offerings ESA eBook Collection (<https://bioone.org/esa-ebooks>) and CSIRO Publishing BioSelect Collection (<https://bioone.org/csiro-ebooks>).





# Superb Succulents



▲ *Gasteria batesiana* is another South African endemic. It's popular in collections and often seen in succulent plant shows. The genus name is derived from the Greek word "gaster" meaning stomach, for the stomach-shaped perianth, which is basally inflated. Leaves are distichous at first, becoming rosulate in time, reaching 50–180 mm in length and 15–40 mm in girth at the base. This is the most northerly representative of the genus, occurring from northern KwaZulu-Natal to the Olifants River valley in Limpopo province. In habitat, it grows in a variety of soils and substrates, but predominantly in shaded areas of low elevation. This superb succulent is in the collection of Nels Christianson.

◀ *Cyrtanthus obliquus* is an interesting South African bulb with strap-like spiraling leaves; ergo, the specific epithet. The genus name is a combination of two Greek words meaning "curved flower." With an affinity to the genera *Amaryllis* and *Clivia*, the nutant (nodding) flowers are brilliantly colored. While one might argue the point of bulbs being succulent, they are efficient storage mechanisms. Although normally a hemicryptophyte (half-hidden plant), with several taxa such as this one, the bulbs can be displayed above the surface of the soil. This is the largest species in the genus, with leaves reaching 50 cm, and the sunbird-pollinated blooms even higher. This specimen is in the collection of Tom Glavich.