

318. *SELENICEREUS GRANDIFLORUS* Britt. and Rose (CACTACEAE) — Night-Blooming Cereus

Ornamental cactus. Elsewhere it has quite a reputation for coronary problems.³³ Europeans use the extract or tincture for angina pectoris, bladder irritability, cardiac neuralgia, cardiac palpitation, kidney congestion, nervous headache, and prostatic diseases. Cubans use the stem juice as a vermifuge and vesicant, the flower-stem infusion as antirheumatic and cardiogenic.⁴² The sap is used in middle America for cystitis, dropsy, dyspnea, and rheumatism.³³ Homeopaths use it for angina pectoris, endocarditis, myocarditis, and stenocardy.³³

According to Morton,⁴² the stems and flowers contain the alkaloid cactine which has digitalis-like activity. Working with fresh material, Petershofer-Halbmayer et al.²⁹³ detected only one alkaloid hordenine (*N,N*-dimethyl-4-hydroxy-beta-phenethylamine) and concluded that so-called "cactine" must be identical with hordenine. Contains betacyanin, isorhamnetin-3-glucoside. Flowers contain narcissin ($C_{28}H_{32}O_{16}$), rutin, cacticine ($C_{22}H_{22}O_{12}$), kaempferitrin, grandiflorine ($C_{20}H_{18}O_{10}$), hyperoside, isorhamnetin-3-beta-(galactosyl)-rutoside, and isorhamnetin-3-beta-(xylosyl)-rutoside.

Toxicity — Said to contain digitalis-like compounds. Fresh juice burns the mouth, causing nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.