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*Ferocactus*

*Cactaceae*

*Ferocactus* is derived from Latin *ferox* (ferocious, spiny or very thorny) and Greek *cactus* (spiny plant) components with reference to the vicious spines. There is the possibility too that those who originally determined this name may have meant its use to be a reference to the *Cactus* genus which no longer exists.