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Rhipsalis baccifera

[Synonyms : *Cactus caripensis*, *Cactus cassythoides*, *Cactus fasciculatus*, *Cactus pendulus*, *Cactus quadrangularis*, *Cassytha baccifera*, *Cassytha filiformis*, *Cassytha polysperma*, *Cereus bacciferus*, *Cereus caripensis*, *Cereus parasiticus*, *Cereus quadrangularis*, *Hariota cassytha*, *Hariota fasciculata*, *Hariota parasitica*, *Hatiota fasciculata*, *Rhipsalis baccifera* subsp. *baccifera*, *Rhipsalis baccifera* subsp. *fasciculata*, *Rhipsalis baccifera* subsp. *rhodocarpa*, *Rhipsalis bartlettii*, *Rhipsalis bermejensis*, *Rhipsalis caripensis*, *Rhipsalis cassutha*, *Rhipsalis cassuthopsis*, *Rhipsalis cassytha*, *Rhipsalis cassytha* var. *rhodocarpa*, *Rhipsalis cassythoides*, *Rhipsalis comorensis*, *Rhipsalis coralloides*, *Rhipsalis delphinensis*, *Rhipsalis fasciculata*, *Rhipsalis heptagona*, *Rhipsalis madagascariensis*, *Rhipsalis madagascariensis* var. *dasyerca*, *Rhipsalis mauritiana*, *Rhipsalis mauritiana* var. *ellipticarpa*, *Rhipsalis minutiflora*, *Rhipsalis neocassutha*, *Rhipsalis parasitica*, *Rhipsalis parasiticus*, *Rhipsalis pendulina*, *Rhipsalis pilosa*, *Rhipsalis prismatica*, *Rhipsalis saxicola*, *Rhipsalis shaferi*, *Rhipsalis suareziana*, *Rhipsalis tetragona*, *Rhipsalis undulata*]

MISTLETOE CACTUS is a hanging epiphytic cactus (although it grows on a plant, it is not a parasite). Native to parts of North and South America, it has pale green stems; small, greenish-white flowers with pinkish stamens, and solitary, small berry-like, translucent greenish-white or brownish-pink fruit.

It is also known as Cactus (English, Seychelles), Rat-tail cactus, *Ripsalis bobulonosný* (Czech), and *Ripsalka zlátaná* (Slovak).

Some botanists suspect that this species is the only one in the genus that grows in both the Eastern and Western hemispheres, ie. at the beginning of the 21st Century it is believed that all other known *Rhipsalis* members are found in North or South America only.

Baccifera is derived from Latin *bacci-* (berry) and *-fer* (bearing, carrying) components.

The name mistletoe cactus is said to have arisen from its similarity to European mistletoe, *Viscum album*, including the sticky fruit juice.

Mistletoe cactus is cultivated as an ornamental plant.