A Brief History of the Genus Ariocarpus
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The genus *Ariocarpus* is a part of the family *Cactaceae* and was first described by Michel Joseph François Scheidweiler (1799–1861) in 1838 in the species of *A. retusus*.

There are currently 7 species and 1 subspecies of *Ariocarpus* according to David Richard Hunt's 2006 book "The New Cactus Lexicon" — *A. fissuratus* can be found in the habitats of both State of Texas, USA and Mexico while the other seven, *A. agavoïdes, A. bravoanus, A. bravoanus ssp hintonii, A. kotschoubeyanus, A. retusus, A. scaphirostris and A. trigonus* can only be found in habitats of various States in Mexico.

The name *Ariocarpus* is derived from the Latin *aria* (meaning a kind of oak) and *carpos* (from a possible resemblance of the fruits). Tubercles are rough in some species, smooth in some—grooved on some and some not—mostly spineless—became known as the 'living rock cactus'.

Sometime in 1838 while Henri-Guillaume Galeotti (1814–1858) was exploring in Mexico he came across some unusual cactus plants that he sent to both Scheidweiler and Charles Antoine Lemaire (1800–1871) in Europe. Not aware of Scheidweiler's earlier description of the plant, Lemaire published the plant as *Anhalonium prismaticum* in 1839 — was critical of Scheidweiler's description of his *Ariocarpus* species when it became known to Lemaire — and due to Lemaire's reputation as the known cactus expert at the time, *Anhalonium* was widely used until the rule of priority from the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature of 1905 decided to conserve Scheidweiler's *Ariocarpus* name under the family *Cactaceae*.

In his 2001 book "The Cactus Family", Edward Frederick Anderson (1932-2001) gives the following as synonyms of the genus *Ariocarpus*:

- *Anhalonium* Lemaire 1839
- *Mammillaria fissurata* Engelmann 1856
- *Roseocactus* A. Berger 1925
- *Neogomesia* Castañeda 1941
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