

# Euphorbias from A - Z

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## *Euphorbia guillauminiana* Boiteau

*Euphorbia guillauminiana* grows as small hemispherical shrubs, 50 - 100 cm high, trunk thick, branching at 10 cm high, rebranching at intervals in 3 to 5 smaller branchlets; branches are numerous, cylindrical, 1 to 1.5 cm in diameter, grey; spines in 6 to 8 series, slightly spreading, 1 to 3 cm long, thickened at the

base, grey with age, deciduous; leaves persistent for a growth period, in terminal rosettes, ovate, 2 cm long, 1 cm broad, dark green, with pink or white margins, glabrous, petioles 8 mm long, thick; cymes subterminal, peduncles short, with 2 to 4 cyathia, these erect, cyathophylls completely enclosing the cyathium, yellowish green, rarely red.

Difficult to cultivate, extremely sensitive to watering while dormant. Best kept by continuously growing new seedlings to replace losses. Photos: W. Minuth (above, left), V. Buddensiek (below)



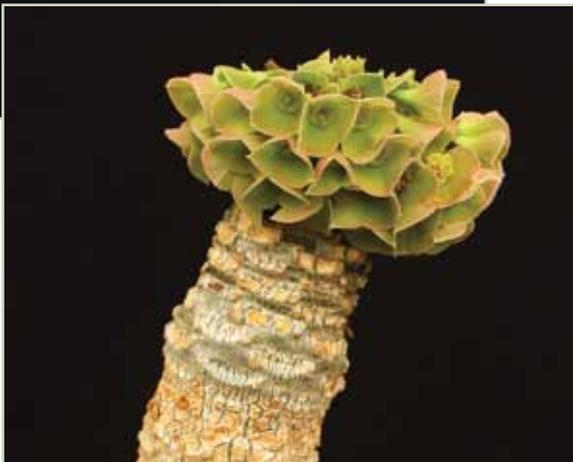


### *Euphorbia horombensis* Ursch & Leandri

Laxly and irregularly branching shrub of the *E. milii*-group, 1 to 1.5 m high; branches up to 6 cm in diameter at the base, 2 to 3 cm towards the apex, with brownish grey bark; spines in 8 series, grey, acute, flat and longitudinally broadened at the base, up to 3 cm long, solitary or with 1 to 2 small prickles; leaves persistent during growth period, in a terminal rosette, 6 to 8 cm

long, 2.5 to 3 cm broad, greyish green, margins red, petioles short; cymes subterminal, with up to 40 cyathia, cyathophylls 6 x 6 mm, apex rounded, crimson to brownish red, 5 glands, these ovate, separate, greenish or orange red.

Bears light shadow as well as full sun, easy to grow, don't let plants go completely dry during winter, minimum temperature 12 °C; propagation by seeds and cuttings. Photos: W. Minuth



### *Euphorbia ankarensis* Boiteau

Small *Euphorbia* with columnar, woody stem, 40 to 80 cm high, thickened toward the apex, 3 to 5 cm in diameter there, with greyish green, fissured bark, fresh growth covered with leaf scars; spineless; leaves persistent during growth period, in a terminal rosette, oblong ovate, 5 to 7 cm long and 2 to 3 cm broad, grass green, petiole 1 cm long, both leaf and petiole densely white pubescent or rarely glabrous, stipules transformed into bristles; cymes appear before the leaves, clustered at the apex, peduncles short, with 2 to 8 cyathia, these pendent, cyathophylls pale pink to green, margins often red, apex conspicuously apiculate, 5 glands, these yellow.

Prefers light shadow, needs warmth, minimum temperature 10 °C, reduce watering until leaves appear, water amply in summer; propagation by seeds only. In cultivation plants may flower for a second time in September / October before the leaves drop. Photos: W. Minuth

## *Euphorbia aureoviridiflora* (Rauh) Rauh

Small shrub, up to 50 cm high, freely branching, producing hemispherical cushions; branches erect, thickened towards the apex, 1 to 2 cm in diameter, often spirally twisted, soon becoming corky grey brown, sharply 4- to 5-angled; spines in series along the angles, bristly, reddish brown, pale and deciduous with age; leaves persistent during growth period, in terminal rosettes, ovate, 1.3 - 5 cm long and 2.5 cm wide, dark green above, light green below, petiole less than 3 mm; cymes developing before the leaves appear, clustered at the apex, peduncles short, with 2 to 8 cyathia, cyathophylls tubular, 7 to 10 mm long, yellow to yellowish green.

Best kept dry during dormancy, minimum temperature 14 °C; propagation by seeds or cuttings. Photo: W. Minuth



lanceolate, up to 8 cm long and 2,5 - 3 cm broad, irregular bright green speckled above or equally bright green (f. *viridifolia*), grey to reddish green below, veins, petioles and margins reddish; cymes appearing before the leaves, at the apex of the stem, peduncles up to 2 cm long, reddish, with 2 - 4 cyathia (var. *rakatozafyi*: 2 cyathia), cyathophylls paper-like, thin, 10 - 13 mm broad and 7 mm long, broad circular, short apiculate, pale brown, with greenish mid vein, red spotted, (var. *cremersii*) or pale white to pale brown (var. *rakatozafyi*), cyathia pendent, 5 glands, these yellow to pale green.

Very tender species, needs permeable substrate as protection from excess moisture, minimum temperature 14 °C, light shading during summer is recommended. Propagated by seeds. Photos: W. Minuth



## *Euphorbia cremersii* Rauh & Razafindratsira

Dwarf geophyte, with ovoid, caudex like stem, tapering into a long taproot (var. *cremersii*) or with separated tuberous swellings along a long taproot (var. *rakatozafyi* (Cremers) Rauh), with erect or slightly curved main stem, 0.5 - 1 cm in diameter, bark light grey, covered with leaf scars at the apex; spineless; 5 to 6 leaves persistent during growth period in a terminal rosette, variable in form, long

