

Discover the Flora of Our Campus

Huernia macrocarpa

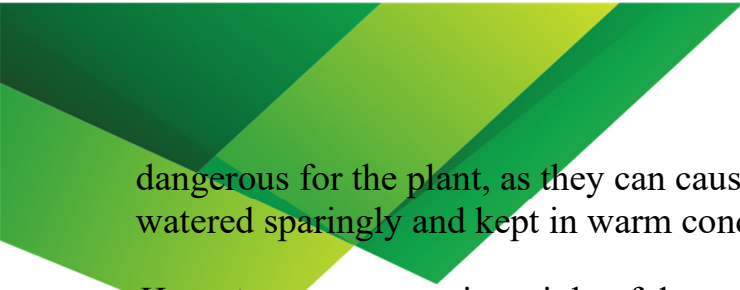
Huernia macrocarpa is an unusual ornamental plant belonging to the succulent group. It is commonly known as the “red dragon flower.” The plant has thick, green, polygonal stems with small thorn-like projections on their surface. Its most striking feature is its bright red or dark red star-shaped flowers. The flowers have a velvety texture and give the plant an exotic appearance, which makes it popular as a collector’s plant. Unlike many other succulents, its leaves are barely developed, and it stores water mainly in its stems.



The natural distribution of *Huernia macrocarpa* is mainly in South Africa and Namibia. This plant is adapted to dry and semi-desert environments. Today, it is cultivated in many countries for ornamental and collection purposes. It is especially popular among succulent enthusiasts. It is kept as a potted houseplant and grown in greenhouses. In Azerbaijan, it is mainly found in rare indoor plant collections.

Huernia macrocarpa prefers bright and warm environments. Although it can tolerate some direct sunlight, excessive strong sun may burn the stems. It is drought-tolerant and requires little water. It is recommended to water it only after the soil has completely dried. It

grows best in airy, sandy, and light soils. Cold weather and excessive humidity are



dangerous for the plant, as they can cause root rot. Therefore, in winter it should be watered sparingly and kept in warm conditions.

Huernia macrocarpa is mainly of decorative value and attracts people with its aesthetic appearance. Like other green plants, it produces a certain amount of oxygen and helps enliven indoor environments. Its special flower structure attracts certain insects and supports natural pollination. From an ecological perspective, its low water requirement makes it one of the most economical and sustainable plants. Being adapted to arid climates, it has very low water needs.

Huernia macrocarpa is mainly used for ornamental and collection purposes. It is grown in homes, offices, balconies, and succulent arrangements. Due to its exotic appearance, it is displayed in botanical gardens and rare plant exhibitions. Because it requires minimal care, it is also chosen by beginner plant enthusiasts. Its medicinal or culinary use is not widely known.

The flowers of *Huernia macrocarpa* are called “dragon flowers” because of their appearance. The flowers of some species emit a smell similar to rotting meat, attracting flies and enabling pollination through them. This is considered a rare example of adaptation in nature. The plant can survive long periods without water and stores moisture in its stems. It is regarded as one of the most interesting and distinctive plants among succulent collectors worldwide.

