



TRICHOCEREUS DOSING

Over the years, I have become annoyed with all of the references to *Trichocereus* dosages by length of the fresh plant material. At some point a few years ago I began tracking basic stats on my San Pedro preparations. While I don't have enough data points for valid standard deviations or other statistics, I think these numbers offer some idea of what is "typical," and of the range of values encountered. I have tossed in a few numbers on non-pachanoids where available, but they are probably not representative samples.

One of the things I'd like to point out to those who measure by length is that it would not be surprising if *Trichocereus peruvianus* were to be four times as potent as *T. pachanoi* when measured on a footage basis, since a comparable length weighs about four times as much. This is not to suggest that there may not be *T. peruvianus* that are four times as potent by weight as well, although I haven't come across them. Those who measure their dosages only by length should be aware that such a hypothetical specimen would be about sixteen times as potent as *T. pachanoi* by length, which might offer a surprise to the unwary.

	TRICHOCEREUS PACHANOI			
	MEAN	MEDIAN	MIN.	MAX.
weight/length, wet				
pound/foot	2.0	1.8	1.4	3.2
grams/inch	77	68	54	123
% water (see #5)	94.3%	94.5%	90.9%	95.9%
% residue (see #6)	19.0%	15.4%	4.3%	40.8%
gross dry oz/foot	1.9	1.4	1.2	4.7
net dry oz/foot	1.5	1.2	1.1	3.5
net dry oz/wet lb	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.1
gross dry g/foot	53.5	38.8	34.2	134.1
net dry g/foot	43.6	34.6	30.1	100.4
net dry g/wet lb	21.4	19.5	17.7	30.9

MEAN VALUES FOR OTHERS*			
#1 BELOW	#2 BELOW	#3 BELOW	#4 BELOW
7.8	1.3	2.5	2.5
294	48	93	96
n/a	94.5%	94.5%	93.2%
n/a	21.1%	13.0%	22.2%
n/a	1.1	2.1	2.8
n/a	0.9	1.9	2.3
n/a	0.7	0.8	0.9
n/a	32.0	61.0	78.7
n/a	26.4	54.0	64.4
n/a	20.6	21.9	25.3

Rough rules of thumb for *T. pachanoi*: 1 foot = 2 pounds (wet) = 1.5 dry ounces (net); 1 pound (wet) = $\frac{3}{4}$ dry ounce (net).

* Data on non-pachanoids provided for comparison, but are based on only a handful of data points. The *T. pachanoi* data includes 15 samples from what seem to be 4 clones—not enough for full statistics, but enough to be indicative. The main differences between samples seemed to be more a function of age of specimen than clone source.

- 1) *T. peruvianus*: two TROPIC WORLD specimens, large, gray-blue, long-spined. Not dried.
- 2) *T. bridgesii*: based on two samples; long, slender specimens. Other *Trichocereus bridgesii* are often much stouter.
- 3) *Trichocereus* sp. SS03: two specimens from SACRED SUCCULENTS.
- 4) *Monstrose*: "melting candle" specimen from CALIFORNIA CACTUS CENTER. Sold by them as *T. peruvianus*, and it may well be a form of *T. peruvianus*, as the diameter of some specimens (not this one) exceed diameter of any *T. pachanoi* I have seen. It is said to have been started from seed in 1995, so is apparently not the same plant as the "melting-candle" *T. pachanoi* offered by many growers—it is stouter, branches more frequently, and the few spines it possesses are very long. This new clone is now becoming more common among cactus retailers in Southern California. No bioassay quite yet. (Soon.)
- 5) Based on ratio of gross weight after drying to crispness compared to fresh weight.
- 6) Percentage of gross dry yield that is "unsiftable" after double pulverization.

