

# ADRIAN HARDY HAWORTH BIOGRAPHY

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**Haworth, Adrian Hardy (1767–1833)—during the golden time of botany, a leading author of succulent plants in England—with the ever popular *Haworthia* genus named in his honor.**



Born in Cottingham near Hull, England on 19 April 1767, Adrian Hardy Haworth became a gardener, amateur botanist, zoologist, taxonomist, ornithologist and entomologist. He was the son of Benjamin Haworth of Haworth Hall. His early education was with tutors which was directed toward a career in law. However, after his older brother inherited the estate after their father's death, and after allowing AH Haworth a sufficient allowance to give up the legal profession—at age 21 he devoted all his time to natural history pursuits of plants and insects.

At Chelsea, England AH Haworth had one of the finest private gardens in all England—assembling the first important succulent collection of his time. His research work was due to regular visits to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Key, England—and the use of the library and herbarium of Sir Joseph Banks.

Of special interest to the succulent plant enthusiast is the popular genus *Haworthia* that was named in AH Haworth's honor in 1809 by Dr Henri Auguste (1777–1814). Among the generic plants described by AH Haworth are: *Duvalia*, *Epiphyllum*, *Mammillaria*, *Orbea*, *Tridentea* and *Tromotriche* in 1812; *Pectinaria* in 1819; and *Cephalophyllum*, *Hymenogyne* and *Monanthes* in 1821. The genus *Epiphyllum* was first used as a name in c1689 by Dr Paul Hermann (1646-1695), but was never published by him until AH Haworth did so in 1812.

Species named in AH Haworth's honor were: *Aeonium haworthii*, *Mesembryanthemum (Lampranthus) haworthii*, *Ruschia haworthii*, *Senecio haworthii*, and *Tetragonia haworthii*. He described many species of *Aloe*, *Cactus*, *Cereus*, *Crassula*, *Epiphyllum*, *Euphorbia*, *Haworthia* and many, many *Mesembryanthemums*, along with other species.

On the subject of succulent books by AH Haworth his major works were 'Observations on *Mesembryanthemum*' in two parts, 1794 and 1795, with a total of 480 pages—and 'Synopsis of Succulent Plants' with 334 pages in 1812 and a supplement in 1819; revisions in 1821. There were numerous papers on specific succulent species. It might be noted that most of the *Mesembryanthemum* species described during his time were shrubby types. It wasn't until later in life that AH Haworth became more interested in cacti that came from the Americas.

AH Haworth received collected cactus and succulent plants from:

1. Francis Masson (1741–1805) who collected in South Africa, Canary and Azores Islands, West Indies and North Africa.
2. James Bowie (1789–1869) who collected in Brazil and South Africa.
3. Dr William John Burchell (1781–1863) who collected in South Africa and Brazil.
4. Thomas Charles Bridges (1807–1865) who collected in tropical areas of Chile, Peru, Bolivia and Guatemala and in California.

Exchanged succulent plants with:

5. Joseph Franz Maria Anton Hubert Ignatz Salm-Reifferscheid-Dyck (1773–1861) who owned a very large cactus and succulent plant collection at Castle Dyck, Dusseldorf, Germany.
6. Christoph Friedrich Otto (1783–1856) who was conservator at Berlin Royal Botanical Garden.
7. Dr Martinus van Marum (1750–1837) who was founder of collections at Teyler's Stichting at Haarlem, The Netherlands.

And corresponded with:

8. Dr Sir Joseph Banks (1743–1820) who sailed on Capt James Cook (1728–1779) voyage on ship *Endeavor* around the world 1768–71 and first director of Royal Botanical Garden at Kew 1773.
9. William Hugh Curtis (1746–1799) who was the founder, editor and publisher of *The Botanical Magazine* (later changed to *Curtis' Botanical Magazine* after his death).
10. Robert Sweet (1782–1835) who was a nurseryman at Stockwell, Fulham and for James Colvill at Chelsea, England.
11. John Claudius Loudon (1783–1843) who was a Scottish landscape gardener, botanist and horticultural journalist.

Adrian Hardy Haworth's death occurred due to a cholera epidemic in England on 24 August 1833. This was a man of independent means who was able to acquire whatever was needed to make the study of his interest in botanical subjects valuable to specialists of the future. He was President of The Entomological Society of London from 1806 to 1822.

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