On the tenth day of the CSSA field trip to eastern Brazil we left Vitória da Conquista and drove south, leaving the state of Bahia and entering Minas Gerais. Our destination: the spectacular inselbergs around Pedra Azul. The main species we came here to see was *Coleocephalocereus aureus*, a small cactus with a short-cylindrical to elongate body that offsets from the base. Plants have yellow spines and a lateral cephalium with white wool and yellow bristles that fade first to brown and then turn black in the older parts of the cephalium. The plants growing at this location belong to the form of *C. aureus* formerly known as *Buiningia brevicylindrica*, so named for its short-columnar stems. Other forms of *C. aureus* are not as squat as this one, growing either taller or thinner. *Melocactus bahiensis* ssp *amethystinus*, *M. ernestii*, *Pilosocereus multicostatus*, and *Tacinga inamoena* grew here as well.

We drove northwest towards the town of Salinas, where we would spend the night, stopping at a granitic rock outcrop along the way to see another population of *C. aureus*, this time the form described as *Buiningia elongata*. Aside from producing fewer offsets as other forms of the species, these are bigger and stouter plants that can grow up to one meter tall, with wide lateral cephalium composed of densely packed white wool.

A granitic outcrop near Pedra Azul is inhabited by the squat form of *Coleocephalocereus aureus* originally described as *C. brevicylindricus* (below). Growing to no more than about 30 cm tall, they have golden bristles that darken to black in older parts of the lateral cephalium. A larger, columnar form of *C. aureus* near Salinas was originally described as *C. elongatus* (right). These plants can grow up to a meter tall, do not offset as readily as the form at Pedra Azul, and have a more whitish cephalium composed of densely packed white wool.