





Some oddities, what the inimitable Gordon Rowley called “teratopia”, are ephemeral. Many a monstrose cactus shoot perishes soon after being removed from its otherwise normal parent plant. In the instances here, a plant simply outgrew its abnormal growth.

While hiking the Organ Mountains of New Mexico, I stumbled upon a specimen of *Dasyliirion wheeleri* S. Watson (sotol) with a normal looking main shoot plus a single offset with curly leaves at Achenbach Canyon (Figs. 1 and 2). The curly leaves only grew for a short time, with subsequent new growth being comprised of typical straight leaves. This plant was sufficiently far from any house or trailhead that there is virtually no chance that a human manually twisted the leaves on the new growth before there was much lignin deposition in the leaves. There are probably a million individual plants of this species, but in a week of hiking in southern New Mexico, I only found two other specimens of sotol with curly leaves on offsets, both from nearby Soledad Canyon, neither of which was quite as impressive as the specimen from Achenbach Canyon (Figs. 3–5).

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