





Hens and chickens (*Echeveria secunda*)

Model number 96, Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka, 1889

Harvard University Herbaria

Photo by Natalja Kent

Model on display at the Harvard Museum of Natural History

[The Ware Collection of Blaschka Glass Models of Plants](#)

Harvard's famed "Glass Flowers" were painstakingly created entirely from glass by the artists Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka between 1886 and 1936. Commissioned by Professor George Lincoln Goodale, founder of the Botanical Museum at Harvard, the scientifically accurate collection provided a way for students and the general public to study plant form and function in the 19th century through today. The collection continues to inspire generations of visitors. Succulent plants, including the one featured here, have thickened leaves that retain water in arid climates. This species has a rosette structure that can grow up to six inches wide and produce numerous flowering off-shoots which has influenced its common name of "Hens and chickens."

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