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The Cactaceae : descriptions and illustrations of plants of the cactus family / by N.L. Britton and J.N. Rose.

Washington: Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1919-1923. http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/46288

v.1: http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/100137 Page(s): Page 211, Figs. 271-273, Page 212, Figs. 274-275

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OPUNTIA. 211

Figure 269 represents joints of the type plant above cited; figure 270 represents a joint with fruit; figure 271 is from a photograph of the type specimen.

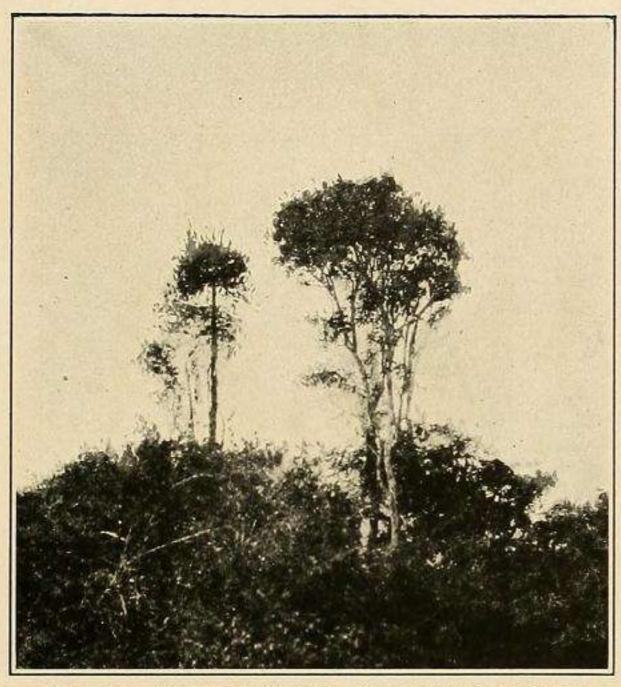


Fig. 271.—Opuntia bahiensis. The tree to the left and somewhat in the foreground.

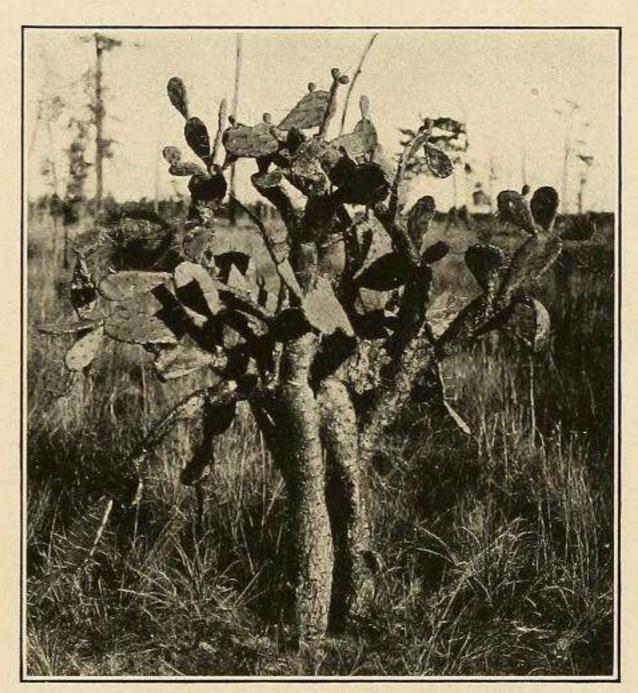


Fig. 272.—Opuntia ammophila.

238. Opuntia argentina Grisebach, Abh. Ges. Wiss. Göttingen 24: 140. 1879.

Opuntia hieronymi Grisebach, Abh. Ges. Wiss, Göttingen 24: 140. 1879.

Erect, 5 to 15 meters high, branching at the top, the lateral branches subverticillate, teretes terminal branches flat, 5 to 12 cm. long, 3 to 8 cm. broad; ovary 2 to 2.5 cm. long; petals elliptic to spatulate, 1.8 cm. long, 8 mm. broad, greenish yellow; filaments white; style white; stigma-lobe; yellowish green; ovary flattened, tuberculate, deeply umbilicate; fruit clavate, 5 cm. long, dull purplish violet, with wine-colored pulp; seeds lens-shaped, 5 to 6 mm. long, 2.5 to 3 mm. broad.

Type locality: Near San Andrés, Oran, Argentina.

Distribution: Northern Argentina.

This species was considered identical with O. brasiliensis by Schumann, but they separate on very good fruit characters.

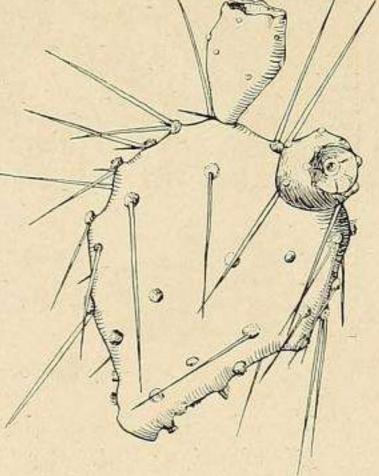
Figure 274 is from a photograph of a flowering branch furnished by Dr. C. Spegazzini.

Series 28. AMMOPHILAE.

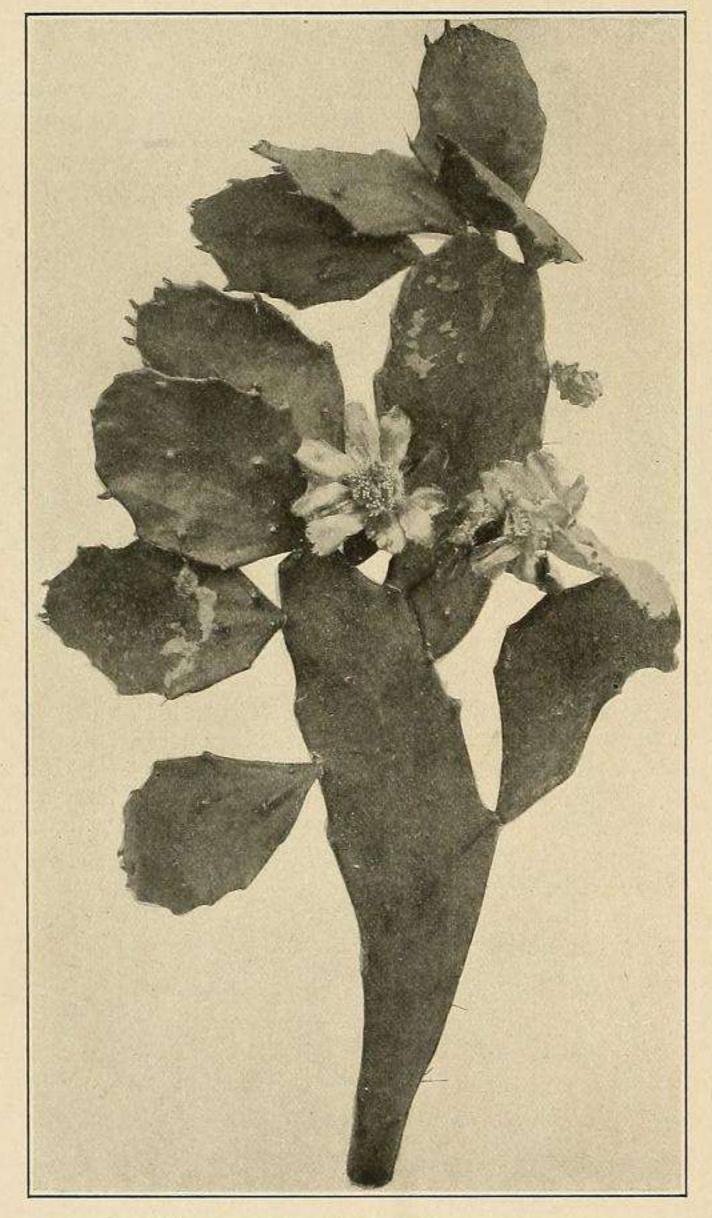
One peculiar species, native of Florida, constitutes this series, characterized by a continuous erect subterete trunk, flat, spiny branches, and large, yellow flowers.

239. Opuntia ammophila Small, Journ. N. Y. Bot. Gard. 20: 29. 1919.

Plant erect, more or less branched throughout or ultimately with a stem 1 to 2 meters tall or more, becoming 2 to 2.5 dm. in diameter, bearing several spreading branches near the top, thus tree-like, tuberous at the base; joints various, those of the main stem elongate, ultimately fused on the ends and subcylindric, those of the branches typically obovate or cuneate, varying to elliptic or oval, thickish, 5 to 17 cm. long, becoming grayish green; leaves stout-subulate, 6 to 10 mm. long, green; areoles relatively



numerous, conspicuous on account of the densely crowded long bristles, especially on the older joints, the marginal ones, at least, armed; spines very slender, solitary or 2 together, reddish or red, at maturity gray, mostly 2 to 6 cm. long, nearly terete, scarcely spirally twisted; flowers several on a joint; sepals lanceolate, acute or slightly acuminate; buds sharply pointed; corolla bright yellow, 5 to 8 cm. wide; petals obovate, cuneate, notched, and prominently apiculate, 3 cm. long, scarcely erose; stigma-lobes cream-color; berries obovoid, 2 to 3 cm. long, more or less flushed with reddish purple, many-seeded; seeds about 4 mm. in diameter.



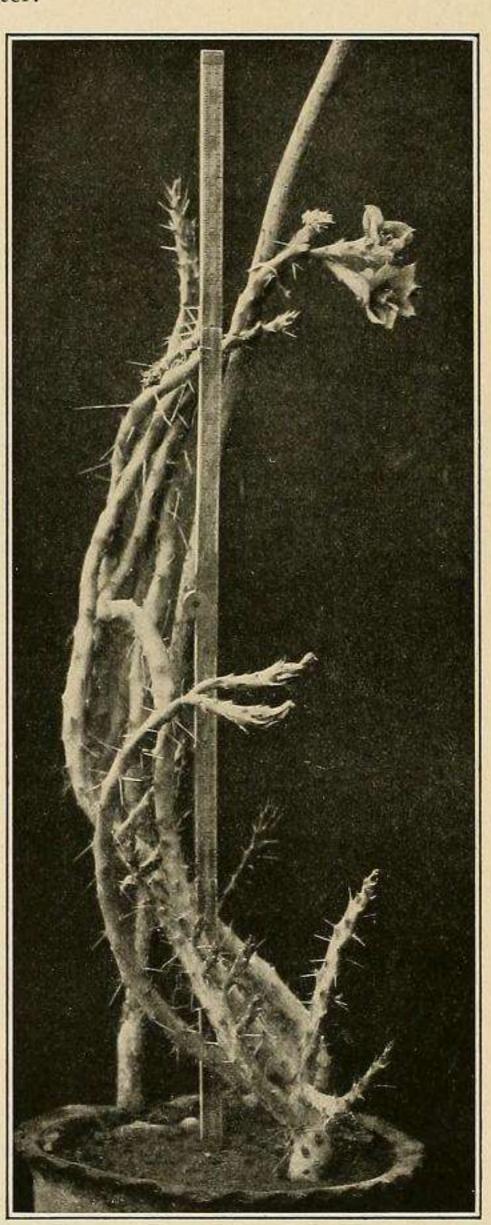


Fig. 274.—Opuntia argentina.

Fig. 275.—Opuntia chaffeyi. Photograph by Señor Don Teodoro Chairez.

Type locality: Fort Pierce, Florida.

Distribution: Inland sand-dunes (scrub), peninsular Florida.

The plant was first collected by Dr. Small near Fort Pierce, Florida, in 1917, and again studied by him in its more northern range west of St. George in 1918. He describes it as the most conspicuous native prickly pear of Florida, always viciously armed and with a characteristically unjointed trunk. In spite of its many slender spines, cattle browse upon it.

Illustration: Journ. N. Y. Bot. Gard. 20: pl. 224.