GRIFFITHS: NEW SPECIES OF OPUNTIA

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Opuntia anahuacensis sp. nov.

A glossy, vellowish green, low, reclining to prostrate species, 45-50 cm, high and having a spread of 1.5 m.; joints obovate, thin, 13 × 27 cm., commonly bent over and more or less dished the second year, apex sharply rounded and base more or less stipitate: areoles obovate, at first light brown then dirty grayblack, upper half armed, enlarging in age and becoming subcircular; spicules yellow, in a compact connivent tuft occupying one-half to two-thirds of the upper part of areole, about 2 mm. long, becoming more numerous in age and often 8 mm. in length; spines yellow, becoming white tardily, one or two porrect, 2-3 cm. long, flattened, twisted, the shorter lower two often recurved and only I cm. long; flowers canary-vellow, turning slightly darker yellow toward close of day; filaments yellow, style white, stigma white, six-parted; buds light bright-green with only a tinge of red in the upper part of the tardily recurved sepals; fruit deep, dark-purplish-red throughout, pyriform, about 4 × 7.5 cm., deeply pitted; spicules yellow, usually 2 mm. long or less, fugacious spines, mostly merging into the spicules on the one hand and becoming 6-8 mm. long on the other, two to four in number.

The species is characterized by its glossy yellowish green coloration and size and shape of its fruit. It is known to us only from a single collection made by Mr. C. B. Allaire near Anahuac, Texas, at the mouth of the Trinity River in Texas. My inventory number 9217 was assigned to it and it has been grown since at Chico, California, under this same number.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE