



<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>

**Boston journal of natural history.**

Boston, Boston Society of Natural History.

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/46530>

**v.6 (1850-1857):** <http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/100874>

Page(s): Page 207, Page 208

Contributed by: Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library

Sponsored by: Missouri Botanical Garden

Generated 2 August 2012 12:18 PM

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/pdf4/011587700100874>

This page intentionally left blank.

date; stigma 5-lobed, erect; fruit  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, 6–8 lines wide at the top, deeply umbilicate. Lindheimer's specimens are from Industry, south of the Brazos. I believe I have seen the same species near Natchitoches on Red River.

O. LINDHEIMERI (*n. sp.*): *erecta, robusta; caule lignoso; articulis (magnis) ellipticis basi attenuatis planis; pulvillis remotis ad margines confertioribus griseo-tomentosis, setis flavidis aculeisque paucis instructis 1–3 compressis validis deflexis varie divergentibus stramineis, nunc cum 1–2 aculeis adventitiis gracilioribus; flore . . . bacca clavata elongata subpulposa glabrata; seminibus late marginatis.*—About New Braunfels. Plant erect, often 6–8 feet high: stems terete ligneous, sometimes 6 inches in diameter, with gray bark, and very light, spongy wood. Larger joints 9–12 inches long, 5–7 broad. Areolæ  $1\frac{1}{2}$ –2 inches distant on old joints; bristles on them 1–3 lines long. Spines all pale yellow, much compressed, indistinctly annulated,  $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 inch long, various; the 3 longer spines, or the one longer, with one or two shorter spines. The fruit, which Lindheimer has sent as belonging to this species, resembles very much that of *O. vulgaris*, 2– $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, slender, with a deep umbilicus, very different from that of the following species. Seeds 2– $2\frac{1}{4}$  lines in diameter, not numerous. Young plants grown from this seed have the same compressed spines, but are brown at the base; the lower areolæ produce no spines, but a quantity of long, coarse hair.—I add here the following species, though not properly belonging to the flora of Texas, because I suspect that it is also found at the mouth of the Rio Grande, within the limits of Texas. There, and especially on the barren sand islands at the Brazos, near Point Isabel, the St. Louis Volunteers found large and impenetrable thickets formed by an *Opuntia* with large joints, covered with almost globose fruits, with innumerable small seeds, and a very luscious deep red pulp. The fruit and seed are before me, but unfortunately I did not obtain a living specimen.

O. ENGELMANNI (*Salm. MSS.*): *erecta; articulis orbiculato-*

obovatis planiusculis; pulvillis remotis ad margines confertioribus griseo-tomentosis setis flavidis aculeisque paucis compressis ancipitibus instructis, 1–4 validis sæpe inæqualibus plus minus deflexis varie divergentibus basi rufis, ceterum stramineis cum adventitio infimo graciliore albido sæpe deficiente; fl. . . . bacca ovata subglobosa late umbilicata pulvillis pluribus tomentosis stipata; seminibus minoribus anguste marginatis.—From El Paso to Chihuahua, indigenous and cultivated, *Dr. Wislizenus*. No doubt, also, on the Texan side of the Rio del Norte.—Erect, 5–6 feet high. Upper and larger older joints 12 inches long by 9 broad. Areolæ 1½–2 inches distant: bristles 2–6 lines long: spines 1–1¾ inches long, very stout. Fruit 1½–1¾ inches long, about 1½ in diameter; umbilicus large, (10–12 lines) flat; pulvilli on the fruit about 5 lines distant. Seeds very numerous, about half as large in *O. vulgaris*, 1½–1¾ lines in diameter, of an irregular shape.—Near *O. Dillenii* and *O. polyantha*, as Prince Salm informs me.

### § 2. *Cylindricæ.*

*O. FRUTESCENS*, *Engelm. in Pl. Lindh. l. c.* under *O. fragilis*, from which it widely differs, stands near *O. gracilis*, Salm. (raised from Mexican seeds), but is sufficiently distinct. (Salm.) Fruit by the abortion of the seeds very often sterile.—I had occasion to observe this species in blossom, and add the description of the flowers:

Floribus ex ramis anni prioris provenientibus; ovario clavato basi 5-gono sepalis subulatis sub-13 stipato; sepalis interioribus 8 lanceolatis ex viridi sulphureis; petalis 8 obovato-lanceolatis cuspidatis (sulphureis s. subvirescentibus); staminibus numerosis (40–50) inæqualibus (externis majoribus); stylo exerto; stigmatibus 5 adpressis albidis.—The flower cannot be distinguished from that of the *Opuntiæ applanatæ*, but it is only 8–10 lines in diameter: ovary 9–12 lines long. Flowers (in St. Louis) July and August.

*O. ARBORESCENS*, *Engelm. in Wisl. Rep.*, is recognized by Prince Salm as identical with his *O. stellata*; but as no de-