Engelmann and Bigelow, Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, vol. 8, pg. 292, 1856

9. O. MACROCENTRA, E. in B. C. R.: adscendens; articulis magnis suborbiculatis tenuibus; pulvillis subremotis setas graciles breves fulvas gerentibus, summis solum aculeos 1 – 2 prælongos subcompressos fusco-atros proferentibus; floris flavi ovario ovato; stigmatibus 8; seminibus majusculis.

Sand-hills on the Rio Grande near El Paso: fl. May. — Two or three feet high, with very striking round joints, 5 – 8 inches in diameter, and blackish spines as much as 2 or 3 inches long. Nearly allied to the next species.