

27. *O. FRAGILIS*, Haw. (*Cactus fragilis*, Nutt.): subdecumbens; articulis parvis ovatis subcompressis tumidis vel subglobosis vix tuberculatis nitide viridibus; foliis minutis; pulvillis subconfertis magnis albo-tomentosis, vix setulosis; aculeorum 1-4 robustiorum summo valido angulato fuscato porrecto, ceteris debilioribus pallidioribus patulis seu radiantibus; aculeis inferioribus 2-6 gracilibus albis radiantibus; floribus minoribus; bacca ovata vix spinulosa, umbilico infundibuliformi; seminibus paucis magnis subregularibus.

Fertile prairies, or sterile places, on the Upper Missouri and Yellowstone, to the mountains and south to Santa Fé. — Size and shape of the joints variable; fruit-bearing joints compressed, $1\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 inches long, $1 - 1\frac{1}{4}$ wide, and $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{4}$ thick; others smaller and more tumid. Leaves a line long, hardly longer than the large pulvilli, red. Pulvilli 4 - 6 lines apart, bristles very few, short, whitish, on the old joints a little more numerous, coarser, dirty yellow. Lower radiating spines 2 - 4 lines long; central spines 6 - 10 lines long, the other interior spines 3 - 8 lines long, often similar to the smaller lower spines. Fruit rather fleshy through the winter, getting dry in spring, nearly an inch long, with 20 - 25 pulvilli, of which only the upper ones bear a few short spines. Seeds few, usually only 5 or 6 in each fruit, 3 lines in diameter, with a wide and thick obtuse corky margin. — Often sterile, but abundantly propagated by the fragile joints.