

Cylindropuntia imbricata

Cholla Tree Walking Stick Cholla Cane Cholla Cholla Cactus



TAXONOMY

Kingdom Plantae – Plants
Subkingdom Tracheobionta- Vascular Plant
Superdivision Spermatophyta- Seed plant
Division Magnoliophyta- Flowering plant
Class magnoliopsida- Dicotyledons
Subclass Carophyllidae
Order Caryophyllales
Family Cactaceae- Cactus Family
Genus Cylindropuntia
Species Cylindropuntia imbricata



Clark, C. (1973). *Cacti and succulents of el paso*. (p. 27). El Paso: Guynes Printing Company.

Fraser, F. G., & Pieper, R. D. (1972). Growth characteristics of opuntia imbricata. *Southwestern Association of Naturalists*, 17(3), 229-237. Retrieved from www.jstor.org/stable/3670170

Cylindropuntia imbricata(haw.) f.m knuth tree cholla. (n.d.). Retrieved from www.plants.usda.gov/profile?symbol=cyim2

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial

*Lifespan 20 years.

* Average height is 6-9ft.

*April: Flowers and branch buds form.

*May-July: flowers are fully developed.
(2-4 inch pink, purple, magenta)

*Fruit development follows flowers.
(yellow fruit that remain on plant for several months)



*Passive Dispersal: Seeds and detached stems fall or are carried by wind.

(30 years to be 100m from parent plant)

*Active dispersal: Animals/livestock eat seeds, cause joints to fall off, or plants sticks to animals.

(4 years to be 100m from parent plant)

ENVIRONMENT

*Dry areas of Mexico, AZ, NM,OK, AZ, West Texas (El Paso: slopes of Franklin Mountains. Some at nearly 7000 ft.)

*More dense in grass lands, also found in deep canyons, lowlands, mesa tops, and sandy rock areas.

Altitudes from 4000-7500ft.

EDIBLE & MEDICINAL USES

*Stems & fruit were dried and eaten by Native Americans when food was sparse. Used as a reserve food.

*Livestock feed in cases of drought. Not much nutritional value.

*Dried stem pith was applied to earaches .

*Thorn coverings were pounded into a paste and used to treat boils.



INTERESTING FACTS:

*Spines were once used for sewing needles.

*Old stem hollows used for walking sticks.

*Used to make many decorative items like lamps, picture frames, planters, jewelry...

*Considered an invasive plant
*Ranchers are concerned it is causing reduced grass production and livestock movement.

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