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Page(s): Page 31, Page 32

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5. *OPUNTIA FICUS-INDICA* (L.) Mill. Gard. Dict. Ed. 8.

Opuntia. No. 2. 1768

Cactus Ficus-indica L. Sp. Pl. 468. 1753.

Plant erect, often tree-like, 4 m. tall or less, the early joints somewhat fusing to form a thick trunk which supports irregularly spreading heavy branches: joints elliptic, varying to slightly broadest above the middle or below it, very thick, mostly 3-4 dm. long, often slightly glaucous: areolae small, with yellowish bristles and white wool: spines wanting, or occasionally and irregularly developed, and mostly solitary, pale, at maturity turning white, nearly terete: flowers usually several on a joint: corolla yellow, 7-10 cm. wide: berries obovoid, red or orange (said to be sometimes yellow), 5-9 cm. long: seeds 3.5-4.5 mm. in diameter.

Waste places, roadsides, and old fields, Florida. Doubtless native of tropical America; but its original home is unknown. Naturalized in the Old World.

Two of the species of *Opuntia* now growing naturally in Florida are naturalized exotics. The present plant is apparently a rather recent introduction. The *Opuntia Ficus-indica* of the older floras is evidently based on specimens of the species following the one here described.

The species is apparently represented in several forms. In some places it has escaped from flower-gardens, while in other regions it may be found on roadsides, in fence-corners, and in old fields where it formerly was planted extensively by people who are locally known as "cactus-crazy." This plant does not seem to be of much practical use at present.

6. *Opuntia keyensis* Britton, sp. nov.

Plant erect, much-branched, sometimes forming clumps 3 m. tall, with long fibrous roots: joints elliptic, oval, obovate or spatulate, thick, 1-3 dm. long, bright-green: leaves ovoid, 2-3 mm. long, green: areolae rather conspicuous, often relatively large and prominent, apparently unarmed: spines stout, 4-13 together, very short, mostly hidden in the bristles, pink, at maturity salmon-colored, and sometimes protruding from the areolae as tufts of very coarse bristles, slightly flattened: buds short-pointed: flowers solitary or 2 or 3 on a joint: sepals deltoid to subreniform, acute or acutish: corolla salmon-colored, cup-like or short-campanulate, 3-3.5 cm. wide; petals rather few,

the inner ones broadly obovate or orbicular-obovate, undulate, scarcely, if at all, mucronate: berries obovoid, 4-6 cm. long, purple: seeds numerous. [Plate 225.]

Hammocks, Florida Keys and the Cape Sable region.—Type specimens collected on Boot Key, April, 1909, by N. L. Britton in the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden.

Our two typically maritime species of *Opuntia* were recorded for many years under names that did not belong to them, as far as the plants growing in Florida were concerned.

This plant is strictly maritime, and has only been found on the Florida Keys and on the shores of the Cape Sable region. It has been confused with several species described long ago, but recent observation both in the field and on plants grown in the garden at Buena Vista have convinced me of its valid claim to specific recognition. It differs from its relative, *Opuntia Dillenii*, both in vegetative and floral characters. Casual observation would determine it as unarmed; but careful examination will disclose it to be in a way our most thoroughly armed kind. The spines are short and stout, so short that they seldom protrude beyond the bristles of the areolae. However, they are often numerous and exist in clusters of as many as thirteen. The flower is unique among the Florida species of *Opuntia*. The corolla instead of being rotate is short-campanulate or cup-shaped. The plants produce flowers and fruits much more sparingly than those of *Opuntia Dillenii*.

This species is evidently the *Opuntia Ficus-indica* of Chapman's "Flora," and it was described under *Opuntia inermis* in the second edition of my "Flora."

7. OPUNTIA DILLENII (Ker) Haw. Suppl. Pl. Succ.

79. 1819

Cactus Dillenii Ker, Bot. Reg. 3: under *pl.* 255. 1818.

Plant erect, rather strict, sparingly branched and much-branched and sometimes diffuse or sometimes 2 m. tall, occasionally somewhat tree-like, with stout fibrous roots: joints elliptic to obovate or oval, thickish, 1-3 dm. long, light-green, often glaucous: leaves ovoid, 2-5 mm. long, usually green: areolae remote but conspicuous, mostly armed: spines stoutish, clustered, usually 3-6 together, flattened, often curved, pale-