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**Proceedings of the Elliott Society of Natural History of
Charleston, South-Carolina.**

Charleston, S.C. :Russell & Jones,1859.

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v. 1 1853-58: <http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/135040>

Article/Chapter Title: Opuntia

Author(s): not clear

Subject(s): Opuntia macrarthra

Page(s): Page 272, Page 273

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Contributions to the Library.

Mercury Office: Patent Office Report, (Agricultural,) for 1856.

Boston Society of Natural History: Proceedings, Nos. 16, 17. Vol. VI.

Commander Thos. J. Page: Tract Survey of River Paraguay; three charts.

Members Elected.

REV. R. S. BAKER,
GEO. A. GORDON, Esq.

HENRY L. JOHNSON, Esq.
PLOWDEN C. J. WESTON, Esq.

JANUARY 15, 1858.

Vice President, W. Wragg Smith, in the chair.

Editors of Charleston Mercury, presented, through the Elliott Society, to the Museum of the College of Charleston, specimens of Lead Ore, from Cameron's Mine, Spartanburg District.

Prof. McCrady made some remarks on the spontaneous fission of the young of *Actinia cavernosa*. See p. 275.

Prof. L. R. Gibbes made the following remarks, "On the representatives of the genus *Cactus* in this State."

Elliott, in his Sketch of the Botany of South Carolina, says, under *Cactus opuntia*, that, it is probable, there are now three distinct species on the sea-coast covered under this name, but but neither he, nor any other botanist, appears to have paid any close attention to them. In excursions during the past year, I have had the genus in view, and have endeavored to collect its representatives; and now lay on the table four, if not five, distinct forms, obtained within a few miles of Charleston—possibly four distinct species.

1. The first, which we will call *Opuntia tunoidea*, falls under Engelman's sub-genus *Platopuntia*, section *Grandes*, is erect, or sub-erect, with large ovate joints, armed with yellowish spines, tipped with brown, about three-quarters of an inch long. The flowers and fruit we have not yet procured. The plant is

infested with a cochineal insect, covered with a white tomentum. 2. The second, which we will call *Opuntia macrарtha*, falls under the same section with the preceding, and seems to be near *Opuntia angustata*, of Engelman, from the west of the Rio Grande; a prostrate species, joints from ten to fifteen inches long and three inches wide, one-third of an inch thick; no spines, fruit two and a half inches long, slender, clavate. 3. The third species is *Opuntia vulgaris*, the *Cactus opuntia* of Elliott, and others, common throughout the State. 4. The fourth, which we will call *Opuntia frustulenta*, probably falls under Engelman's section, *Xerocarpeæ*, of the same sub-genus; plant prostrate, joints sub-cylindric, two to six inches long, armed with spines, white, three-fourths of an inch long, large for the size of the plant, joints separating readily. This species seems to be near *Opuntia fragilis*, Haworth, *Cactus fragilis*, Nuttall, from Upper Missouri. It has been found so far only on the sea islands, and is well known to their inhabitants, who call them *Dildoes*, and say that they have never seen them flower. This is the form exhibited to the Society on the 1st September last.

Correspondents Elected.

OSCAR M. LIEBER, Esq.

R. W. HABERSHAM, Esq.

Members Elected.

A. H. BOYKIN, Esq.

J. F. BUSSELL, Esq.

FEBRUARY 1st, 1858.

Vice President, W. W. Smith, in the chair.

Dr. H. W. DeSaussure presented from John M. DeSaussure, Esq. of Camden, a nodule of iron ore found in clay, 30 feet below the surface; similar nodules found on the surface; a specimen of fossilized wood, fossilized by iron; and a specimen of pine-wood, discolored by an iron nail, which had been driven into it years since.

Prof. L. R. Gibbes mentioned that he had deposited in the Society's collection ten species of corals from our southern coast, and twenty-four species of Echinoderms, chiefly from our southern coast. The Professor laid on the table living