



<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>

Carnegie Institution of Washington publication.

Washington, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1902-
<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/5800>

1919 v.1: <http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/14086>

Article/Chapter Title: Opuntia

Author(s): Britton and Rose

Subject(s): Opuntia orbiculata

Page(s): Page 176

Contributed by: Smithsonian Libraries

Sponsored by: Missouri Botanical Garden

Generated 9 April 2014 5:42 PM

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/pdf4/026303400014086>

This page intentionally left blank.

Series 19. ORBICULATAE.

We have retained the series *Criniferae*, although changing its name to *Orbiculatae*, but we have excluded *O. scheeri*, which was placed here by Schumann. The species are characterized by long hairs produced from the areoles. The species retained in the series are not closely related; while others, like *O. macrocentra*, in other series, sometimes produce long hairs from the areoles in the seedling stage, and *O. hyptiacantha* and some other species have a few hairs at the areoles of mature joints.

KEY TO SPECIES.

Hairs from the areoles of young plants long and white, long-persistent; plant low... 194. *O. orbiculata*
Hairs from the areoles of young joints of old plants early deciduous; plant tall... 195. *O. pilifera*

194. *Opuntia orbiculata* Salm-Dyck in Pfeiffer, Enum. Cact. 156. 1837.

Opuntia crinifera Salm-Dyck in Pfeiffer, Enum. Cact. 157. 1837.

Opuntia crinifera lanigera Pfeiffer, Enum. Cact. 157. 1837.

Opuntia lanigera Salm-Dyck, Cact. Hort. Dyck. 1849. 65. 1850.

A plant without a very definite trunk, about 1 meter high, often broader than high; joints green or bluish green, orbicular to obovate, sometimes spatulate, about 15 cm. long; leaves subulate, 2 to 3 mm. long; areoles small, in seedlings and young plants producing long white hairs or wool long-persistent; spines acicular, several, yellow; flowers yellow.

Type locality: Cited as Brazil, but undoubtedly by error.

Distribution: Northern Mexico.

Opuntia senilis Parmentier is given by Pfeiffer (Enum. Cact. 157. 1837) as a synonym of *O. crinifera*, and *O. pintadera* by Salm-Dyck (Cact. Hort. Dyck. 1844. 47. 1845) as a synonym of *O. lanigera*. They doubtless both belong here.

Opuntia metternichii Piccioli (Salm-Dyck, Cact. Hort. Dyck. 1844. 46. 1845) and *O. orbiculata metternichii* Salm-Dyck (Cact. Hort. Dyck. 1849. 68. 1850), names without descriptions, doubtless belong here.

We have studied living plants sent from the Berlin Botanical Garden as *O. crinifera* and from the Botanical Garden of Santiago, Chile, as *O. orbiculata*; the plant is not native in Chile.

Illustration: Monatsschr. Kakteenk. 11: 155, as *Opuntia lanigera*.

Figure 215 represents joints of a plant sent from the Berlin Botanical Garden in 1902.

195. *Opuntia pilifera* Weber, Dict. Hort. Bois 894. 1898.

Becoming 4 to 5 meters high, with a definite, thick, woody, cylindrical trunk and a broad, rounded top; joints oblong to orbicular, 1 to 3 dm. long, obtuse at apex, pale green; leaves subulate, about 5 mm. long; areoles 2 to 3 cm. apart, scarcely elevated; spines 2 to 9, white, slightly spreading, acicular; the outer part of the areole filled with nearly white, more or less deciduous hairs 2 to 3 cm. long; flowers large, red; areoles on the ovary bearing brown glochids and deciduous hairs, the latter especially abundant towards the top of the ovary; fruit red, juicy.

Type locality: In Mexico.

Distribution: Puebla, Mexico.

No definite locality was given for this species when it was first described, and apparently no type material was preserved; living specimens identified by Weber are still grown at La Mortola, Italy. The species is common about Tehuacán, Mexico, being one of the large forms occurring in that region. It is common in all large greenhouse collections.

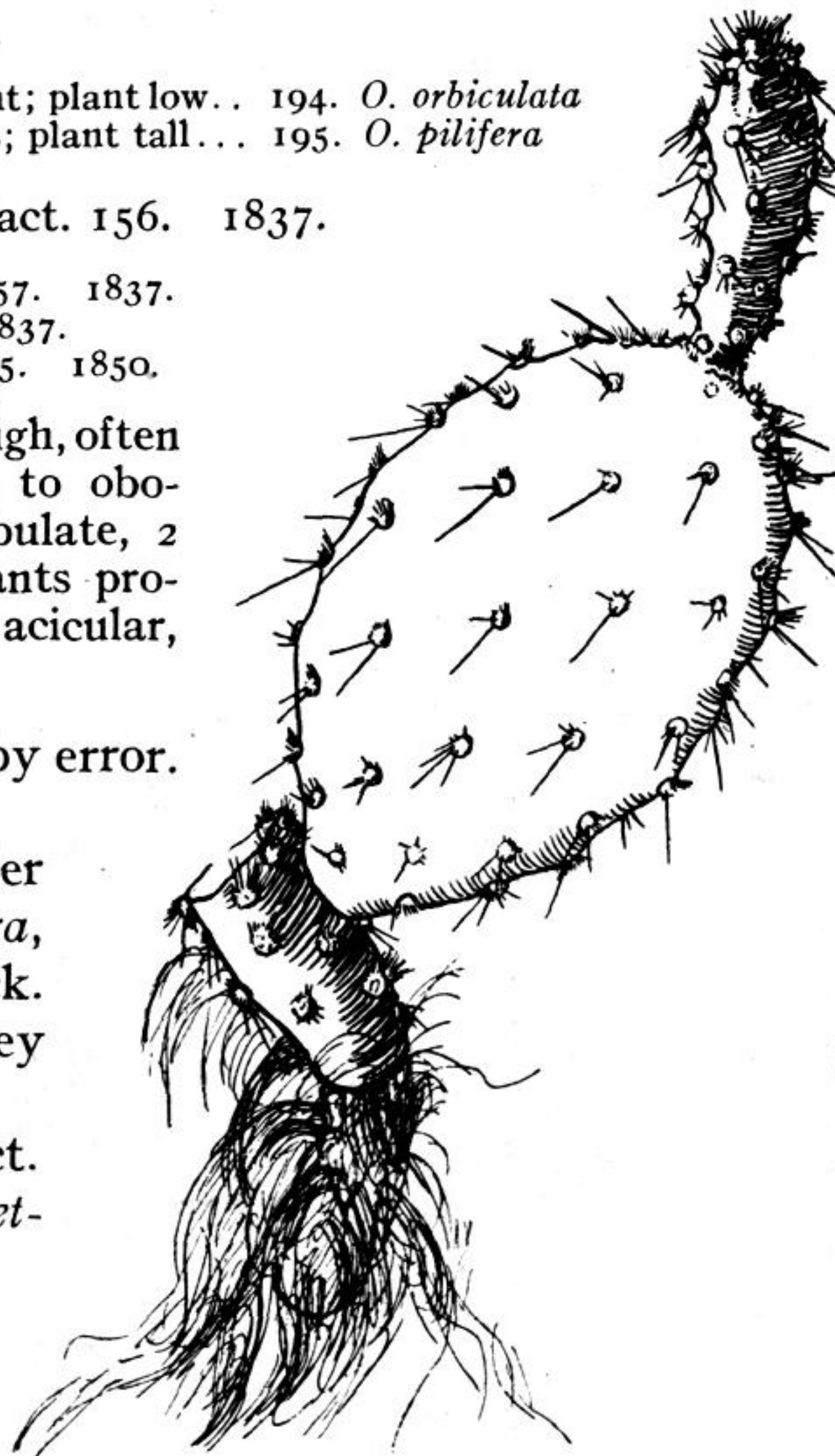


FIG. 215.—*Opuntia orbiculata*. X0.66.