

**Opuntia Wootonii** sp. nov.

A very open spreading, ascending species, about 6 dm. high (3 years old) and 1½ to 2 meters in spread of branch, the main limbs horizontal, ascending or resting on edge on ground, the secondary ones erect from them; joints widest near the middle, pointed at either end, about 18 by 32 cm., glaucous, light blue-green becoming more yellow in age; areoles broadly oval, about 5 to 7 mm. in length and 3½ to 4 cm. apart, increasing in size with age, at first tawny and then gray, leaves large, slightly flattened, erect, but recurved at tip in age, subulate, cuspidate-pointed, 15 to 20 mm. long; spicules long, formidable, in an unequal, hemispherical tuft in upper portion of areole, often 1½ cm. long above and on edges of joints, increasing with age and often filling the entire areole; spines very long, formidable, erect-spreading, flattened, twisted, faintly annular, the longest often 9 cm. in length and shortest about 1 cm., but the long ones greatly predominating and more commonly about 7 cm., 4 to 6 on last year's joints and increasing

on old trunks to 8 or 10, the longest ones sometimes 11 cm. long, tips bonelike, changing abruptly to white or often yellowish or even translucent which in turn fades into various degrees of reddish brown or even nearly black at base; flowers yellow to deep orange-red; fruit reddish-purple.

This species has been cultivated several years by Professor E. O. Wooton in whose honor it is named. It is one of the most striking of our native opuntias and is easily recognized by its large joints, pointed at both ends like *O. occidentalis*, and exceedingly formidable, showy spines which resemble those of *Opuntia tricolor* more closely than any other species with which I am familiar.

The description given above is taken from a cultivated plant in the third year of its development, supplemented by notes upon flowers and fruits grown at Messilla Park, N. M., by Professor Wooton, who collected the species originally in the Organ Mountains of New Mexico. The type bears my collection No. 9171 which was prepared May 4, 1910, from a cultivated plant the cutting for which was secured in April, 1908, from Professor Wooton's collection. The species was originally collected under Professor Wooton's No. 3030. The plants from which the above description was drawn bore but one flower bud this year, the third season from planting.—Plate 26, upper figure, and Plate 27.



Plate 27

