

PERESKIOPSIS, A NEW GENUS OF CACTACEÆ

By N. L. BRITTON AND J. N. ROSE

After a number of years observation in the conservatory and field, we are convinced that the subgenus *Pereskiopuntia* of *Opuntia* deserves generic rank. Its relation to *Pereskia* is only slight, although in habit it suggests that genus rather than *Opuntia*. From *Opuntia* it is easily distinguished by its habit, its broad, persistent leaves, and its seeds.

Genus PERESKIOPSIS Britton & Rose, gen. nov.

Trees and shrubs similar in habit and foliage to *Pereskia*, old stems forming a solid woody cylinder covered with bark and resembling ordinary dicotyledonous stems; areoles circular, spine-bearing or sometimes spineless, also bearing hairs and glochids; flowers similar to those of *Opuntia*; ovary inferior, sessile, leafy, rarely leafless; fruit red; seeds few, covered with matted hairs.

Common in hedges and thickets of Mexico and Guatemala.

Eleven species are known, of which 9 are now in cultivation in Washington and New York. Two of these species were described as early as 1828 as *Pereskias*, and here they remained with two later described species until in 1898 Dr. A. Weber transferred them to *Opuntia*.

Type species: *Opuntia brandegeei* Schum.

1. PERESKIOPSIS AQUIOSA (Weber) Britton & Rose

Opuntia aquiosa WEBER, Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris 4: 165. 1898.

Type locality: Cultivated at Guadalajara, Mexico.

Distribution: Jalisco, Mexico.

2. PERESKIOPSIS BRANDEGEEI (Schum.) Britton & Rose

Opuntia brandegeei SCHUM. Gesam. Kacteen 653. 1901.

Type locality: Near Cape San Lucas, Lower California.

Distribution: Southern Lower California.

3. PERESKIOPSIS CHAPISTLE (Gosselin) Britton & Rose

Opuntia chapistle GOSSELIN, Bull. Mus. Nat. Hist. Paris 10: 388. 1904.

Type locality: Oaxaca, Mexico.

Distribution: Oaxaca, Mexico.

Plate XLIII, reproduction of a photograph taken by Dr. D. T. McDougal, near Oaxaca City, Mexico.

4. **PERESKIOPSIS DEGUETII** (Weber) Britton & Rose

Opuntia deguetii WEBER, Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris 4: 166. 1898.

Type locality: Mexico.

Distribution: Jalisco, Mexico.

5. **PERESKIOPSIS KELLERMANII** Rose, sp. nov.

Stems glabrous, herbaceous, weak and clambering over shrubs, about 2 cm. in diameter; second year's branches with cherry-colored bark; old stem spineless (?); young branches spineless or with a single short spine; glochids numerous, brownish; leaves glabrous, orbicular to ovate, 3 cm. long by 2 to 2.5 cm. broad, acute; flowers not seen; fruit red, glabrous, leafy, 6 cm. long; seeds covered with matted hairs.

Collected by W. A. Kellerman at Trapichite, Guatemala, January 1, 1907 (no. 6025).

Type in U. S. National Museum, no. 575,464.

6. **PERESKIOPSIS OPUNTIAEFLORA** (DC.) Britton & Rose

Pereskia opuntiaeflora DC. Prod. 3: 475. 1828.

Opuntia golziana SCHUM. Gesam. Kacteen 694.* 1901.

Type locality: Mexico.

Distribution: Mexico.

Illustration: Mem. Mus. Hist. Nat. 17: pl. 19.

7. **PERESKIOPSIS PITITACHE** (Karw.) Britton & Rose

Pereskia pititache KARW. in Pfeiff. Enum. 176. 1837.

Opuntia pititache WEBER in Bois, Dict. Hort. 899. 1899.

Type locality: Mexico.

Distribution: Mexico.

8. **PERESKIOPSIS PORTERI** (Brandegge) Britton & Rose

Opuntia porteri BRANDEGEE; Weber in Bois, Dict. Hort. 899. 1899.

Type locality: Sinaloa, Mexico.

Distribution: West coast of Mexico.

9. **PERESKIOPSIS ROTUNDIFOLIA** (DC.) Britton & Rose

Pereskia rotundifolia DC. Prod. 3: 475. 1828.

Opuntia rotundifolia SCHUM. Gesam. Kacteen 652. 1901.

Type locality: Mexico.

Distribution: Mexico.

Illustration: Mem. Mus. Hist. Nat. 17; *pl.* 20; Schum. Gesam. Kacteen *f.* 99.

10. **PERESKIOPSIS SPATHULATA** (Otto) Britton & Rose

Pereskia spathulata OTTO, Pfeiff. Enum. 176. 1837.

Opuntia spathulata WEBER, Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris 4: 165. 1898.

Type locality: Mexico.

Distribution: Mexico.

11. **PERESKIOPSIS VELUTINA** Rose, *sp. nov.*

Stems weak and spreading, forming compact bushes 9 to 12 cm. high or sometimes higher; old stems with cherry-brown bark; young branches green, borne nearly at right angles to the old stem, velvety-pubescent; areoles bearing long white hairs, several short spines, and some bristles; leaves broadly ovate, 2 to 4 cm. long by 1.5 to 2.5 cm. broad, mucronate, acute, dull green, more or less velvety-pubescent on both surfaces, or when very young brighter green and quite glabrous, narrowly lanceolate; flowers generally (if not always) sessile on the second year's stems; ovary obovate to oblong in outline, pubescent, bearing large leaves and areoles similar to those of the stem; leaves spreading or ascending and persisting after the flower falls; flower bud (above the ovary) 2 to 3 cm. long, acute, the outer sepals green or deep red tinged with yellow; petals bright yellow.

Collected by J. N. Rose in hedges about the city of Queretaro, August 20, 1906 (no. 11,149); living collection: 06.1054.

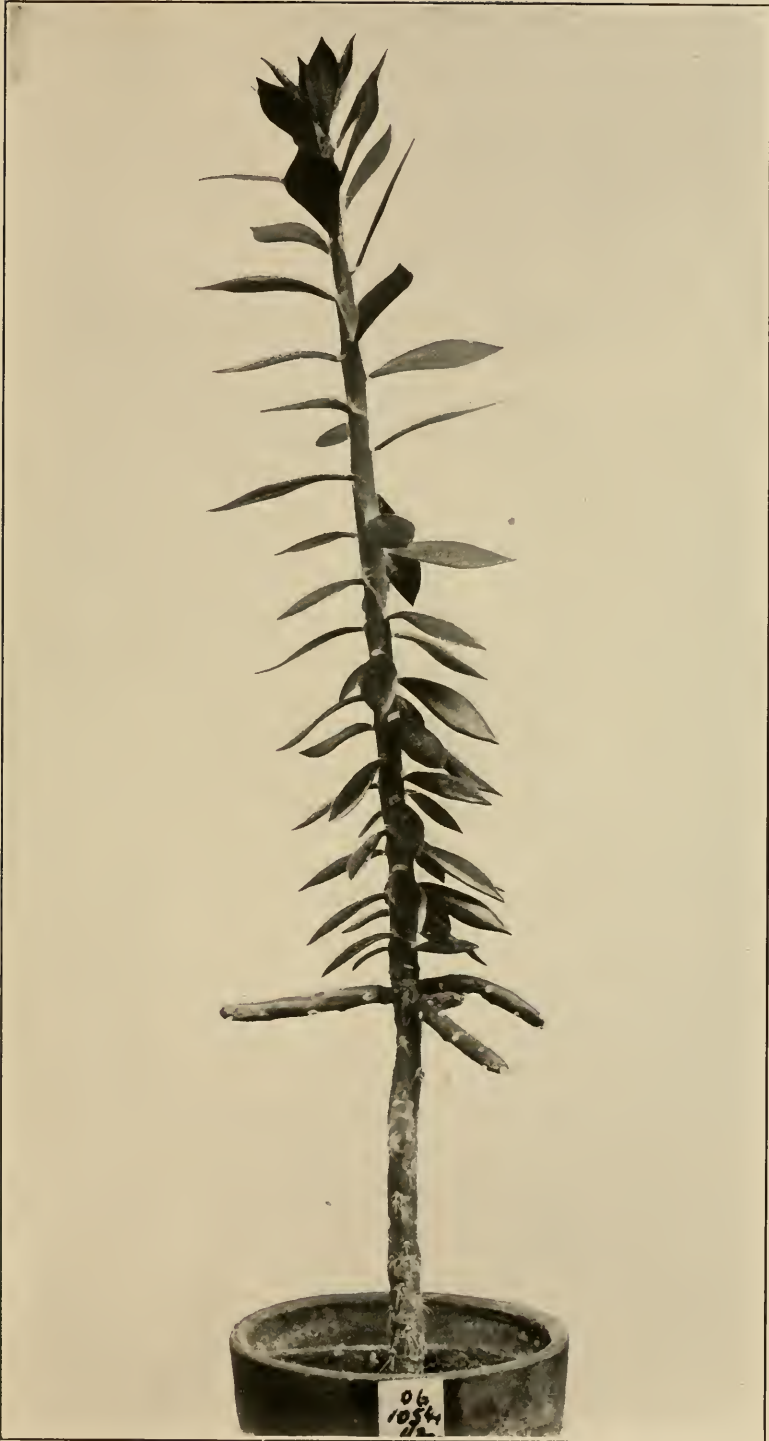
This plant is called by the natives "Nopaleta" and "Colo de diablo."

Type in U. S. National Museum, no. 453,934.

Plate XLIV shows a greenhouse specimen.



PERESKIOPSIS CHAPISTLE (Gossein) Britton & Rose



PERESKIOPSIS VELUTINA Rose