



OPUNTIA VIVIPARA Rose

A NEW OPUNTIA FROM ARIZONA

BY J. N. ROSE

(WITH ONE PLATE)

While going from Tucson, Arizona, to the Pictured Rock some 12 miles to the southwest, my attention was called by Dr. D. T. MacDougal to a peculiar *Opuntia* resembling the very common *O. versicolor*, but of very different habit, branching and with larger fruit, etc. At first we came upon a large group of these plants where they formed the dominant element in the landscape. Farther on the species was less common and was associated with *O. versicolor* and *O. spinosior*, but it surely does not intergrade with either of them. It is much more open in its manner of growth than *O. versicolor*, while the branches readily drop off and take root about the old plant. This is shown very well in the accompanying illustration.

This species may be technically described as follows:

OPUNTIA VIVIPARA Rose, sp. nov.

Stems 2 to 3.5 meters high, usually several from the base, 8 to 10 cm. in diameter, much branched, but not compactly so; old stems with rather smooth bark; young branches bluish green, slender, 1 to 2 cm. long, 10 to 12 mm. in diameter; tubercles low, oblong, 15 to 20 mm. long; areoles when young forming a dense cushion of yellow wool with few or no glochides; spines 1 to 4, 2 cm. or less long, covered with straw-colored sheaths; leaves small, terete, acutish, purple; flowers numerous, borne in clusters at the top of last year's branches, purplish; ovary strongly tubercled, bearing white deciduous bristles; fruit oblong, 4 to 6 cm. long, smooth with a somewhat depressed umbilicus, yellowish-green, spineless; seeds white, 5 mm. long.

On a mesa near Tucson, Arizona, to the southwestward, J. N. Rose, April 21, 1908 (No. 11836).

Type in U. S. National Herbarium, No. 454,531.

Illustration (Pl. XII) furnished by courtesy of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.