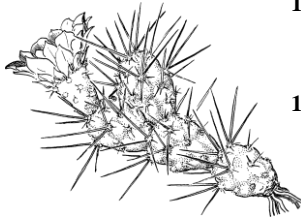


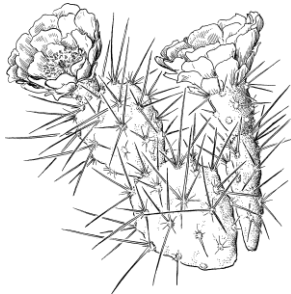
Opuntia phaeacantha is escaped along the Columbia River in Klickitat County. The key includes this southwestern US introduction.

Opuntia Mill. Pricklypear Cactus

Fls in areoles of previous year's st; sepals greenish, grading into the yellow to red petals; berry dry (ours) to juicy; erect to trailing trees or shrubs, usually ∞-br, occ mat- or clump-forming; sts flattened to subcylindric or subspheric, broad, jointed (ours); spines aging with epidermis intact, not sheathed, acicular to subulate, occ setose or with hairlike bristles, terete to angular-flattened. (Derivation uncertain, possibly *Gr town Opus*, where a cactus-like plant grew). The taxonomic status of *O. ×columbiana* and the distribution of *O. polyacantha* in our area merit further study.



3a



4a

- 1a** Sts 10–25 cm long, flattened, not easily detached, to 20 cm wide; frs spineless, juicy; areoles 5–7 per diagonal row across pad; pls trailing, to 50 cm tall; sw US intro, possibly intentionally planted; roadsides, railroads; Klickitat Co, WA; brown-spined p.
 - 1. ***O. phaeacantha*** Engelm.
- 1b** Sts 2.5–12 cm long, flattend or subcylindric, easily detached or not; frs spiny, dry; native spp. more broadly distributed in our area
 - 2a** Longest spines ≥ 25 mm; sts flattened, not easily detached, > 5.5 cm long, with ≥ 6 areoles per diagonal row across pad; pls ≥ 2 dm
 - 3a** Sts (4–)5.5–11 cm wide; glochids to 10 mm; inner tepals yellow to magenta; areoles 12–28 on mature fr, 6–11 per diagonal row on st; sts forming rounded clumps or wider mats; plains and foothills to lower mts; s Alta to c and sw MT, e ID, and CA, e to Gr Pl, apparently not in BC, WA or OR; starvation p.; ours var. ***polyacantha***
 - 2. ***O. polyacantha*** Haw.
 - 3b** Sts 2.5–5 cm wide; glochids to 4 mm; inner tepals yellow; areoles 10–15 on mature fr, 4–6(–7) per diagonal row on st; cliffs, barren ground, sand bars, lowl to lower mont; sc BC s, e Cas, to WA and OR, e to w and s ID; Columbia gorge p. (*O. erinacea* var. *c.*); possible hybrid of 2 × 4
 - 3. ***×columbiana*** Griffiths
 - 2b** Longest spines ≤ 24 mm; sts flattened to subcylindric or subspheric, easily detached, ≤ 9 cm long, with ≤ 7 areoles per diagonal row across st; pls ≤ 2 dm
 - 4a** Inner tepals 20–26 mm, yellow, ± basally red; st spines of one kind (excluding glochids); mature fr with 12–22 areoles, each areole with 1–6 spines; st segms subcylindric to subspheric; pls matted; barren, open ground, lowl to mont; widespread, n BC s, mostly e Cas, but also in sw BC and n PT, to ne OR and n CA, e in ID and MT to RMS, Gr Pl, and GL; brittle p.
 - 4. ***O. fragilis*** (Nutt.) Haw.
 - 4b** Inner tepals 30–45 mm, yellow; st spines of three kinds (excluding glochids); mature fr with 10–15 areoles, each areole with 3–12 (1–3 distally) spines; st segms ± flattened (see lead 3b)
 - 3. ***×columbiana*** Griffiths