

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDCAC0D2E0

Data Sensitivity: Yes

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Opuntia martiniana*
COMMON NAME: Seashore cactus; coastal pricklypear; Martin's prickly pear
SYNONYMS: *O. littoralis* var. *martiniana*; *O. macrocentra* var. *martiniana*
FAMILY: Cactaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: *Opuntia martiniana* (L.D. Benson) B.D. Parfitt, Systematic Botany 5(4): 416. 1980 [1981]. *Opuntia macrocentra* var. *martiniana* L.D. Benson, Cact. Ariz. ed. 2 64. 1950.

TYPE LOCALITY: Arizona, Mohave Co., "Kingman Road (old Hwy 93) on north side of Hualapai Mountain (foothills)."

TYPE SPECIMEN: HT: POM, L.D. Benson 10169, 30 March 1940.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: One of 90 species in the genus *Opuntia*.

DESCRIPTION: Medium-sized, sprawling prickly pear up to 2 feet (60 cm) tall, with a short trunk. Pads moderately bluish, small, 4-6 inches in diameter (10-15 cm), armed with long, pale, brown and yellow spines. Spines 3-8 per cluster, somewhat flattened, all directed away from the stem. Flowers are narrow at the base, yellow, with reddish centers. Fruit is purplish red and fleshy at maturity.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: *O. martiniana* is similar to *O. curvospina*, where both have brown and yellow spines and a trunk. *O. curvospina* is a larger plant with larger pads, flowers, and fruits, and more spine clusters on the pads and fruits. The unique style shape (thickest at or above the middle) of the flower in the species *martiniana*, separates it from all other juicy-fruited prickly pears in the southwest U.S.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Color photo (Desert Botanical Garden in <http://www.desert-tropicals.com/plants>)
Color photos (Benson, 1982: fig. 42, 461, and 462)

TOTAL RANGE: Arizona, southern Nevada, southern Utah along the border with Arizona, and extreme southeastern California near the border with Nevada.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Northwest part of state in the eastern and northern foothills of the Hualapai Mountains, Mohave County. Also occurs in Coconino, N Navajo, and Yavapai counties.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Perennial succulent shrub/subshrub.

PHENOLOGY: Flowers from late May through June. Develops fruit during July and August, reaching maturity in late August and September.

BIOLOGY: Hybridizes with *Opuntia erinacea*, and shades into *O. phaeacantha* and *O. macrorrhiza*.

HABITAT: Occurs on sandy or gravelly soils of valleys, flats, and mountainsides in forests or woodlands, or at the edge of the desert. Parfitt (1981) reports in "Low rocky hills in juniper grasslands, open interior chaparral, and ponderosa pine-chaparral associations in canyons; 1200-1650 m." On the other hand, Kartesz (1988) states that it occurs on "flats, valleys, and hillsides on sandy or gravelly soil with *Artemisia*, pinyon-juniper, to yellow pine forests." (NatureServe 2002).

ELEVATION: 4,500 – 6,500 ft (1350-1950 m); occasional at extremes of 2,000 and 8,500 ft (600 and 2,550 m) (Benson 1982). Parfitt (1981) reports elevation range as 3,934 – 5410 feet (1200-1650 m).

EXPOSURE: In the Hualapai Mountains of Arizona, found on NW, N, and E facing foothills.

SUBSTRATE: Sandy or gravelly soils.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Edge of Rocky Mountain Montane Forest, Northern Juniper-Pinyon Woodland, and Mojavean Desert. Associated species include: *Pinus monophylla*, *Juniperus osteosperma*, *Quercus turbinella*, *Ceanothus greggii*, *Yucca baccata*, *Aristida purpurea* var. *glauca*, *A. p.* var. *longiseta*, *A. divaricata*, *Sapindus saponaria*, *Baccharis pteronioides*, *Hymenopappus filifolius*, *Astragalus wootoni*, *Lotus utahensis*, *Gaura coccinea*, and *Physalis fendleri*.

POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS:

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None
STATE STATUS: Salvage Restricted (ARS, ANPL 1999)
OTHER STATUS: None

MANAGEMENT FACTORS:

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS:

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: Possibly BIA, BLM, State Land Department, and Private.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

LITERATURE CITATIONS:

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- USDA, NRCS. 2002. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.
- Welsh, S.L., N.D. Atwood, S. Goodrich, and L.C. Higgins. Eds. 1993. A Utah Flora. Second Edition, revised. Print Services, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. P. 98.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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