PLANT FACT SHEET

Stenocereus stellatus (Pfeiffer) Riccobono

GENUS *Stenocereus* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Joconostle cactus, Baja organ pipe cactus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Stems, Flowers, Juice

The fruit are eaten fresh or dried. They are used for jam.
It is also served hot with local goat cheese.
The juice of the fruit is used to prepare an alcoholic drink. Caution: Alcohol is a cause of cancer.
The seeds, stems and flower are occasionally eaten.
The flower buds are parboiled then fried with egg or prepared with onions and vinegar.

DESCRIPTION

A cactus. It is shrubby or treelike. It branches near the base. It grows 2-4 m high. It has a short trunk. The stems are dark bluish-green. They are 7-10 cm wide. There are 8-12 ribs and they are rounded and lumpy. They are 2 cm high. There are usually 3 central spines with one pointing down and 2 pointing up. They are 2-6 cm long. There are 7-9 spines around these. They are short and grey with dark tips. The flowers open at night. They are at the ends of the branches. They are a narrow bell shape. They are pale red and 4.5-6 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a tropical plant. It grows in arid places.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds and cuttings. It can be cultivated as a hedge.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants fruit after 5-10 years. Yields of fruit of 3.3 tons per hectare are recorded.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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