PLANT FACT SHEET

Maihueniopsis ovata (Pfeiff.) F. Ritter

GENUS *Maihueniopsis* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Espina, Gatito, Perrito

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

DESCRIPTION

A cactus. The cushions are compact. They are 10 cm high and 50 cm wide. The taproot is large. The stems are dark green. The segments are oval and taper towards the top. They are green and 3 cm long. The flowers are bright yellow with brownish bracts. They are 4.5 cm long and 5.5 cm wide. The fruit are round or oval. They are yellow, juicy and edible. They are 2-5 cm long.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate to subtropical plant. In Argentina it grows between 1,000-2,000 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 8-10.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

They rarely flower in cultivation.

NOTES

There are about 18 Maihueniopsis species. They occur in northern South America.

REFERENCES

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