PLANT FACT SHEET

Brasiliopuntia brasiliensis (Willdenow) A. Berger

GENUS *Brasiliopuntia* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Brazilian opuntia, Brazilian prickly pear

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, stem

The fruit pulp is eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A cactus. It is a treelike plant which is erect and tapers towards the top. It can be 20 m high. It is 35 cm across. The trunks are well formed and have clusters of spines. There are 2 types of stem segments. The ones in the middle are cylinder shaped and 20-100 cm long. The ends segments are an irregular shape and narrow towards the base. These produce thin leaf-like shoots which fall off. There are 1-3 spines. The flowers are on the tips of the end segments. They open during the day. They are 6 cm long yellow, orange, red or purple. They are 3-4 cm across. There are 1-5 seeds in each fruit.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in sand to clay loam. It is in semi-arid areas in full sun. It is tolerant to drought. In Argentina it grows below 500 m above sea level. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 250 Opuntia species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/c5e7f296-ba7a-4878-b845-41bca14a6a1a