PLANT FACT SHEET

Ferocactus histrix (A. P. de Candolle) G. E. Lindsay

GENUS *Ferocactus* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Mexican barrel cactus

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: bud, Stem, Fruit

The flower buds are fried or boiled and eaten.
The middle of the stem is removed and cut into pieces and boiled for 2-3 hours and sugar added then boiled to a thick candy.
The fruit are eaten raw.
The juice from the fruit is extracted and used in marmalade and wines.

DESCRIPTION

A cactus. The plants usually occur singly. They are a flattened round shape. They can be 1.1 m high and 80 cm wide. The stem tips are woolly. There are 20-40 ribs. The spine buds join each other. The spines are stout and yellow turning brown. There are 1-4 central spines that are up to 9 cm long and 3-9 spines around these which are 8 cm long. The flowers are bell shaped and yellow. They are 2-3.5 cm long and 2.5-3.5 cm wide. The fruit are fleshy. They are 2-3 cm long and burst open to release their seeds.

HABITAT

In Hobart Botanical Gardens.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/c6812741-b106-46cc-b3fb-682c333d1a7d