PLANT FACT SHEET

Cylindropuntia ramosissima (Engelm.) F.M. Knuth

GENUS *Cylindropuntia* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Branched pencil cholla, Diamond cholla

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Seeds, Stem

The fruit are dried and stored for later use.
The stalks are dried and stored for later use.
The fruit are eaten fresh.
The stalks with the thorns removed are boiled into a soup.

DESCRIPTION

A bushy cactus. It grows about 60 cm high. The joints are greyish-green. They are slender and 5-10 cm long. They spread to form dense spiny clumps. The joints are 5-6 mm thick. They have a woody core. There is usually only one spine per 5 cm and this quickly falls off. The flowers are 4 cm long by 1-2 cm wide. They are greenish yellow.

HABITAT

It needs full sunlight. It needs a temperature above 10°C.

NOTES

There are about 250 Opuntia species.

REFERENCES

Anderson, E.F., 2001, The Cactus Family, Timber Press. p 212

Innes, C. and Glass, C., 1997, The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Cacti. Sandstone Books. p 221 (As Opuntia ramosissima)

Moerman, D. F., 2010, Native American Ethnobotany. Timber Press. p 368 (As Opuntia ramosissima)

Plants for a Future database, The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NG, UK. http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/ (As Opuntia ramosissima)

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/ee8f030f-cf34-4a71-a688-ed5205dbfc15