PLANT FACT SHEET

Cylindropuntia versicolor (Engelm. ex J. M. Coult.) F. M. Knuth

GENUS *Cylindropuntia* **FAMILY** Cactaceae

COMMON NAMES Staghorn cholla, Pencil cholla

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Buds, Fruit, Stems

The buds, fruit and joints are baked in pits and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A tree like cactus. It grows 2 m high. It has a short trunk and longer branches. These are dull green and have lumps on the joints. The joints are 10-25 cm long by 2-4 cm wide. There are a few cylinder shaped leaves which soon fall off. The spine spots are reddish-brown. There are 7-12 brown spines about 1.5 cm long. The flowers are about 5 cm across. They can be red, purple, brown or greenish-yellow. The flowers open in daytime.

HABITAT

It needs a sunny position. It needs a temperature above 10°C.

NOTES

There are about 250 Opuntia species.

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