

Opuntia aurea--a New Species

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Plants prostrate, stems branching from about middle of side edge of next older joint forming a chain of joints seldom two joints high, and forming a plant of rambling growth as these chains strike off in various directions.

Joints are oval to broadly obovate, as large as $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches (12 cm.) wide and equally long, relatively thick—1 inch (2.75 cm.); light green in color, neither young nor old joints are glaucous; finely papillose.

Areoles are $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (1.5 cm.) apart, only slightly sunken, $\frac{1}{16}$ inch (1 to 2 mm.) in diameter except on old joints and that part of younger joints touching or under ground; glochids are prominent, $\frac{3}{16}$ inch (5 mm.) long, golden brown, occasionally worn away by the weather and at other times (on older joints) a second growth twice as long comes from the center of the areole; a few solitary yellow-clear spines may be expected on some joints although none are reported on wild specimens; leaves are minute.

Flowers are yellow or apricot pink, large, opening widely.