

21. *O. BASILARIS*, E. & B. l. c.: humilis; articulis obovatis seu triangularibus glaucescentibus pubescentibus e basi proliferis; foliis minutis; pulvillis subconfertis fulvo-villosis setas gracillimas demum numerosissimas fulvidas et subinde aculeolos setiformes caducos gerentibus; floris purpurei ovario obovato pulvillis plurimis instructo;

stigmatibus 8 in capitulum congestis; bacca obovata late.umbilicata (sicca?); seminibus magnis crassis subregularibus.

On Williams's River, the Colorado, and the Mojave, and down to the Gila: fl. April and May. — Habit very different from any other of our *Opuntia*; the stout obovate or fan-shaped joints (5–8 inches long) originate from a common base, forming a sort of rosette. Leaves only one line long, 4–6 lines apart; pulvilli red-brown, somewhat immersed. Flower about 2½ inches in diameter; ovary with 40–60 pulvilli. Fruit apparently dry, thereby approaching the next section. Seed 3 lines in diameter, 2 lines thick.

Mr. Schott has observed, on the dividing ridge of the California mountains, west of the mouth of the Gila, and again in the Santa Cruz Valley, Sonora, a very similar but suberect species, 3 feet high, spineless, inclined to assume a purplish hue, which he seems to have confounded with *O. basilaris*. Can it be *O. rufida*, or is it an undescribed species?

§ 6. *Xerocarpea*: diffusæ: articuli suborbiculati vel tumidi: aculei plurimi: bacca sicca aculeolata: semina eburnea, magna, plerumque latissime marginata.