

OPUNTIA MOJAVENSIS Engelm. & Bigel.; Engelm. Proc. Am. Acad. **3**: 293.

This is founded, in two lines of description, on a specimen collected by Bigelow in 1853, "on the Mojave, west of the Colorado." In Pac. R. R. Rep. **4**: 40, this specimen is said to consist of "a few fragments, with a sterile fruit," and plate *9, f. 6-8*, shows a "sterile and degenerate" fruit and two bunches of spines, neither fruit nor spines exhibiting any distinguishing characters. The specimen, such as it is, is still preserved in the Engelmann herbarium, at the Missouri Botanical Garden, according to Coulter, Cont. U. S. Nat. Herb. **3**: 427. Dr. Engelmann himself, at a later period, appears to have regarded the species as of doubtful validity, for in Bot. Cal. **1**: 248, he says he "merely indicated it, for the attention of future explorers." In any case it could be identified only conjecturally, since the type had neither flower nor perfect fruit, and, in fact, consists of little

more than a few spine-clusters. Fifty years have elapsed without any further traces being discovered of this supposed species, yet it still holds a place in our books. It would seem that the time has come for dropping it.