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1914 (David Griffiths)

Opuntia valida sp. nov.

An erect to ascending, widely radiating branched species, with main limbs ascending or horizontal, and sometimes resting on edge under cultivation, but mostly erect to ascending in natural habitat, 1 m. in height and 2 m. in spread of branch; joints obovate, large, thick, glaucous, slightly blue-green, very broadly pointed or rounded above, commonly 25 by 32 cm. or again 25 by 27 cm., 1 joint on plants in cultivation, 30 by 42 cm. which is unusual; areoles very large, ovate, 8 mm. long on sides of joints and on edges subcircular, 9 to 11 mm. in diameter, at first brown, turning almost black, finally gray, the wool prominent, mostly elevated 1 or 2 mm. above surface of joint especially on the edges, spicules scattered, not numerous, from 2 mm. long on sides to 1 cm. long on edges of joints, commonly only about 25, increasing in age, but always scattered through entire areole, although at first appearing on its upper half, stout and faintly annular; spines bright deep reddish-brown at base, fading gradually to a semi-translucent bone-like tip, and in age becoming gray, flattened on upper side, faintly annular, sometimes slightly twisted, diverging in all directions, 2 to 5 strongly