

Common but Not Absolute Differences between *Opuntia engelmannii* and *O. orbiculata*

<i>Opuntia engelmannii</i>	<i>Opuntia orbiculata</i>
<p>Has larger areoles arranged further apart on pads; so there are fewer areoles.</p> <p>Glochids are usually of mixed sizes, and they are scattered throughout the areoles.</p> <p>There is a lower number of areoles on fruits.</p> <p>Pads are mostly longer than wide (often obovate), seldom wider below the middle, and almost never pointed.</p> <p>Pads are of “normal” thickness.</p> <p>Spines are typically stouter.</p> <p>Spines are more often flattened and may be up to 5-6/areole.</p> <p>Spines may have yellowish, reddish, or warm hues.</p> <p>Spines are often chalky seeming.</p> <p>The shape of the fruits is less defined over a plant; fruits have fewer areoles.</p> <p>Fruit is variable but often broadly pear shaped, but does not have a pronounced narrow base—overall the shape is rounded.</p> <p>Plants may be as tall as wide, or taller, seldom mostly on the ground.</p> <p>Seeds are small (like <i>O. lindheimeri</i>) and all of the same size within a fruit.</p>	<p>Has smaller areoles arranged closer together; so there are more areoles</p> <p>Glochids are usually neatly arranged in concentric rings of even sizes.</p> <p>There is a higher number of areoles on fruits.</p> <p>Pads are often nearly orbicular, sometimes wider below middle, sometimes somewhat pointed.</p> <p>Pads are thicker seeming.</p> <p>Spines are more slender.</p> <p>Spines are less strongly or not flattened, usually fewer per areole.</p> <p>Spines are commonly clearly yellow or white with dark bases.</p> <p>Spines may be or not be chalky.</p> <p>The shape of fruits is generally more “defined” and with more areoles.</p> <p>Fruits are generally more barrel-shaped (with a more distinct top rim), and almost always longer than wide, but they are not narrow.</p> <p>Plants are often wider than tall, sometimes mostly on the ground.</p> <p>Seeds are commonly in two size classes within the same fruit--both tiny and small (either somewhat larger or distinctly smaller than those of <i>O. engelmannii</i>).</p>