

Coastal Prickly Pear (*Opuntia littoralis*)

Order: Caryophyllales

Family: Cactaceae (Cactus Family)

Flowers: April - June

Opuntia littoralis is a perennial shrub (stems succulent). It is found throughout the peninsula. It has spreading to sprawling stems and usually forms large low-growing clumps. The stems (pads) are flattened and oblong-elliptic to narrowly obovate. There are 4-11 spines per areole and the major spines are generally round. The spines are also generally coated whitish. The inner tepals of the flowers are yellow to dull red. Stamens are numerous. The style is pink to red and the stigma lobes are yellow-green to green. The fruit is berrylike, dark red-purple, and obovoid (pear shaped). The seeds are grayish brown and subcircular. Numerous viable seeds are produced by the plant.



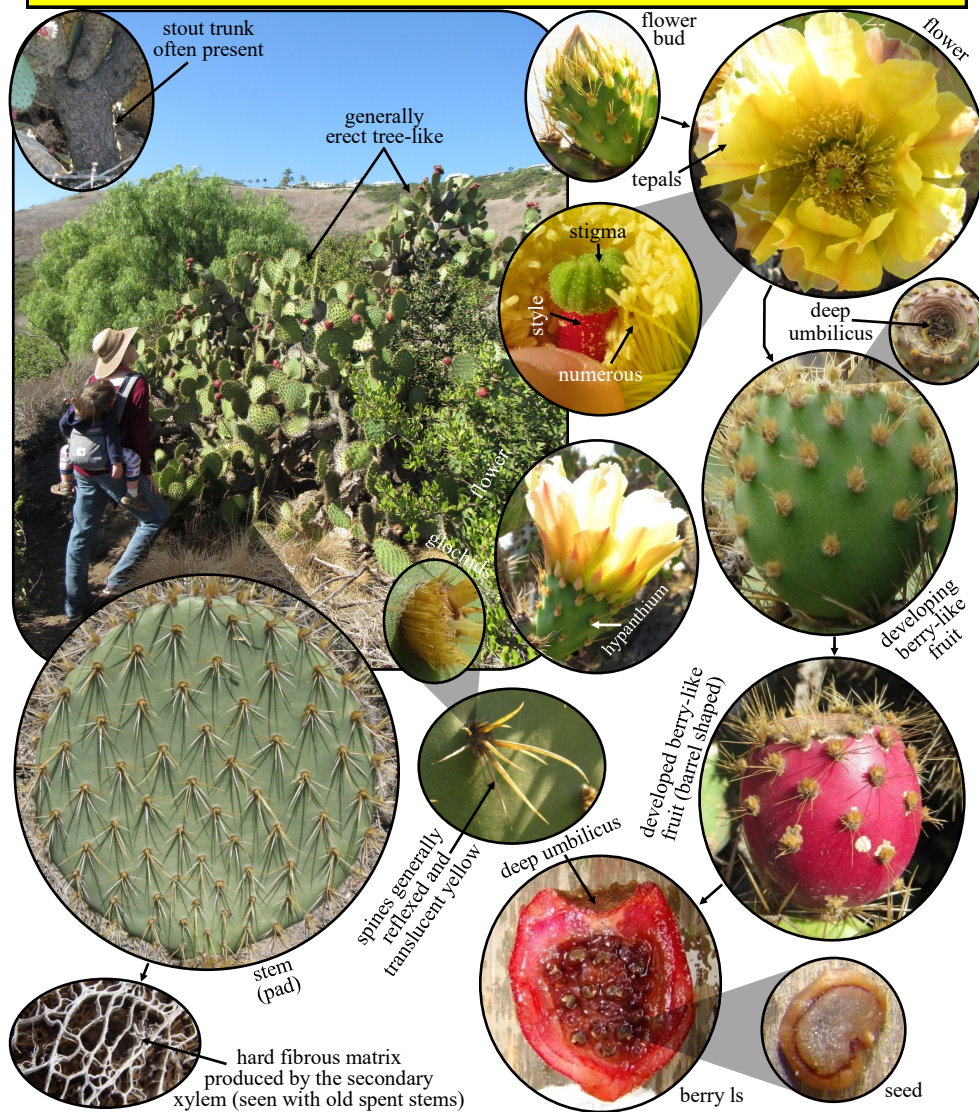
Pancake Pricklypear (*Opuntia oricola*)

Order: Caryophyllales

Family: Cactaceae (Cactus Family)

Flowers: April - May

Opuntia oricola is a perennial generally upright and tall plant (stems succulent). It is found throughout the peninsula. Large specimens can have a stout trunk. The stems (pads) are flattened and subcircular to broadly obovate. There are 5-13 spines per areole and they are usually reflexed, translucent yellow (aging red-brown) and curved. The inner tepals of the flowers are yellow throughout. Stamens are numerous. The style is red and the stigma lobes are green or light green. The fruit is berrylike, red to red-purple and spheric to barrel-shaped. The seed is grayish brown and subcircular to semicircular. Few viable seeds are produced by the plant.



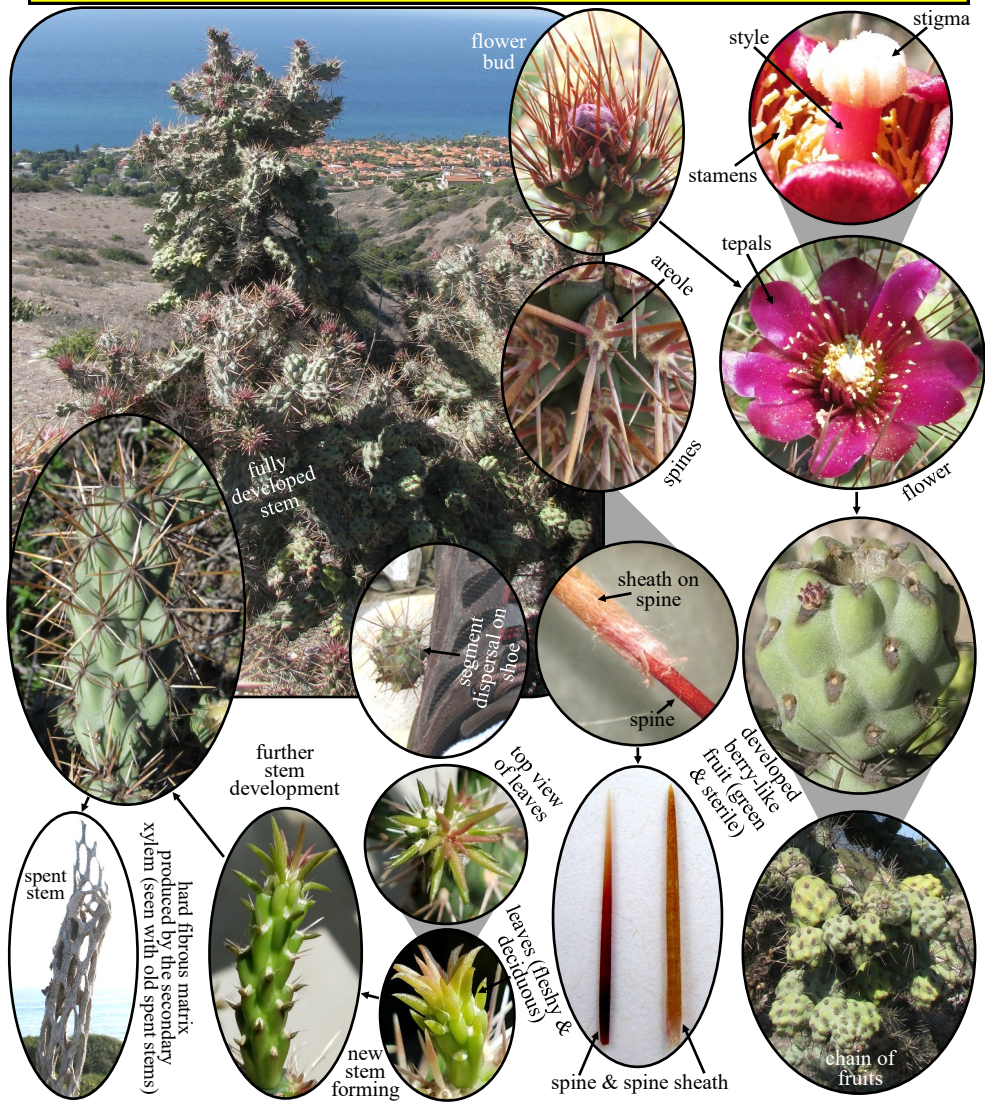
Coastal Cholla (*Cylindropuntia prolifera*)

Order: Caryophyllales

Family: Cactaceae (Cactus Family)

Flowers: April - July

Cylindropuntia prolifera is a perennial shrub to upright plant (stems succulent). It is found throughout the peninsula mostly along the coastal bluffs. The stem are cylindrical and easily detached. There are 6-12 spines per areole that are spreading and have a pale yellow-brown sheath that is shiny. The inner tepals of the flowers are magenta. Stamens are numerous and the filaments are yellow-green to distally tinted pink to magenta. The style is greenish yellow to often pink distally with stigma lobes yellow to white. The fruit is berrylike, green and usually sterile (fruits often clustered together into short chains of 2-5 fruits). Seeds are rare. *C. prolifera* is of hybrid origin.



Coastal Cholla (*Cylindropuntia prolifera*)

Order: Caryophyllales

Family: Cactaceae (Cactus Family)

Flowers: April - July



developed
berry-like
fruit



longitudinal section of fruit
showing sterile seeds