GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: ***Opuntia stricta***

Opuntia stricta 简体中文 正體中文

System: Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Magnoliopsida	Caryophyllales	Cactacea

Common name

nopal estricto (Spanish), common prickly pear (English), erect prickly pear (English), Araluen pear (English), common pest pear (English), gayndah pear (English), spiny pest pear (English), sour prickly pear (English), suurturksvy (English), pest pear of Australia (English), Australian pest pear (English), chumbera (Spanish), Feigenkaktus (German)

Synonym

Cactus strictus , Haw.
Opuntia airampo , Phil.
Opuntia bartramii , Raf.
Opuntia anahuacensis , Griffiths
Opuntia atrocapensis , Small
Opuntia dillenii , (KerGawl.) Haw.
Opuntia gomei , Griffiths
Opuntia gilvoalba , Griffiths
Opuntia cyanella , Griffiths
Opuntia bentonii , Griffiths
Opuntia humilis , (Haw.) Haw.
Opuntia inermis , (DC.) DC.
Opuntia keyensis , Britton ex Small
Opuntia laxiflora , Griffiths
Opuntia longiclada , Griffiths
Opuntia magnifica , Small
Opuntia maritima , Raf.
Opuntia nitens , Small
Opuntia parva , A.Berger
Opuntia spinalba , Raf.
Opuntia stricta ,(Haw.) Haw.var. *dillenii* (KerGawl.) L.D.Benson
Opuntia tenuiflora , Small
Opuntia zebrina , Small
Opuntia horrida , Salm-Dyck ex DC.
Opuntia tunoides , Gibbes
Opuntia macrarthra , Gibbes
Cactus opuntia ,L.var. *inermis*DC.

Similar species

Opuntia ficus-indica

Summary

Opuntia stricta is a cactus that can grow up to 2 metres in height and originates in central America. This spiny shrub favours habitats such as rocky slopes, river banks and urban areas. Opuntia stricta was considered to be Australia's worst ever weed. Opuntia stricta is also invasive in South Africa, where biological options are currently being explored to control the problem.

view this species on IUCN Red List

Species Description
Spreading to an erect shrub to 2 metres. Basal stem-segments sometimes thickened, trunk-forming; uppersegmets elliptic to obovate, 10-35cm long, 7-20cm wide, glabrous, dull green to grey-green. Leaves conical, 4.5-6mm long. Spines up to 11 per areole, 1-6cm long, yellow to brown; glochids yellow. Flowers 5-6.5cm diam.; petaloid lobes spreading, yellow. Fruit obovoid with depressed apex, 4-6cm long, 2.5-4cm diam., purple. Seeds 4-5mm long, pale brown." (George, 1984, In PIER, 2003)

Uses
Cultivated for Medicinal/culinary uses in some areas

Reproduction
Seed. The segments will take root from the \"eyes\" if left in contact with the ground, and because they are so succulent, they remain capable of rooting for several months after being detached from the parent plant. They can be moved in floods leading to infestations along river banks.

Pathway
This plant came to Australia on the first fleet, making it the oldest weed. Early settlers in Australia planted *O. stricta* for ornamental purposes and as hedges to keep cattle under control before barbed wire became affordable. (Australian Plants online, 1999)

Principal source:

Compiler: IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)

Review: Under revision

Pubblication date: 2010-06-12

ALIEN RANGE

[3] AUSTRALIA
[1] ETHIOPIA
[1] PORTUGAL
[1] SOMALIA
[1] SPAIN
[1] YEMEN
[1] ERITREA
[1] NEW CALEDONIA
[1] SOLOMON ISLANDS
[4] SOUTH AFRICA
[1] SWAZILAND

Red List assessed species 1: EX = 1;

Psephotus pulcherrimus **EX**

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Summary: This compilation of information sources can be sorted on keywords for example: Baits & Lures, Non Target Species, Eradication, Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Weeds, Herbicides etc. This compilation is at present in Excel format, this will be web-enabled as a searchable database shortly. This version of the database has been developed by the IUCN SSC ISSG as part of an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme funded project XOT603 in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment. The compilation is a work under progress, the ISSG will manage, maintain and enhance the database with current and newly published information, reports, journal articles etc.
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