



Hudson pear

(*Opuntia rosea*)

Originated in Mexico and introduced worldwide as an ornamental plant. May be found in the natural environment in Southern France. The long spines may cause serious wounds.

Description

- A cactus with branches, up to 1.5 metres high and 3 metres wide, a cylindrical trunk with connected segments
- Cylindrical segments, green to grey-green in colour, up to 90 cm long and 4 cm wide, easily detachable
- Segments are studded with white spines up to 3.5 cm long with hooks at the end
- Pink flowers up to 5 cm wide, stamens with yellow anthers and light yellow stigmates
- Yellow, oblong fruit, 2 to 4.5 cm long

Ecology and reproduction

- Dry, even arid and rocky environments, areas suffering disturbances, e.g. reverted land, road sides, degraded scrubland, rocky slopes, etc.
- The plant can reproduce via cuttings where the segments detach, root and produce a new plant
- Dissemination thanks to the hooks on the spines of segments that attach to hair, clothes, skin

Documentation

- Invasive Species Compendium. 2017. Datasheet: *Cylindropuntia rosea* (Hudson pear). [On line]. Document available at: <http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/115975>
- Johnson S. B. et al. 2009. The biology of Australian weeds 53 : *Cylindropuntia rosea* (DC.) Backeb. and *Cylindropuntia tunicata* (Lehm.) F.M.Knuth. Plant Protection Quarterly. 24 (2): 42 - 49.

Author: Doriane Blottière, IUCN French committee, for the Resource Centre on invasive alien species. December 2018. Published by the French Biodiversity Agency.

Classification

Order	Caryophyllales
Family	Cactaceae
Genus	<i>Opuntia</i>
Species	<i>O. rosea</i> (DC, 1828)

