

## CACTACEAE – CACTUS FAMILY

**Plant:** succulent, spiny herbs and shrubs

**Stem:** mostly succulent, may be very large

**Root:** usually shallow

**Leaves:** usually leafless or small and dropping early, spines usually present

**Flowers:** perfect mostly; often showy; many sepals and petals (often alike) which may be fused at base; many stamens in groups or spirals; ovary inferior, 3 to many carpels

**Fruit:** fleshy, often edible with many seeds

**Other:** most adapted to arid climates though some found in most climates;  
Dicotyledons Group

**Genera:** 125+ genera; widespread in US, locally *Coryphantha* and *Opuntia* (prickly pear)

## CACTACEAE – CACTUS FAMILY

Eastern Prickly-Pear Cactus [Devil's Tongue]; *Opuntia humifusa* (Raf.) Raf.

# Eastern Prickly-Pear Cactus

## [Devil's Tongue]



*Opuntia humifusa* (Raf.) Raf.

Cactaceae (Cactus Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: flower of numerous tepals, bright yellow, often with red at the base; stems flattened, fleshy, 1-2 segments; spines solitary or paired, sometimes absent; fruits fleshy without spines; sandy soils; summer

[V Max Brown, 2005]

