

Features of Fruits and Seeds of *Opuntia* (Cactaceae) Species Naturalized in Crimea

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The paper presents the results of studies of the fruits and seeds of *Opuntia* representatives naturalized on the territory of the Crimean Peninsula: *Opuntia engelmannii* Salm-Dyck ex Engelm. var. *lindheimeri* (Engelm.) U. Guzman et Mandujano, *O. fragilis* (Nutt.) Haw., *O. humifusa* Raf., *O. macrorhiza* Engelm., *O. polyacantha* Haw., *O. phaeacantha* Engelm. f. *rubra* Späth., *O. tortispina* Engelm. et J.M. Bigelow, *O. tunoidea* Gibbes. The morphological and morphometric parameters of fruits and seeds were studied and described and their characteristics are provided. The most characteristic distinctive features of the fruits are their shape, color, as well as the consistence and color of the pulp, and such characteristics of seeds as their size, surface texture and the rim width. The obtained results can be used for the taxa identification and for compiling the keys for identification of the Opuntioideae subfamily.

Keywords: cactus pear, Cactaceae, seed, fruit, morphology, naturalization, Crimean Peninsula

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