

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



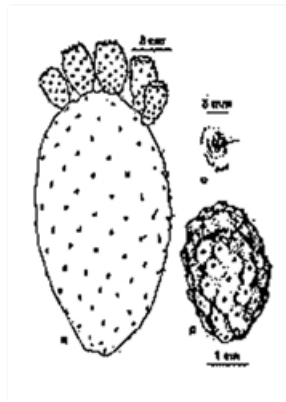
Flower and stem Australian Plant Image Index, photographers RG & FJ Richardson, Little River, NSW or Vic



Flower. Australian Plant Image Index, photographers RG & FJ Richardson, Little River, NSW or Vic



Stem segment with fruit. Australian Plant Image Index, photographers RG & FJ Richardson, Bannockburn, Vic.



Line drawings. n. stem segment; o. node on stem segment with a cluster of hairs and spine; p. immature fruit. MIMbir, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board



Plant. Australian Plant Image Index, photographers RG & FJ Richardson, Little River, unknown State

## Common name

Indian Fig, Spineless Cactus, Prickly Pear

## Family

Cactaceae

## Where found

Near cultivated plants. Dumped garden waste. Sydney area. Doubtfully **naturalised** in the ACT. Occasionally elsewhere.

## Notes

**Introduced** shrublike or treelike plant to 7 m high. Trunk often well-developed. Spineless, or up to about 9 spines per cluster, on stem **segments**, flower bases, and fruit. Fleshy stem segments and fruit. Stem segments very flattened, green, blue-green or **glaucous**, 25–50 cm long, 10–20 cm wide. Leaves shed early, to 0.3 cm long, spirally arranged. Flowers 70–100 mm in diameter, with many **'petals'**, yellow or orange-yellow, tinged pink, and many **'sepals'**, yellow with reddish or green stripes down the middle. Flowers single along the margins of the stem segments. Flowers late spring–summer. Fruit yellow, orange, red, or purple, 5–9 cm long, juicy, edible. Grown commercially for its edible fruit.

A Weed of National Significance. General Biosecurity Duty all NSW.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Opuntia~ficus-indica> (accessed 12 January, 2021)

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