

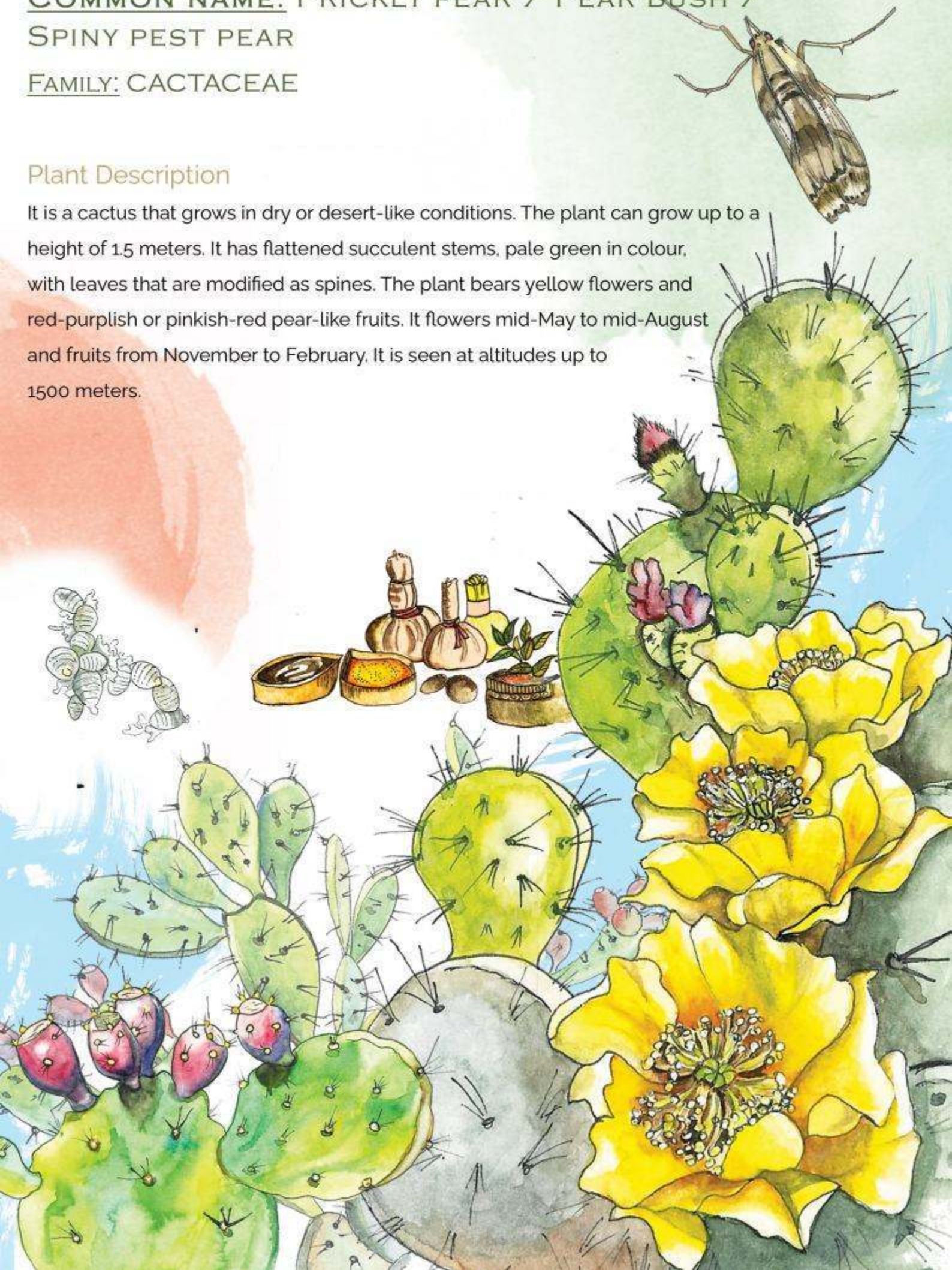
SPECIES: *OPUNTIA DILLENII*

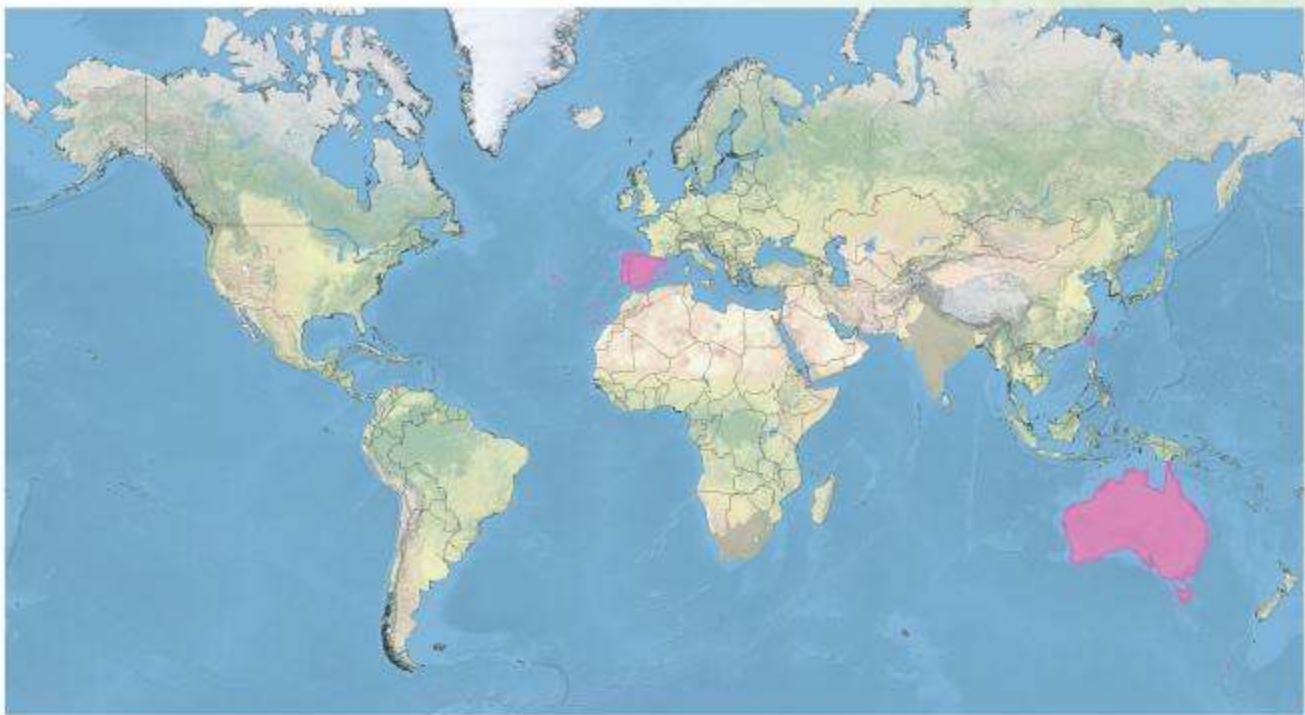
**COMMON NAME: PRICKLY PEAR / PEAR BUSH /
SPINY PEST PEAR**

FAMILY: CACTACEAE

Plant Description

It is a cactus that grows in dry or desert-like conditions. The plant can grow up to a height of 1.5 meters. It has flattened succulent stems, pale green in colour, with leaves that are modified as spines. The plant bears yellow flowers and red-purplish or pinkish-red pear-like fruits. It flowers mid-May to mid-August and fruits from November to February. It is seen at altitudes up to 1500 meters.





CABI, 2022. *Opuntia dillenii*. In: Invasive Species Compendium. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/37711#toDistributionMaps> [accessed: 25/01/2022]

Introduced
Native
Origin not recorded

Note: Although not depicted on this map, the plant is considered invasive in India.

***Opuntia dillenii* CACTACEAE**

Origin: West Indies and Mexico

Introduction: The plant was recorded in India as early as the 1750s and reported to have been used for fortification by the ruler, Tipu Sultan.

Impacts: In forest regions, uncontrolled growth of *O. dillenii* is seen to adversely affect forest regeneration. The plant has been reported to be present in shaded conditions, along with Lantana, in heavily invaded sites. In traditional medicine, parts of the plant are used against whooping cough, spasmodic cough. It has anti-inflammatory and analgesic properties. Its edible fruits are rich in dietary fibres and antioxidants.

Management: Biological control using scale insects, *Dactylopius opuntiae* has been effective to control *O. dillenii*. In Australia, the cactus moth, *Cactoblastis cactorum*, has been successfully used to control the species.