

A photograph of a desert landscape featuring a dense thicket of spiny cacti and green shrubs. The cacti have long, thin, light-colored stems and are covered in small, sharp spines. The shrubs have small, green, rounded leaves. The background shows a dry, hilly landscape with sparse vegetation under a clear blue sky. The text "My spiny friends in the Peloncillo & Chiricahua Mountains" is overlaid in white serif font at the bottom of the image.

My spiny friends in the Peloncillo &
Chiricahua Mountains

What is a cactus?

- succulent, photosynthetic *stems*;
- *spines* (leaves → pointy structures) in *areoles* (cluster of spines coming from a single point).



What is a cactus?

- many petals, many stamens, ovaries sunken inside a short stem.



Is this a cactus?



Is this a cactus?



Is this a cactus?



Arizona State University Herbarium

Is this a cactus?



Carlos Domínguez-Rodríguez



Major groups of cacti in the Peloncillo & Chiricahua Mountains:

- prickly-pears (genus *Opuntia*)
- chollas (genera *Cylindropuntia* and *Grusonia*)
- pincushion cacti (genus *Coryphantha*)
- hedgehog cacti (genus *Echinocereus*)
- nipple cacti (genus *Mammillaria*)
- oddballs (night-blooming cereus, white fishhook cactus, fishhook barrel cactus)



prickly-pears



chollas



pincushion cacti



hedgehog cacti



nipple cacti

Prickly-pears (genus *Opuntia*)

- pancake prickly-pear (*Opuntia chlorotica*)
- Engelmann's prickly-pear (*Opuntia engelmannii*)
- purple prickly-pear (*Opuntia macrocentra*)
- twistspine prickly-pear (*Opuntia macrorhiza*)
- tulip prickly-pear (*Opuntia phaeacantha*)



Engelmann's prickly-pear (*Opuntia engelmannii*)



Engelmann's prickly-pear (*Opuntia engelmannii*)



Engelmann's prickly-pear (*Opuntia engelmannii*)



purple prickly-pear (*Opuntia macrocentra*)



purple prickly-pear (*Opuntia macrocentra*)



purple prickly-pear (*Opuntia macrocentra*)

Chollas (genera *Cylindropuntia* and *Grusonia*)

- tasajillo (*Cylindropuntia leptocaulis*)
- cane cholla (*Cylindropuntia spinosior*)
- devil cholla (*Grusonia emoryi*)

cane cholla
(*Cylindropuntia*
spinosior)





cane cholla (*Cylindropuntia spinosior*)



cane cholla (*Cylindropuntia spinosior*)

devil cholla
(*Grusonia emoryi*)





devil cholla
(*Grusonia emoryi*)



devil cholla (*Grusonia clavata*)



devil cholla (*Grusonia clavata*)

Pincushion cacti (genus *Coryphantha*)

- Orcutt's pincushion cactus (*Coryphantha orcuttii*)
- hooked pineapple cactus (*Coryphantha robustispina* var. *uncinata*)
- spinystar (*Coryphantha vivipara*)



hooked pineapple cactus (*Coryphantha robustispina* var. *uncinata*)

Alex Abair

hooked pineapple cactus
(*Coryphantha robustispina*
var. *uncinata*)



James D. Vonloh



hooked pineapple cactus (*Coryphantha robustispina* var. *uncinata*)



Orcutt's pincushion cactus (*Coryphantha orcuttii*)



Orcutt's pincushion cactus (*Coryphantha orcutii*)

Nipple cacti (genus *Mammillaria*)

- Graham's nipple cactus (*Mammillaria grahamii*)
- little nipple cactus (*Mammillaria heyderi*)
- Wright's nipple cactus (*Mammillaria wrightii* var. *wilcoxii*)



Graham's nipple cactus (*Mammillaria grahamii*)



Graham's nipple cactus (*Mammillaria grahamii*)



southwestwanderer @iNaturalist

little nipple cactus (*Mammillaria heyderi*)



little nipple cactus (*Mammillaria heyderi*)

little nipple cactus
(*Mammillaria heyderi*)



Alison Northup @iNaturalist

Hedgehog cacti (genus *Echinocereus*)

- Arizona hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus arizonicus*)
- Fendler's hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus fendleri*)
- Leding's hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus ledingii*)
- rainbow hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus rigidissimus*)



Fendler's hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus fendleri*)



Fendler's hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus fendleri*)



Kuenzler's hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus fendleri* var. *kuenzleri*)



Fendler's hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus fendleri*)



Fendler's hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus fendleri*)



rainbow hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus rigidissimus*)



rainbow hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus rigidissimus*)

Oddballs

- night-blooming cereus (*Peniocereus greggii* var. *greggii*)
- white fishhook cactus (*Echinomastus intertextus*)
- fishhook barrel cactus (*Ferocactus wislizeni*)



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night-blooming cereus (*Peniocereus greggii* var. *greggii*)



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night-blooming cereus (*Peniocereus greggii* var. *greggii*)

