

into their eyes and blinds them. Cactus are made palatable to cattle by burning off the spines. The blind (thornless) cacti are named because of the effect on cattle. These cacti are found only in the Chihuahuan Desert. The spined cactus is named brown spine prickly pear. Other similar cactus have white spines are they have a different name. All these cacti have yellow flowers and some are in bloom now. The fruit is edible. The fruit become dark purple ^{like overripe plums} and are good to eat and at that point in August you can use them for jelly or wine or to eat. As jelly they are difficult to jelly. The pad can also be eaten or made into jelly. The pads can also be used as you would prepare an eggplant. The new pads just beginning can be pickled. Cacti are closely related to roses, and flowers do look similar. People now believe that spines are used to protect plant from the wind and not for protection as birds eat them, nest in them, cattle and other animals eat them, deer & bison eat them spines and all, insect feed on them. The myth of eating barrel cactus, we do not have any in this park, is substantiated by the small amount of juice, poor taste, ^{bitter} and the hassle of getting to the pulp. But if one is down to no water you would drink antifreeze from a car radiator. Humidly at noon 5% and you dry out by breathing or just standing. Leather stems name means blood of the dragon (*Jatropha dioica*) sangre de drago. This plant grows and loose leaves 5 or 6 times a year, already it has lost 2 sets of leaves this year. Like the cactus, leaves are a liability in drought or extremely hot weather. Last week and a half ago were had a 1 1/2 inch rain and the plant grew leaves and took energy from the sun. Shed leaves if cycle is wet-dry. A clear liquid stains red and was used as an antiseptic by Indians. (blood of the dragon). People lived here 4500 year ago up to 10,000 years. The holes in the rocks were made by these people. They were not used to hold water. These mortar holes (momo and metate) were ground into the soft limestone to grind with a moya the dried seeds of the mesquite. You can imagine what it would do to your knuckles. after you got down too deep. One theory is that they were used down to a useable depth and that then they were abandoned and water settled in them and as limestone is soluble in water the hole became deeper and wider. Carbonic acid from water and limestone also reacts on the walls of the hole. It is also believed that they dug the holes for rockpots and fired the holes