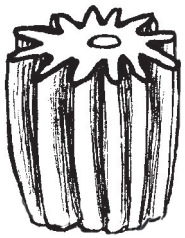
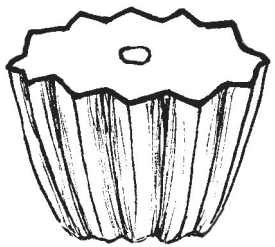
Cactuses have roots that are very near the surface so that they can quickly soak up the rain water.
The circle of roots is as wde as the cactus is tall.

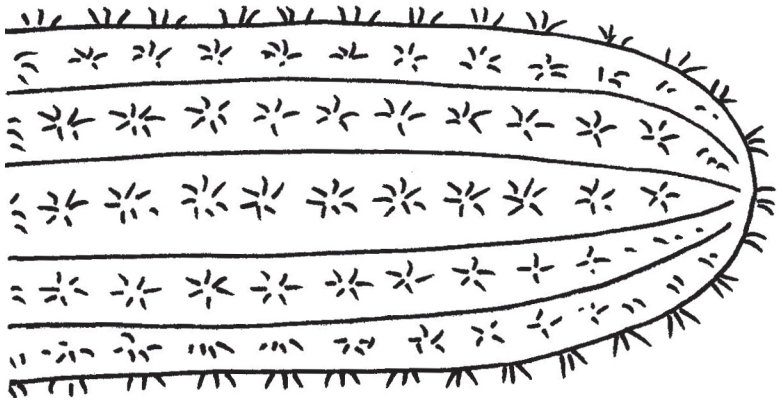
Before rain



After rain



Many cactuses have stems with pleats that allows them to swell quickly and hold all the water that the roots are taking up.



The stem shape is often called “accordion” after the instrument.