

Frangula californica A. Gray subsp. *californica*, CALIFORNIA COFFEEBERRY. Shrub, evergreen, highly branched with dense canopy, 220–500 cm tall; shoots initially canescent to short-tomentose aging less so or glabrescent. **Stems:** ± cylindric, initially purple to red, canescent, with raised leaf scar between a pair of stipular scars, soon forming periderm with scattered, fusiform, tannish lenticels; terminal buds not covered with scales. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to stem at leaf base, awl-shaped with thickened, rounded base, 2–5 mm long, purple-red, early-deciduous, densely to sparsely short-tomentose, having conic to fingerlike food bodies ± 0.2 mm long on back side at base, the food bodies tannish to reddish; petiole cylindric except shallowly channeled near blade, 3–11(–15) mm long, yellowish or red, short-hairy; blade elliptic or narrowly ovate to oblong, (20–)35–110(–155) × 12–35(–60) mm, relatively flat or becoming inrolled under (revolute) when water-stressed, broadly tapered at base, short-serrate (mostly above midpoint) to subentire or entire on margins, acute to obtuse or rounded at tip, narrow edge along each margin fringed light green, conspicuously pinnately veined with principal veins sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, upper surface dark green and ± satiny, especially when young, lower surface lighter green with yellowish veins having conspicuous netlike minor veins and its midrib short-hairy or becoming glabrescent, principal veins not terminating in teeth. **Inflorescence:** panicle of dense, umbel-like cymes, typically axillary, each cyme 5–many-flowered, bracteate, short-hairy; peduncle >> petiole, at anthesis to 30 mm long, stemlike; bract subtending each umbel-like cyme stipulelike but flatter, narrowly triangular to narrowly lanceolate, 0.5–1.2 mm long, purple-red, early-deciduous; bractlet subtending pedicel narrowly triangular, ca. 0.25 mm long, red, tan-glandular at tip, short-hairy, early-deciduous; pedicel 2–3 mm long increasing 2× in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 3.5–5 mm across, nonshowy; buds diamond-shaped, prominently angled and lobes dimpled, densely short-hairy; hypanthium subtending and essentially free of ovary at base, cup-shaped, ± 2 mm long, yellowish green, weakly 10-ribbed, thick-walled, short-hairy aging sparsely hairy, persistent but not increasing in fruit; **sepals** 5(–6), spreading, triangular, (1.5–)1.8–2 × 1.4–1.8 mm, thick, pale green and glabrous (upper surface) and green and short-hairy (lower surface), with midridge on upper surface; **petals** 5(–6), broadly heart-shaped (flattened) cupped inward around anther, 1.2–1.8 mm wide (flattened), length < width, whitish to pale yellow, thick and fleshy at base, cleft to 0.25 mm deep, puberulent; **stamens** 5(–6), broadly attached to hypanthium rim, opposite petals, each loosely cupped by petal; filaments erect, acuminate, 0.6–0.85 mm long, yellowish green; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.6–0.8 mm long, light green on margins and purplish red or aging reddish or purple, with a short fingerlike tip (apiculate), longitudinally and inwardly dehiscent; pollen light yellow, sticky, discharged before anthesis; **pistil** 1, ± 1.5 mm long; ovary superior, depressed-ovoid to spheric, ± 0.8 mm long, often purplish red or reddish orange, partially embedded in hypanthium disc, 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; style included, erect columnar, 0.7–0.8 mm long, thick often expanding sideways in old flower, greenish, 2-branched near stigma, the branches appressed, increasing on older pistil glabrous; stigmas hemispheric capitate, minutely papillate. **Fruit:** drupe, 2-stoned, spheric, ± black (yellow or green and red when immature), 10–12 mm; pulp (mesocarp) very juicy, yellowish, with fine vein network; stones (endocarp) convex or biconvex lens-shaped, 6–7 mm long, dark brown with whitish base, with line bisecting 1 flat surface. Mid-April–early July.

Native. Common evergreen shrub of woodlands and along woodland margins throughout the range. *Frangula californica* formerly was treated as a species of *Rhamnus*. This plant is not glabrous, and in range tends to be more hairy than fits the description for this subspecies, sometimes even being short-tomentose. To date, all sampled plants routinely have only two stones per fruit. If individuals of *R. tomentella* (three-stoned) occur in range, they likely have been planted (one specimen recorded). Drupes are black and ripen during late summer.

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