

Comparative Seed Manual: GROSSULARIACEAE
Christine Pang, Darla Chenin, and Amber M. VanDerwarker
(Completed, January 31, 2020)

This seed manual consists of photos and relevant information on plant species housed in the Integrative Subsistence Laboratory at the Anthropology Department, University of California, Santa Barbara. The impetus for the creation of this manual was to enable UCSB graduate students to have access to comparative materials when making in-field identifications. Most of the plant species included in the manual come from New World locales with an emphasis on Eastern North America, California, Mexico, Central America, and the South American Andes.

Published references consulted¹:

1998. Moerman, Daniel E. *Native American ethnobotany*. Vol. 879. Portland, OR: Timber press.
2009. Moerman, Daniel E. *Native American medicinal plants: an ethnobotanical dictionary*. OR: Timber Press.
2010. Moerman, Daniel E. *Native American food plants: an ethnobotanical dictionary*. OR: Timber Press.

Species included herein:

Ribes bracteosum

Ribes cereum

¹ **Disclaimer:** Information on relevant edible and medicinal uses comes from a variety of sources, both published and internet-based; this manual does **NOT** recommend using any plants as food or medicine without first consulting a medical professional.

Ribes bracteosum



Family: Grossulariaceae

Common Names: Stink currant, Blue currant, Stinking black currant, Californian black currant

Habitat and Growth Habit: This species is native to the western coast of North America. It is native to California, but it is found in other states on the western US coast and outside the US.

Habitats of this species include moist stream banks, seepages, riverbanks, coastal coniferous forests, redwood forests, and mixed evergreen forests.

Human Uses: This species is used for medicinal, food, and gardening purposes (bees.) To start, the fruit is edible and can be consumed raw or cooked. It is notable that it is not very palatable and may be dangerous to consume in large quantities, which is connected to its medicinal uses. Many groups of Native Americans have used *Ribes bracteosum* as a drug or food. For example, Bella Coola have used the species as a venereal aid (to increase sexual desire.) Haisla have used this species for treatment of skin disorders such as impetigo caused by bacteria. Other uses include but are not limited to the creation of fruit preserves, Nitinant medicinal use as a laxative (berries), and medicinal use to treat colds through an infusion of the plant stems.

Sources Consulted:

<http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/syllabus/factsheet.cfm?ID=840>, accessed January 31, 2020.

<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=RIBR>, accessed January 31, 2020.

[http://calscape.org/Ribes-bracteosum-\(Stink-Currant\)?srchcr=sc56b73a29540e6](http://calscape.org/Ribes-bracteosum-(Stink-Currant)?srchcr=sc56b73a29540e6), accessed January 31, 2020.

http://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-taxon=Ribes+bracteosum, accessed January 31, 2020.

<http://www.pfaf.org/user/plant.aspx?LatinName=Ribes+bracteosum>, accessed January 31, 2020.

<http://naeb.brit.org/uses/33371/>, accessed January 31, 2020.

<http://naeb.brit.org/uses/search/?string=ribes+bracteosum>, accessed January 31, 2020.

<http://naeb.brit.org/uses/33386/>, accessed January 31, 2020.

<http://naeb.brit.org/uses/33375/>, accessed January 31, 2020.

Ribes cereum



Family: Grossulariaceae

Common Names: Wax currant, Squaw currant, White squaw currant

Habitat and Growth Habit: This species is native to western North America including the United States and Canada. Its habitats include woodlands, pine forests, mountain forests, red fir forests, canyons, dry ravines, hillsides, prairies, dry slopes and ridges, and woodland gardens.

Human Uses: Wax current has been used by humans for food, medicine, and the attraction of animals, in particular birds and bees. Moerman (2009) explains some of the traditional medicinal uses by Native Americans. To start, inner bark can be made as an infusion to wash sore eyes. This medicinal use is noted by Okanagan-Coville. As well, the fruit can be eaten for emetic purposes, and this is documented through Shoshoni. Thompson have used the species to treat diarrhea. Lastly, it is documented that the plant has been used as pediatric aid and “strengthener” for babies. The branches are used to wash an infant to make them strong by the Thompson.

Sources Consulted:

Moerman 2009

http://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=7111, accessed January 31, 2020.

<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=RICE>, accessed January 31, 2020.

<http://www.pfaf.org/User/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Ribes+cereum>, accessed January 31, 2020.

<http://www.anniesannuals.com/plants/view/?id=3476>, accessed January 31, 2020.

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=RICE, accessed January 31, 2020.