

Comparative Seed Manual: ANACARDIACEAE

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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:

Malosma laurina

Rhus glabra

Rhus integrifolia

Rhus ovata

Schinus molle

Spondias mombin

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.

Malosma laurina



Family: Anacardiaceae

Common Names: Laurel sumac and Lentisco

Habitat and Growth Habit: This plant is found mostly on the southern California coast, extending down to Baja California Sur. It can also be found on the Channel Islands and the Guadalupe Islands. It grows in chaparral and coastal sage scrub areas.

Human Uses: Humans have used *Malosma laurina* medically and ornamentally. Chumash produced flour from dried fruits. In traditional medicine it is made into a tea to treat dysentery and other forms of intestinal inflammation caused by bacteria and/or other microorganisms.

Sources Consulted:

https://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=5348, accessed February 8, 2019.

<https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/shrub/mallau/all.html>, accessed February 8, 2019.

<https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/shrub/mallau/all.html>, accessed February 8, 2019.

Rhus glabra



Family: Anacardiaceae

Common Names: Smooth sumac, Common sumac, Red sumac, and Western sumac

Habitat and Growth Habit: This species is found in Eastern United States and Southern Canada.

Human Uses: Human uses of *Rhus glabra* include: ornamental, soil stabilization, edible, traditional medicine, dye, oil, wood, and landscaping uses.

Sources Consulted:

http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=RHGL, accessed February 8, 2019.

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=1990>, accessed February 8, 2019.

<http://www.pfaf.org/user/plant.aspx?LatinName=Rhus+glabra>, accessed February 8, 2019.

Rhus integrifolia



Family: Anacardiaceae

Common Names: Lemonade sumac and Lemonade berry

Habitat and Growth Habit: *Rhus integrifolia* is a native shrub to California. It is commonly found in regions from Santa Barbara County to San Diego County. However, this small tree can be found nearby borders of California such as Baja California. It is usually found along the coast, with coastal sage scrub, and chaparral.

Human Uses: This species is commonly used as a food source. The fruit from the tree can be cooked or eaten raw. If roasted, the fruit can also be used as a substitute for coffee. A drinkable tincture resembling lemonade is often enjoyed. The plant is used for landscaping, as erosion control, as a dye, and as a soil stabilizer.

Sources Consulted:

https://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=7090, accessed February 8, 2019.

<http://calscape.org/Rhus-integrifolia-0>, accessed February 8, 2019.

<http://www.pfaf.org/User/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Rhus+integrifolia>, accessed February 8, 2019.

Rhus ovata



Family: Anacardiaceae

Common Names: Sugar bush and Sugar sumac

Habitat and Growth Habit: This species can be found in the United States and Mexico in states such as Arizona, Southern California, and Baja California. It commonly grows in chaparral, canyons, and deserts.

Human Uses: *Rhus ovata* is used to make lemonade like drinks. In traditional medicine it is used as a treatment for coughs and colds. Other uses include soil stabilization, a dye, and is processed to make oil.

Sources Consulted:

<http://www.laspilitas.com/nature-of-california/plants/572--rhus-ovata>, accessed February 8, 2019.

http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=1360, accessed February 8, 2019.

<http://www.pfaf.org/User/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Rhus+ovata>, accessed February 8, 2019.

Schinus molle



Family: Anacardiaceae

Common Names: Peruvian Pepper Tree, Californian Pepper Tree, False pepper, Peppercorn tree, Mastic Tree, Escobilla, and Molle del Peru

Habitat and Growth Habit: *Schinus molle* is found in dry areas, coastal areas, in dried riverbeds with sufficient underground water, and woodlands. It is found in dry regions of the Andes such as Peru, Bolivia, and Chile. It is also found in California.

Human Uses: The berries can be sold as pink peppercorns after being blended with commercial pepper. Furthermore, *Schinus molle* has been used in and to make a fermented beer in many regions of the Andes called “chicha.” The bark from the plant is used as chewing gum with some known medical uses thought to treat and/or relieve digestive disorders. Parts of the tree can be used as a purgative. Sap can be used as an insect repellent.

Sources Consulted:

http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=1486, accessed February 8, 2019.

<http://www.pfaf.org/user/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Schinus+molle>, accessed February 8, 2019.

Spondias mombin



Family: Anarcadiaceae

Common Names: Jobo, Hog plum, and Yellow mombin

Habitat and Growth Habit: The habitat includes humid and tropical regions of the Americas. This includes North, South, and Central America.

Human Uses: This species has edible uses. The fruit can be eaten plain or with sugar. It is also used to make treats such as jams and ice-cream. Some of the medicinal uses include treatment for digestive disorders and malalignments, sore throat remedy, gonorrhea remedy, rheumatism, malarial fever, and even as a contraceptive. Different parts of the plants are used to alleviate coughing, vomiting, and wounds. It has recent medical uses including treating depression and as an antibacterial and antiseptic. It has also been used to make soup from dry ashes.

Sources Consulted:

https://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/morton/yellow_mombin_ars.html, accessed February 8, 2019.

<http://tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Spondias+mombin>, accessed February 8, 2019.