

Comparative Seed Manual: BETULACEAE

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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:

Alnus rhombifolia

Alnus serrulata

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.

Alnus rhombifolia



Family: Betulaceae

Common Names: White alder, California Alder, Sierra Alder

Habitat and Growth Habit: This plant is native to California. It is confined to Western North America and grows in rocky soil, canyons, chaparral, forests, and riparian.

Human Uses: There are edible parts, which include the flowers and inner bark. Notably, the bark can be used as an astringent. Medicinal usages include diaphoretic, emetic, hemostatic, stomachic, and tonic. Used in treatment of stomach aches and diarrhea. Additional human uses include dye, wood, fuel, and landscaping.

Sources Consulted:

<http://www.laspilitas.com/nature-of-california/plants/26--alnus-rhombifolia>, accessed February 22, 2019.

http://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-taxon=Alnus+rhombifolia, accessed February 22, 2019.

<https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/tree/alnrho/all.html>, accessed February 22, 2019.

<http://www.pfaf.org/USER/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Alnus+rhombifolia>, accessed February 22, 2019.

Alnus serrulata



Family: Betulaceae

Common Names: Hazel alder, Smooth Alder, Brookside Alder, Tag alder, Common Alder, Black Alder

Habitat and Growth Habit: This plant is found in Eastern North America in moist soil near streams, canyons, swamps, and the edge of lakes.

Human Uses: Human uses include restoration landscaping and stabilizer for habitats. Medical uses include treatment of purgative symptoms, coughs, toothaches, sore mouth, and the pain of birth.

Sources Consulted:

http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/trees/plants/brook_alder.html, accessed February 22, 2019.

http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=alse2, accessed February 22, 2019.

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=277828&isprofile=0&>, accessed February 22, 2019.

<http://www.pfaf.org/USER/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Alnus+serrulata>, accessed February 22, 2019.