

Comparative Seed Manual: ERICACEAE

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(Completed, November 6, 2019)

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:

Vaccinium angustifolium

Vaccinium arboreum

Vaccinium caesariense

Vaccinium cespitosum

Vaccinium corymbosum

Xylococcus bicolor

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.

Vaccinium angustifolium



Family: Ericaceae

Common Names: Lowbush blueberry

Habitat and Growth Habit: The lowbush blueberry is native to the northeastern United States and eastern and central Canada. This species is also noted to be abundant after wildfires.

Human Uses: The lowbush blueberry is used in by humans as an edible fruit, wildlife feed and attraction, and as a shrub border. There are also many Native American uses of this species as a drug described by Moerman (1998). For instance, the Algonquin, Quebec use this species as a gastrointestinal aid (leaves are infused as a drink), gynecological aid (infusion of root to induce labor and infusion of leaves supplied to a woman after a miscarriage), and a pediatric aid given to children or infants. Furthermore, the Chippewa have used this species as a psychological aid to treat “craziness,” Iroquois have used the species in ceremonial medicine to receive good health and prosperity, and the Ojibwa use a leaf infusion to purify the blood. More notably, the species is used as a food among many populations of people. The fruit is eaten raw, dried, boiled, and baked or prepared. Lowbush blueberry is noted by Moerman (1998) to be used as a winter food (berries are dried and combined with sweet corn and maple sugar to be stored for use in the winter) and a cash crop where the berries are collected and sold.

Sources Consulted:

Moerman 1998

<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/detail.php?pid=518>, accessed November 6, 2019.

<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=VAAN>, accessed November 6, 2019.

http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/savanna/plants/lb_blueberry.html, accessed November 6, 2019.

Vaccinium arboreum



Family: Ericaceae

Common Names: Sparkleberry, Farkleberry, Tree sparkleberry, Winter huckleberry, Huckleberry

Habitat and Growth Habit: This species is native to southeastern United States and prefers dry, rocky habitats. These habitats include rocky woodlands, barren upland savannas, and sandstone glades.

Human Uses: This species is used for ornamental uses along with some medicinal uses.

Sources Consulted:

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=vaar, accessed November 6, 2019.

<http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/trees/plants/farkleberry.html>, accessed November 6, 2019.

<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=vaar>, accessed November 6, 2019.

Vaccinium caesariense



Family:

Common Names: New Jersey blueberry, New Jersey highbush blueberry

Habitat and Growth Habit: This species is native to northeastern United States, specifically New Jersey and New York.

Human Uses: New Jersey blueberry is cultivated and is edible. The fruit is eaten raw or cooked. The fruit, when ripe, can be used to make jam, pie, and jelly. There are no known medicinal uses of the New Jersey blueberry at this time.

Sources Consulted:

<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=Vaca6>, accessed November 6, 2019.

<http://pfaf.org/User/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Vaccinium+caesariense>, accessed November 6, 2019

Vaccinium cespitosum



Family: Ericaceae

Common Names: Dwarf blueberry, Dwarf Huckleberry, Huckleberry

Habitat and Growth Habit: This species is native to North America and is sometimes found in dry sandy soil.

Human Uses: Dwarf blueberry is a food to many Native American groups. Alaska natives, described by Moerman (1998), cook the berries into muffins and pies, use the berries as a source of vitamin C, and freeze or can berries for winter usage. Moerman also describes other groups using the berries as food. Some of these peoples include Bella Coola, Okanagan-Colville, Paiute, Shuswap, along with others. Notably, Gosiute dry the leaves of the plant and use it as tobacco.

Sources Consulted:

Moerman 1998

<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=VACE>, accessed November 6, 2019.

http://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-taxon=Vaccinium+cespitosum, accessed November 6, 2019.

Vaccinium corymbosum



Family: Ericaceae

Common Names: Highbush blueberry, Northern highbush blueberry, Swamp huckleberry, Swamp blueberry, American blueberry

Habitat and Growth Habit: This species is native to eastern North America and can be found in marshes, swamps, lakes, flood-prone areas, rocky hillsides, dunes, barrier beaches, oak woods, and pine woods.

Human Uses: Human uses of highbush blueberry include agriculture, ornamental uses, landscaping, food, and in medicine as an astringent. Moerman (1998) explains that this species is used as food by various Native American populations. Notably, Moerman (1998) describes the plant's use as a cash crop in Algonquin, Quebec.

Sources Consulted:

Moerman 1998

<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=VACO>, accessed November 6, 2019.

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=m690>, accessed November 6, 2019.

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=vaco, accessed November 6, 2019.

<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/detail.php?pid=517>, accessed November 6, 2019.

<http://www.pfaf.org/user/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Vaccinium+corymbosum>, accessed November 6, 2019.

<https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org/species/vaccinium/corymbosum/>, accessed November 6, 2019.

<https://www.lakeforest.edu/academics/programs/environmental/courses/es203/vaccinium-corymbosum-highbush-blueberry-ericaceae.php>, accessed November 6, 2019.

Xylococcus bicolor



Family: Ericaceae

Common Names: Mission manzanita

Habitat and Growth Habit: This species is native to California and can also be found in western North America. It is found from southern California to Baja California in chaparral woodlands along with other environments. This species is also found on Santa Catalina Island.

Human Uses: this species is used in landscaping. It has ornamental purpose, is used in bank stabilization, and used in bee gardens and bird gardens.

Sources Consulted:

http://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-taxon=Xylococcus+bicolor, accessed November 6, 2019.

<http://www.laspilitas.com/nature-of-california/plants/693--xylococcus-bicolor>, accessed November 6, 2019.

[http://calscape.org/Xylococcus-bicolor-\(Mission-Manzanita\)](http://calscape.org/Xylococcus-bicolor-(Mission-Manzanita)), accessed November 6, 2019.