

Comarostaphylis diversifolia (C. Parry) Greene subsp. *planifolia* (Jepson) G. D. Wallace, SUMMER-HOLLY. Small tree or shrub, evergreen, sclerophyllous, with a highly branched canopy, in range 200–500 cm tall; shoots tomentose when young; burl sometimes present; bark flaking, gray, inner bark reddish. **Stems:** cylindrical, initially gray-tomentose aging brownish, periderm forming year 1 and shedding hairy cover, reddish; winter bud not sticky, bud scales broadly ovate, \pm keeled, pubescent especially along keel. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole narrowly and shallowly channeled, 3–8 mm long, tomentose or short-tomentose to glabrate, the channel filled with hairs; blade narrowly obovate or oblanceolate to elliptic, in range 20–45 \times 6–23 mm, \pm flat or rarely slightly rolled under, broadly tapered at base, regularly sharp-serrate with short, hard teeth on margins (obscurely serrate), margin with a tough, light green border and colorless teeth tips, broadly acute to rounded at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface, with finely netlike minor veins, upper surface dark green, glossy, glabrescent, lower surface much lighter with white hairs along all veins. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal from winter bud, arching, in range 45–65 mm long increasing 2 \times in fruit, 15–30+-flowered, bracteate; peduncle very short and obscured by winter bud scales, expanded bud scales ovate, 2.5–4 \times 2–2.5 mm, brown, acuminate to rounded at tip, pubescent on the outer surface; axis finely low-ridged, white to gray-tomentose; bractlet subtending pedicel half-sheathing, oblong-ovate to \pm oblanceolate, 3–5 mm long, thin, red-tinged aging purplish red, tomentose on outer surface especially at base, glabrous on inner surface, associated with 2 bracteoles, the bracteoles narrowly linear, $<$ bract; pedicel spreading to descending, at anthesis 3–4 mm long increasing to 2 \times in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 3 mm across; **calyx** (4–)5(–6)-lobed; tube disclike, 0.1–0.3 mm long; lobes subequal, narrowly triangular, 0.8–1.6 mm long, light green, long-tapered and spreading at tip, later ascending around fruit, tomentose; **corolla** 5-lobed, urn-shaped with narrow orifice, 4–4.5 \times 2.5–3.1 mm; tube white-pilose internally; lobes semi-circular, 0.5–0.8 \times 0.8–1 mm long, creamy white; **stamens** 10, free, attached to base of corolla, 2.3–2.8 mm long, included; filaments 2–2.3 mm long, white, bulbous at base, tapering to tip, pilose to villous; anthers versatile, dithecal, 0.8–1.1 mm long, pinkish orange, dehiscent by elliptic pores, creamy white around pores, horned from near each pore, the horns backward-pointing and arching away from filament, 0.3–0.7 mm long, creamy white to pale tan, minutely scabrous-papillate; pollen white; **nectary disc** surrounding base of pistil, \pm 0.5 mm long, green becoming black, \pm scalloped with 8–10 lobes and ridges; **pistil** 1, 3–5 mm long; ovary superior, spheric, \pm 1 mm, green, densely white-pilose at tip, 5-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; style straight, initially greenish becoming paler, villous at base becoming sparsely strigose and changing to glabrous at tip; stigma slightly exerted to slightly included, minutely 5-lobed, dark green, outer side papillate **Fruit:** drupe, juicy, spheric, 5–7.5 mm, dull raspberry red, cobblestonelike, with many domes and white hairs extending from between small domes; endocarp typically of 5 fused stones, 3–3.5 mm, each stone 1-seeded, white. Late February–late April (June).

Native. A seldom seen small tree in shaded canyons, e.g., Sullivan Canyon and Topanga Canyon, growing in southern oak woodland with *Quercus agrifolia* and *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, but there also occurring in the transition between woodland and tall chaparral. *Comarostaphylis diversifolia* is sclerophyllous and has urn-shaped flowers, like the related

manzanitas, but instead has toothed leaves, hence the common name summer-holly. With abundant springtime rain, this early flowering evergreen may flower a second time during summer.

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