

*Eriobotrya japonica* (Thunb.) Lindl., LOQUAT. Small tree, evergreen, highly branched forming dense canopy, in range < 4 m tall; shoots densely tomentose when first formed, the fine hairs initially light orangey brown and later mostly shed. **Stems:** cylindric, tomentose; periderm forming first year, brown, finely cracked, with crescent-shaped leaf scars. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 1 (= 2 fused), attached to top side of petiole, 2-forked, narrowly lanceolate, 8–15 × 3.5–4.5 mm, yellowish, densely tomentose on exposed surfaces, with red glands on margins below midpoint, forks not spreading, 3–6 mm long, deciduous; petiole ridged, with ridge descending from each leaf, 10–50 mm long, tough, tomentose aging glabrescent; blade elliptic to oblanceolate, in range 140–400 × 50–150 mm, dark green and leathery, broadly tapered at base, coarsely serrate on margins, acute to obtuse at tip, pinnately veined with veins conspicuously sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, densely tomentose, upper surface becoming glabrescent and minutely roughened but remaining tomentose along midrib. **Inflorescence:** panicle of racemes, arising from winter bud on shoot tip of previous growing season (a new vegetative shoot arising from the closest axillary bud), open, to 150 × 150 mm with to 8 racemes, racemes ascending to spreading, < 15-flowered, to 100 mm long, bracteate, densely tomentose with fine, orangey brown hairs; peduncle short; bract subtending raceme cupped-oblong to cupped-obovate, to 8 × 5 mm, decreasing upward, early-deciduous (abscised before flowers of raceme open); rachis angled, with angle descending from each bract and bractlet; bractlet subtending pedicel like bract but ovate and somewhat shorter; pedicel cylindric, to 13 mm long, with 1–3 shorter bractlets or bracteoles > 3 mm long, 1 sometimes subtending hypanthium and appressed. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 21–25 mm across, with strong, pleasant fragrance; hypanthium cup-shaped, fused ca. 2 mm to midpoint of ovary, ascending ± 2.5 mm from exposed ovary, not ribbed, densely orangey brown tomentose, basal wall ± 1 mm thick; **nectary** producing nectar beneath stamens; **sepals** 5(–6), at anthesis spreading, ovate to deltate, 3–3.5 × 3–3.5 mm, fleshy, obtuse to rounded at tip, tomentose but with orangey brown hairs mostly at tip, becoming strongly reflexed and persistent; **petals** 5(–6), spreading widely, firmly attached to hypanthium (tardily abscised), obovate, 9–13 × 5.5–9 mm, white, with thick base, palmately veined with 5 or 7 faint, principal veins radiating from base; **stamens** typically 20 (4× petals), fused at bases 0.5 mm forming ring, exerted, evenly spaced; filaments arising on outside edge of fleshy hypanthium rim, erect to ascending, unequal within flower, 3–6.5 mm long, white, tapered from base; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 1.8–2.2 mm long, cream and pale yellow with expanded white connective, broad, often irregular and somewhat flattened on filament side, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen cream; **pistil** 1, about 6 mm long at anthesis and < the longest filaments; ovary hemi-inferior, rhomboid, exposed portion conic, densely tan-woolly, chambers = styles, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 3–4, erect and fingerlike, 3–3.5 mm long (from midpoint of exposed pistil), cream, stout, woolly at base and outfacing sides; stigma truncate-capitate. **Fruit:** pome, fleshy, 1(–2)-seeded, asymmetrically obovoid, 30–35 mm long, yellow-orange, sparsely hairy but tomentose at base and the sunken tip, with dried, contorted sepals persistent at top; pulp 4–5 mm thick, sweet. **Seed:** subspheric, 16–17 × 13–14 × 11–12 mm, brown but open-split on 1 side revealing large embryo. Mid-March–late April.

Naturalized. Small tree, cultivated for its edible fruits, rarely escaped and documented in riparian woodland of Santa Ynez Canyon (SMM) and in Thousand Oaks (SH). *Eriobotrya japonica* has distinctive, tough, evergreen, serrate leaves, and the specimen in range had exceedingly large blades but did not flower during the period of floristic research. Loquat has fleshy fruits (pomes), with the sweet tissue derived from the hypanthium fused to the ovary wall, and it typically produces one large seed, which is easily separated from the pulp.

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