

Ficus carica L., COMMON FIG, EDIBLE FIG. Tree, deciduous, with 1 trunk, in range < 4 m tall; monoecious (parthenocarpic); shoots with large leaves and conspicuous axillary buds on new growth, pubescent with hairs < 0.7 mm long, somewhat scabrous, having a faint smell of coconut (*Cocos*) when crushed; latex milky. **Stems:** cylindrical, initially 6–8 mm diameter and green, with encircling stipular scar between axillary bud and top of petiole, internodes 10–35 mm long; young woody stems dark olive. **Leaves:** helically alternate, deeply palmately 3-lobed or 5-lobed, petiolate, with stipules; stipule 1 (ocrea = 2 fused), attached to and fully sheathing stem at node, forming cap covering developing leaf, narrowly acuminate-conic, to 20 mm tall, tannish to reddish, conspicuously short-ciliate on overlapping margins, with short hairs mostly along 2 vertical lines, abscising when blade only partially developed; petiole cylindrical, 32–85 mm long, tough, short-hairy; blade ovate or round to obovate in outline, 70–280 × 60–245 mm, larger lobes obovate to rhombic or club-shaped, to 185 × 100 mm, with deep, rounded sinuses below midpoint to midrib, lobes progressively smaller tip to base, basal lobes on large blade with a small sublobe on outer margin, large lobes sometimes with sublobes and irregularly dentate to entire on lobe margins, palmately veined with a principal vein for each lobe and principal veins raised on lower surface, lobes pinnately veined, short-hirsute, upper surface when young with harsher hairs than lower surface. **Inflorescence:** not observed yet in habitat, obovoid, headlike on a fleshy receptacle formed upward and turned into a hollow ball with a tightly packed inner lining of hundreds of unisexual flowers, when initially flowering 10 mm long, at the top with an occluded opening (ostiole) of overlapping scales (= a bafflelike access for pollinator), in range with only pistillate flowers (the youngest next to the ostiole), bracteate; outer surface puberulent; scales blocking ostioles many, outer scales horizontal, minutely ciliate along margins, other scales vertical facing inward, oblong to elliptic, 1.8–3 × ± 0.7 mm, green axis with membranous margins, rounded to acute at tip; pedicel short–0.8 mm long; bractlet on pedicel subtending flower, appressed, narrowly ovate, 1–1.5 mm long, colorless. **Pistillate flower:** 1.7–2.2 mm long; **perianth (calyx)** 2–4-lobed; tube short, lobes lanceolate to ovate or elliptic, 0.6–1.1 mm long, colorless, sometime folded over edges of ovary; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1, = flower length; ovary superior, lanceoloid, colorless, 1-chambered with or without 1 ovule; styles 2, cupped awl-shaped, 0.4–0.6 mm long, stigmatic on inner face. **Fruit:** multiple fruit (syconium), with a thick, fleshy wall and hollow center, inversely pear-shaped, to 45 mm long, often purple (exocarp), with or without small compressed D-shaped achenes embedded in internal fleshy tissue as well as remnants of pistillate flowers, with short hairs on receptacle between flowers. Early March–late spring (cultivated specimens).

Waif. Cultivated fig growing naturalized as a small population in a riparian woodland in Oak Park (SH) surrounded by willows (*Salix*), established there from seeds undoubtedly carried by birds from fig trees in the vicinity. *Ficus carica* has distinctive, deeply lobed, large leaves and conspicuous stipules that leave an encircling scar at the node. Although some cultivated fig forms have some staminate flowers around the scales blocking the ostiole and the majority pistillate flowers, the locally cultivated form seems to have only pistillate flowers and forms parthenocarpic fruits.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson