

Holodiscus discolor (Pursh) Maxim var. ***discolor***, CREAM BUSH. Shrub, deciduous, much-branched, in range < 200 cm tall; shoots sometimes appearing tufted with several leaves on short spur shoots, tomentose, with scattered spheric glands initially golden-colored aging scarlet, mildly spicy-scented. **Stems:** ridged, slender when young, with ridges descending from each leaf, appearing beige but green on surface aging orange to rose before bark formation. **Leaves:** helically alternate, shallowly lobed to unlobed, petiolate, lacking stipules; petiole channeled, (1.5–)5–10 mm long, flared at base, narrowly winged approaching blade, villous on lower side, with spheric glands in channel; blades of two sizes, blade on fully expanded shoots ovate to roundish, 27–44 × 18–34 mm, broadly tapered to truncate at base, shallowly and symmetrically lobed and toothed on margins, blade of unexpanded shoots narrowly obovate to narrowly fan-shaped, smaller than other leaves, pinnately veined with principal veins sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, dull, villous or with spreading, straight, silky hair and scattered spheric glands, upper surface less hairy. **Inflorescence:** panicle, terminal, many-flowered, with 5 orders of branching, many-flowered, primary branches to 200 mm long, bracteate, pubescent; axes tomentose and glandular; bract subtending primary branch roundish, with petiole ca. 1.5 mm long, bract subtending upper branch or branchlet narrowly rhombic or wedge-shaped and reduced upward, villous; bractlet subtending pedicel narrowly elliptic to linear, 1–1.5 mm long, soft-hairy; pedicel 1–1.5 mm long, tomentose, with 2–3 bracteoles, the bracteoles resembling bractlet. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 3–3.5 mm across; hypanthium dishlike, ± 1.8 mm across, greenish, tomentose on both surfaces; **sepals** 5, spreading to ascending from rim of hypanthium, broadly ovate, 1.2–1.5 mm long, greenish white with white margin, densely tomentose on outer surface, glandular on both surfaces; **petals** 5, cupped-obovate, (1.3–)1.6–2.1 × 0.9–1.2 mm long, > sepals, white (pink, especially in bud), 3-veined or sometimes 5-veined from near base, glabrous; **stamens** 20, free, spreading and ascending from rim of hypanthium; filaments 1.2–1.6 mm long, white, glabrous; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.25 × 0.35 mm, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistils** 5, free, ca. 1.5–2.5 mm long; ovary superior, hemi-ovoid, wedge-shaped in ×-section, green, glandular on inner faces, long-hairy along inner edge and outer side, each 1-chambered with 2 ovules; style ca 1 mm long, whitish, hairy at base, glabrous approaching tip; stigma shallowly 2-lobed, slightly wider than style. **Fruits:** achenes, fruit body flattened D-shaped, ca. 2 × 1 mm + persistent style 1 mm long, tan, densely pilose along edges. Late May–early August.

Native. Deciduous shrub seldom observed but occurring in shady, protected sites, mostly along streams, e.g., on SMMNRA Circle X Ranch, on Conejo Mountain, in Malibu Canyon, and in Pacific Palisades. *Holodiscus discolor* has sprays of small cream-colored flowers, hence the common names. Our populations formerly were treated as var. *franciscanus*.

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