

*Prunus ilicifolia* (Hooker & Arnott) D. Dietr. subsp. *lyonii* (Eastw.) P. H. Raven, CATALINA CHERRY. Small tree, evergreen, sclerophyllous, not spinescent, highly branched and forming a dense canopy, in range to 400 cm tall; shoots initially with glossy bright green foliage aging duller dark green, often somewhat folded upward from midrib, essentially glabrous. **Stems:** faintly ridged, light green, aging with reddish brown periderm, with odor of bitter almonds (hydrogen cyanide) when scratched; old bark grayish, fairly smooth, with small horizontal lenticels. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to petiole base, awl-shaped, 3–4.5 mm long, entire, narrowly acuminate, glossy, glabrous, early-deciduous; petiole cylindrical at base to shallowly channeled above, 14–26 mm long, yellowish green, glands absent; blade ovate, 55–100 × 31–58 mm, tough, rounded to truncate at base, remotely short-serrate, subentire, or entire on margins and somewhat wavy, acute at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface, with conspicuous network of minor veins, upper surface ± glossy. **Inflorescence:** raceme, arising mostly from dormant bud prior to vegetative growth, having bud scales at base and often with several small leaves, each raceme to 90 × 13–20 mm, 25–40+-flowered, flowers alternate (subopposite), positioned horizontal to axis, bracteate, glabrous; bract subtending raceme + 1–3 bractlets subtending the lowermost flowers leaflike, bractlet subtending the lowest pedicel often elliptic to narrowly ovate and smaller than typical leaves and abscising after flowering; rachis 5–6-ridged, each ridge descending from bractlet, with each raised pedicel scar subtended by a crescent-shaped bractlet scar, glabrous; bractlet subtending pedicel of typical flower awl-shaped to cupped-ovate, 0.8–2.3 mm long, light green aging scarious and reddish, acuminate at tip, abscising when bud small leaving a raised scar; pedicel radiating to spreading, 2.5–3 mm long, greenish white, with obvious abscission groove at base. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 9–11 mm across, strongly scented; hypanthium hemispheric cuplike, 2.5–3 mm deep, 4–5 mm diameter, light yellowish green to cream with faint veins on outer surface, yellow inside with white rim, **nectary** producing copious nectar, sparsely short-villous at base around ovary; **sepals** 4–6, arising on hypanthium rim, spreading often aging ± reflexed (appressed on top of bud), triangular to ovate, ca. 1.2–1.7 mm long, greenish and thickened in center with thinner, whitish margins; **petals** 5–8, spreading, ± roundish with narrow base, 1.7–2.3 mm, white, somewhat wavy on margins, glabrous; **stamens** 30–35 (3× perianth parts) in ± 2 whorls, free, arising on hypanthium rim, unfolding outward; filaments 2.5–3 mm long within each flower, of outer whorl longer and spreading, of inner whorl ascending, white, tapered to tip; anthers versatile, dithecal, ± oblique or with anther sacs of different lengths, 0.9–1.2 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1, ± 1.5 mm long, faintly grooved on 1 side from ovary to stigma; ovary superior, asymmetric conic, 0.5–0.6 mm long, light green, villous around base, 1-chambered with 2 ovules; style cylindrical to narrowly club-shaped and off center, light green, with groove on outer curve of bend; stigmatic area ± horseshoe-shaped to ± circular, faint yellowish green aging orangish red after pollination, minutely papillate, viscid. **Fruit:** drupe, ± dry, 1-stoned 1-seeded, ovoid to subspheric, 15–20 × 11–18 mm, dull red or with yellowish patches; pulp (mesocarp) thin, yellowish, not sweet; stone (endocarp) hard, yellowish white, smooth, with prominent point at tip. **Seed:** bulky, compressed broadly ovoid to somewhat heart-shaped, several mm < and thinner than fruit, easily removed from endocarp, yellowish,

with odor of bitter almonds; seed coat papery translucent-brown, with conspicuous, coarsely netlike veins. (Early December) Mid-April–early June.

Waif. Small evergreen tree endemic to Catalina Island but cultivated in range and barely escaped on the edge of Malibu Lagoon near a barrier planting. *Prunus ilicifolia* subsp. *lyonii* has leaves that are remotely toothed to entire, as compared with the conspicuous serrations of the hollylike leaves on the other subspecies. Flowers of Catalina cherry are slightly larger and tend to have more petals and stamens than the typical mainland form.  
B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson