

Pyracantha angustifolia (Franch.) C. K. Schneid., NARROW-LEAVED FIRETHORN, SLENDER FIRETHORN, WOOLLY FIRETHORN. Shrub, \pm evergreen, armed with terminal stem spines by often forming sharp tips on short lateral shoots (determinate spur shoots), branched with long-arching and ascending shoots, 150–400 cm tall; shoots appearing tufted with each spur shoot having several mature leaves. **Stems:** cylindrical, canescent with tannish to brown hairs easily rubbed away; lenticels vertical, on young twigs like fusiform blisters; stem spines woody, typically < 20 mm long, becoming covered with bark, bearing 1 or more leaves and later having leaf scars. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to petiole base, awl-shaped, 1–1.5 mm long, minutely toothed, deciduous; petiole 3–14 mm long, yellowish, often bent, with scattered hairs; blade broadly oblanceolate to obovate, 13–55 \times 6–23 mm, entire or inconspicuously short-dentate or slightly crenate-serrate on margins, \pm notched at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface, upper surface sparsely brownish to grayish hairy and mealy on young leaves, glossy on older leaves with pubescence remaining mostly along midrib, lower surface sparsely hairy becoming glabrescent. **Inflorescence:** panicle, terminal and axillary, \pm flat-topped and clustered on short lateral branches, width \geq length, many-flowered, with foliar leaf subtending each axillary panicle; bract subtending the lowest branch elliptic, 5–10 mm long, bract subtending other lateral branches awl-shaped, 1 mm long, brown with golden pubescence, deciduous; axes 3–4-branched, short-villous; bractlet subtending pedicel absent; pedicel 1–12 mm long increasing in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 9–10 mm across; hypanthium fused to bases of ovaries and free above, cup-shaped, 2 \times 2.5 mm, the free portion 0.7–1 mm long, dark green, scalloped along edge, bearing fleshy pads with villous hairs facing ovary; **sepals** 5, overlapping, transversely elliptic, 0.7–1.5 \times 1.5–2.5 mm, green, with paler and thinner margin and turning reddish at upper edge; **petals** 5, roundish with short base, 4–5 mm long, sometimes notched at tip; **stamens** 20, arising on hypanthium rim, fused 0.2–0.3 mm at base; filaments 2–3.5 mm long, cream or greenish white aging grayish white; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.5–0.8 mm long, pale orange tan, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen cream to pale yellow; **pistils** 5 fused on inner sides (appearing strongly 5-lobed); compound ovary partially inferior, green, exposed surfaces villous, 5-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 5, erect, 2–3 mm long, greenish white, glabrous; stigma oblique-truncate, light green. **Fruit:** pome, with appressed sepals at tip and filaments within chamber beneath sepals, flattened spheroid, 6.5–9.5 mm wide, typically red-orange, mostly glabrescent but retaining some hairs near sepals and at base; flesh = hypanthium, yellow-orange, pithy; “stones” 5, free from each other but somewhat attached to lower hypanthium, wedge-shaped, 2.7–3 \times 2–2.2 mm, glossy dark brown to black except yellowish orange on lower outward part in contact with hypanthium.

Naturalized. Shrub cultivated throughout southern California but escaped from plantings at the entrances of several parks or hiking trails, typically growing in shade. *Pyracantha angustifolia* in vegetative condition is not distinctive from other species, so that other cultivated species may also be escaped and need to be identified. Most firethorns have fleshy, brightly colored fruits (pomes) containing 5 hard nutlets (“stones”), and the pomes are sometimes eaten and spread by birds or mammals during fall, when preferred foods are scarce.

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