

Ribes indecorum Eastw., WHITE-FLOWERED CURRANT, WHITEFLOWER CURRANT. Shrub, summer-deciduous, not spinescent, branching open with long shoot-short shoot organization, 150–300 cm tall; shoots with leaves crowded on short shoots, densely puberulent and with stalked glandular hairs, aromatic. **Stems:** young stems green and hairy aging dark reddish orange and glabrescent, nodal spines absent; young bark brown, old periderm falling in plates exposing brown stem. **Leaves:** helically alternate, shallowly palmately 3(5)-lobed, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, attached entire length at base of petiole, 1.7–4.2 mm long, pale green to greenish but translucent or whitish and fringed on outer margin, the fringe narrowly tapered and mostly to 2.5(–4) mm long increasing upward, with stalked glandular hairs at base, on margin, and at tip, fine-hairy; petiole 5–25 mm long, pubescent to short-villous and densely stalked-glandular; blade roundish (oblate) or ± pentagonal in outline, 8–32(–40) × 8–36 mm, cordate to slightly truncate at base, lobes rounded to obtuse, regularly to ± irregularly dentate on margins with cuts between teeth of varying depths, palmately veined with 3(5) principal veins at base and pinnately veined in lobes, the principal veins sunken on upper surface and conspicuously raised on lower surface, puberulent and densely stalked-glandular, upper surface cobblestonelike, dark green, each glandular hair formed on a domed sector of the blade, lower surface lighter green. **Inflorescence:** raceme, 1 per branch and appearing terminal on new growth but technically axillary, at first flowering arching, 20–50 × 10–15 mm (including peduncle), 10–20(–30)-flowered, drooping at maturity, bracteate, puberulent and densely stalked-glandular on all green parts; peduncle 5–15 mm long; bractlet subtending pedicel lanceolate, 4–8 × 2–3 mm, greenish with whitish basal area or pink, fringed and fine-hairy on margins (like stipules), acuminate at tip; pedicel 1–4 mm long; bracteoles subtending flower 2, narrowly lanceolate to oblong, 1.4–3.5 × 0.1–1 mm, with fringed margins + 2–3 glands and several fine hairs near base, with abscission constriction at level of the bracteoles (“jointed”). **Flower:** radial, bisexual, 6–8 mm across, in bud white or tinged pink; hypanthium cylindric or wider at base, 3.5–4.7 × 1.8–3.3 mm, white, sometimes tinged pink or green at base, 10-veined, the inner surface a **nectary**, nectar copious; **sepals** (4–)5, arising on hypanthium, free or slightly fused at base, widely spreading aging recurved, obovate, 2–3.5 × 1.6–3 mm, white, obtuse to rounded and sometimes slightly cupped at tip, short-villous below midpoint and glabrous or finely pubescent above; **petals** (4–)5, erect, depressed-ovate to spade-shaped, 0.9–1.8 × 0.9–1.7 mm, white, rounded or broadly acuminate at tip, with inconspicuous short hairs on lower (outfacing) surface; **stamens** (4–)5, free, arising on hypanthium rim; filaments narrowly triangular, 0.5–0.9 mm long, white or sometimes greenish; anthers partially exerted, dithecal, oblong, 0.9–1.6 × 0.6–0.9 mm, white, longitudinally and inwardly dehiscent; pollen whitish; **pistil** 1, 5–7.5 mm long; ovary 3/4-inferior, subspheric, 2.2–2.8 × 1.8–2.3 mm, short-villous and sparsely glandular on exposed portion, 1-chambered with many ovules; style 3–5.3 mm long, 2-branched at or above midpoint, short-villous; stigmas 2, semicircular, greenish. **Fruit:** berry, 20+-seeded, spheric to subspheroid, 7–10 × 6–9 mm, purple and glaucous, white-puberulent with scattered, longer, radiating, stalked glandular hairs, the hairs deep purple with pinkish heads 0.2–0.3 mm diameter; pulp not juicy, purple. **Seed:** polyhedral, 2–3.3 mm long, amber to dark red-brown, with ± flattened faces and concave cells. Early November–early April.

Native. Drought-deciduous shrub growing on sandstone in chaparral and mostly restricted to the central ridge of SMM and SMMNRA Palo Comado (SH), but also collected on sandstone in SH (Oak Park). *Ribes indecorum* closely resembles the more common *R. malvaceum* but differs in having white flowers; *R. indecorum* commonly begins flowering several weeks earlier, and flowering within a population is finished within two months. With *Arctostaphylos glauca*, in range this is typically the first species of native shrubs to bloom. Our local populations need to be studied in more detail because they do not perfectly fit existing descriptions of *R. indecorum* in southern California, and also the evolutionary relationship of the white-flowered currant to the chaparral currant (*R. malvaceum*) needs to be better understood.

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