

Ribes malvaceum Smith, CHAPARRAL CURRANT. Shrub, summer-deciduous, not spinescent, with ascending principal branches, 100–210 cm tall; shoots with ± soft leaves clustered on short lateral shoots at leafing out in winter and early spring bearing several ovate, deciduous bud scales (cataphylls) below leaves, lacking internodal bristles and nodal spines, all vegetative parts with nonglandular hairs and stalked glandular hairs, the heads of glandular hairs becoming tannish or reddish, strongly aromatic. **Stems:** cylindrical, initially green and densely glandular-hairy + pubescent, periderm aging reddish with dried, white hairs, eventually with periderm peeling and revealing a grayish tan or light orange-brown bark aging brown. **Leaves:** helically alternate, shallowly palmately 3-lobed or 5-lobed, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, fused to basal 3–10 mm of petiole forming wings 2.5–4.3 mm wide, often glutinous, fringed with 5–11 projections above midpoint, each projection with nonglandular and glandular hairs on margins and terminated with 1 glandular hair; petiole 7.5–40 mm long, distinctly 3-veined, densely hairy; blade ± round in outline, 10–65 × 12–76 mm, slightly wider than long, with broad and rounded lobes, cordate at base, shallowly dentate to toothed on lobe margins with a deeper cut between sets of 2–4 teeth, palmately veined and 3-veined at base with veins sunken on upper surface and conspicuously raised on lower surface, upper surface dark green, finely cobblestonelike with sunken transparent veins, lower surface whitish due to denser hairs (degree of whiteness variable). **Inflorescence:** raceme, drooping and > leaves, 1 per branch and appearing terminal on new growth but technically axillary, 33–140 mm long (including peduncle), 12–25 mm wide, 14–20(–25)-flowered, bracteate, viscid-glandular; peduncle 16–23 mm long, densely nonglandular-hairy and glandular-hairy; bractlet subtending pedicel leaflike, 4–10 × 1–6 mm, green; pedicel 0.5–3 mm long, with 2 opposite bracteoles subtending ovary, the bracteoles elliptic to narrowly lanceolate, 2–3.5 mm long, light green to ± translucent, ciliate with glandular hairs on margins, sometimes reddish at tip, with an abscission constriction at the level of bracteoles (“jointed”). **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ± 8 mm across, typically 7–10.5 mm long; in bud dark pink to purplish red; hypanthium tube-shaped but bulbous at base above ovary, 3–4+ × 2.4–2.7 mm, white with pinkish veins to purplish red on exposed surfaces, densely pubescent and glandular-hairy, internally finely short-villous; **sepals** 5, spreading, tongue-shaped to ovate or depressed-ovate, 3–3.5 × 1.2–3.8 mm, white to purplish red; **petals** 5, ascending, roundish, 0.8–1.7 mm long, white; **stamens** 5, arising from hypanthium rim, alternate with petals; filaments erect, 0.3–1.2 mm long, white; anthers dithecal, 0.9–1.5 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally and inwardly dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1, ± bottle-shaped with a long neck, 7.2–11.5 mm long; ovary inferior, inversely conic to spheric, ± 2 mm, green, hairy, 1-chambered with 25+ ovules; style white, finely villous, 2-branched, the branches ca. 0.5 mm long; stigmas narrowly fan-shaped or shallowly 2-lobed, greenish, papillate-hairy. **Fruit:** berry, 25+-seeded, spheric, 8–10 mm, purplish with light purple bloom (glaucous), with radiating glandular hairs having colorless heads, 10-veined during development but veins indistinct at maturity. **Seed:** angular-ellipsoid, 2–3 × 1.5–2 mm, amber and brown, ± minutely wrinkled. Early November–mid-April.

Native. Shrub occurring occasionally in chaparral and southern oak woodland. *Ribes malvaceum* in range exhibits variability in leaf form and hairiness, and if recognized our populations most often fit variety *viridifolium* Abrams, but at some locations lower

surfaces of blades have denser pubescence and thereby resemble variety *malvaceum*. Along a single hiking trail one finds that each plant has a slightly different flower tint, often ranging from pale pink flowers to purplish red over a distance of less than one kilometer.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson