

Schinus terebinthifolius Raddi, BRAZILIAN PEPPER TREE. Tree, evergreen, with stiff, spreading to erect terminal branches, 4–6(–10) m tall; dioecious; shoots puberulent to velutinous when very young, retaining hairs on axes and leaflet veins and margins, strongly aromatic when cut or crushed (having resin ducts with terpenes); bark coarsely fissured, tightly adherent, ± dark brown. **Stems:** young stems ± cylindrical, often turning red on exposed sides. **Leaves:** helically alternate, odd-1-pinnately compound with (4–)6–10 paired lateral leaflets (sometimes 1 leaflet absent in 1 pair), petiolate, without stipules; petiole 15–45 mm long; blade in outline ovate to oblong or narrowly obovate, 60–230 × 60–130 mm, pairs of leaflets 6–22 mm apart, lateral leaflets sessile or with short petiolules, the terminal leaflet sessile or with a winged petiolule to 15 mm long; rachis winged between leaflet pairs, the wing often terminating with a stipel-like appendage (domatium) subtending leaflet base; blades of leaflets elliptic to oblong or occasionally lanceolate (especially the terminal one), 20–105 × 12–35 mm, the shortest leaflets at the base and the longest = the terminal leaflet, 2 halves of leaflet blade unequal, tapered and slightly asymmetric at base, entire to shallowly crenate on margins, acute at tip without fine point, pinnately veined with midrib raised on both surfaces and short-hairy, becoming glabrescent with hairy margins. **Inflorescences:** panicles of cymes, unisexual, axillary and terminal (occasionally also internodal), 60–150 mm long, open, erect to ascending with lateral branchlets spreading to ascending, many-flowered, glandular-puberulent; peduncle 2–22 mm long, continuing as straight rachis; bract subtending lateral branchlet ± deltate, < 1.5 mm long, yellowish green, deciduous; lateral branchlet straight or slightly arched, without thickening at base; bract subtending each fork, decreasing to 0.5 mm long for minor branchlets, short-ciliate and deciduous after anthesis; pedicel 0.2–1.2 mm long, glabrous. **Staminate flower:** radial, 2–4 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, cup-shaped, < 1 mm long, green; tube, < 0.3 mm long; lobes acute, 0.6–0.8 mm long, light green, membranous and short-ciliate on margins; **petals** 5, ascending, oval, 1.8–2.3 × 0.8–1.4 mm, whitish to pale yellowish green; **stamens** 10 in 2 whorls, free, arising between lobes of nectary, outer whorl > inner whorl and exserted; filaments 1.7–2.2 mm long (long stamens) and 0.8–1.1 mm long (short stamens), ± fleshy, whitish, tapered toward the anthers; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ± 0.5 mm long (long stamens) and ± 0.4 mm long (shorter stamens), orange-yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen orange-yellow; **nectary disc** ringlike, ca. 1.5 mm across, fleshy, short-crenately 10-lobed, with each filament appressed into a notch between nectary lobes, yellow-green to yellow-orange; **pistil** vestigial, sterile, with dark maroon style. **Pistillate flower:** radial, 3 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, cup-shaped, ± 1 mm long, green; tube, < 0.3 mm long; lobes acute, 0.6–0.8 mm long, light green, short-ciliate on margins; **petals** 5, ascending, oval, 1.5–2 × 0.5–1.1 mm, whitish to pale yellowish green, pinnately veined; **stamens** 10 in 2 whorls, free, vestigial and sterile, < 1 mm long, longer ones opposite sepals; filaments < 1 mm long, tapered to anther, colorless; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, white to pale yellow; **nectary disc** ringlike, weakly 10-lobed, yellow-green; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, spheroid, 1 mm, pale green, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style 1 (actually 3 fused), < 0.4 mm long, with 3 stigmatic lobes; stigmas dark red aging maroon. **Fruit:** drupelike, dry at maturity, with 1 stone, ± spheroid, 4–6 mm, red to rose-red or pink; outer shell (exocarp) ± leathery becoming dry and brittle; pulp (mesocarp) resinous, aromatic, drying to form a sticky coating on stone; stone (endocarp) plump, ∩-

shaped, ca. 3 × 3.5 mm (resin removed), brownish, with dimpled surface. Mid-March–early September.

Naturalized. Evergreen tree cultivated in range and rarely becoming established along roadsides and adjacent to landscaped areas via fruits. Established plants of *Schinus terebinthifolius* occur in several “wild” sites of SMM and SH where water is continuously present for germination and success of a seedling. This species is frost sensitive and therefore does not persist where freezing occurs. Brazilian pepper tree is strongly aromatic because internally the plant has resin ducts with odorous compounds, specifically monoterpenes. Flowers of *S. terebinthifolius* are tiny and somewhat difficult to interpret, because the two sexes are present on both individuals of this dioecious species, with one sex in each flower being sterile. However, if the plant has fruits, you can be certain that individual is pistillate, and if fruits are absent you can be reasonably certain the individual is staminate. Of course, only pistillate plants can form new individuals, so conservationists concerned with this plant as a potential invasive need only worry about removing individuals with pistillate flowers.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson