

Rosa californica Cham. & Schltl., CALIFORNIA ROSE. Shrub, winter-deciduous, thicket-forming, spinescent, much-branched, ascending, 60–200+ cm tall; shoots with conspicuous prickles along all axes, tomentose-villous, glandular-hairy, the glandular hairs capitate with variable head size and stalk length, the larger ones aging as straight to hooked, hard prickles with vertically elongated bases compressed side-to-side. **Stems:** cylindric, pale yellowish green or amber becoming pink or rose to burgundy red, on new growth flexible, glandular-hairy and sparsely villous aging glabrescent and dotted or blistered at base of old glandular hairs, the prickles large, solitary or paired below nodes, 2–8.5 mm long, straight or hooked, becoming reddish aging brown and woody. **Leaves:** helically alternate, odd-1-pinnately compound with 2–4 opposite pairs of \pm sessile lateral leaflets, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, = persistent photosynthetic wings along base of petiole, 12–16 mm long, together 4–6 mm wide, densely gland-margined when young, acute to acuminate at tip, glandular-hairy especially on lower surface; petiole 14–40 mm long, on lower side with a few stout, straight or hooked glandular structures aging as hard, sharp prickles, the prickles flattened or slightly channeled and often reddish on upper side; blade obovate in outline, 70–150 \times 45–110 mm, the leaflet pairs spaced 10–27 mm apart; rachis tomentose-villous with many short glandular hairs, lower side sometimes with several stout, straight or hooked glandular structures aging as sharp prickles; blades of leaflets elliptic to slightly obovate, the basal pair of leaflets the smallest, 8.5–27 \times 6–14 mm, the uppermost lateral leaflets 21–60 \times 13–35(–40) mm, the terminal leaflet typically the largest, 24–60 \times 16–40 mm + petiolule 9–14 mm long, rounded to broadly tapered at base, entire below midpoint and serrate above midpoint on margins, rounded to obtuse at tip, pinnately veined, dull, initially tomentose with nonglandular hairs + short glandular hairs, upper surface aging sparsely villous, lower surface aging villous, sometimes with small prickles along leaflet midrib. **Inflorescence:** cyme, terminal, 1–many-flowered, petiolate, with prickles along axes; bractlet subtending pedicel = a petiolate terminal leaflet with 2 stipules or only a petiole with 2 broad stipules, gland-margined; pedicel 5–20 mm long, pilose-villous with or without glandular hairs; bracteoles absent. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 30–50 mm across, pleasantly fragrant; hypanthium urn-shaped, at anthesis 3–5 mm diameter increasing in fruit, fleshy at neck, forming outwardly curved rim 1 mm wide, glabrous or villous (villous only if pedicel villous + glandular-hairy); **calyx** 5-lobed, ascending in bud, spreading to reflexed at and after flowering, fused at base; lobes lanceolate, 12–20 \times 2.7–4.3 mm, becoming longer and wider in fruit, tomentose and sometimes with capitate glandular hairs, the tail-like (caudate) tip 5–9 mm long and nearly linear but sometimes slightly expanded near tip; **petals** 5, roundish to heart-shaped (sometimes irregularly so), 12–25 \times 14–25 mm, length \leq width, pale to moderate purplish pink or purple-rose; **stamens** 60–90, free, arising on hypanthium rim in ca. 3 series; filaments spreading and arching upward, 2.5–7 mm long, yellowish to light purplish pink; anthers basifixed, dithecal, \pm 1.5 mm long, yellow with light purplish pink or darker yellow around connective, cordate to arrow-shaped at base, longitudinally and sideways dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistils** (26–)33–40 in a helically alternate series, crowded on base of hypanthium, 4.5–8 mm long; ovary superior, compressed-ellipsoid, 1.5–2 mm long, fringed from base to tip along 1 margin with straight hairs to \pm 1 mm long, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles expanding toward tip, crooked from constriction by hypanthium neck, rose-pink at base, tomentose-villous; stigmas \pm folded fan-shaped and truncate, light green to greenish yellow. **Fruits:**

achenes enclosed in fleshy hip (hypanthium) with ascending to erect calyx lobes; hip spheroid or flattened spheroid, 7.5–10 × 11–20 mm, orange-red to red, finely villous; calyx lobes expanded at tip and becoming slightly leaflike; achene bony, ovoid to teardrop-shaped, 3.5–4.2 × 2–2.5 mm, tan to brownish, weakly faceted, hirsute at tip and on back. Late March–late September.

Native. Spinescent, thicket-forming shrub most common on edges of and within southern oak woodland throughout the range, often riparian. *Rosa californica* has prickles that arise as large-based glandular hairs that age woody and sharply pointed. The flowers of California rose exhibit various shades of rose and have the same pleasant fragrance of cultivated roses, and they produce small, fleshy hips that are edible but typically are not numerous within a population.

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