

*Arctostaphylos* Adans. MANZANITA

*Arctostaphylos glauca* Lindl., BIGBERRY MANZANITA. Shrub, often treelike, evergreen, sclerophyllous, 1(–several)-stemmed at base, lacking a burl, with a dense canopy, 120–500 cm tall; shoots with stiff, leathery leaves, glabrous, conspicuously glaucous, enlarged buds often with sticky exudate; bark on older stems reddish brown, smooth. **Stems:** ± angular in ×-section with descending leaf bases, forming scales on new shoots; scales awl-like and keeled, light green and glaucous, deciduous. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole cylindrical, 5–12(–15) mm, creamy yellow to light yellowish green; blade ascending to erect, typically ovate to oblong, 23–55 × 15–40 mm, gray-green, rounded to truncate at base, entire, obtuse to rounded at tip (with minute point), pinnately veined with midrib raised slightly on both surfaces, dull, surfaces similar in color.

**Inflorescence:** panicle of 3 or more racemelike branches, terminal, > 25-flowered, bracteate; bract subtending axis and raceme leaflike, short-petiolate, elliptic to narrowly ovate, 5–12 mm long, green and glabrous; axis glabrous, glaucous; bractlet subtending pedicel sessile, cupped-ovate to awl-shaped, 3–5 mm long, light green, with soft short hairs on upper surface; bracteoles subtending pedicel 2, cuplike and roundish, ± 1.5 mm long, greenish white, short-ciliate on margins; pedicel 2–4 mm long increasing somewhat in fruit, pale greenish, densely glandular-hairy. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 4–5 mm across; **sepals** 5, cupped around base of corolla, overlapping, equal, roundish, ca. 1.5 × 2 mm, length < width, eventually spreading to somewhat reflexed in fruit, short-ciliate on margins, green with white margins aging pinkish; **corolla** 5-lobed, urn-shaped with narrow opening, 6.5–9 mm long; tube white or blushed rose at base, with fine, long, white glandular hairs inside upper tube; lobes at narrow opening, kidney-shaped, ca. 0.5 × 1 mm, length < width; **stamens** 10, fused to base of corolla, included; filaments ± 3.5 mm long, whitish, bulbous near base, with numerous long white hairs above midpoint; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, maroon, with 2 recurved and looping appendages (awns), the appendages next to pores and cream aging rose-red, opening by a pair of elliptic pores; pollen whitish (or stained rose by anther pigment); **nectary disc** surrounding ovary base, ringlike, 0.7 mm tall, maroon to reddish and green, 10-angled; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, conic, ± 1.5 mm long, greenish, densely covered with sticky, short glandular hairs, to 10-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; style included, 4–5 mm long, white, with sticky, short glandular hairs at base; stigma positioned at end of corolla tube, ± capitate, green. **Fruit:** drupe, ovoid to spheric, 12–15 mm diameter, very sticky, green at maturity turning brownish red; pulp thick, leathery; stone of ca. 10 segments fused into 1 subspheric unit ± 10 mm wide. Mid-November–late January.

Native. Shrub occasionally encountered in chaparral at the higher elevations and along ridgelines, especially growing on sandstone in communities typically dominated by *Ceanothus crassifolius*, *Adenostoma* spp., and *Salvia mellifera*. *Arctostaphylos glauca* does not resprout after fire because it does not form a burl, and therefore this species must become reestablished via seed. The requirement for reproduction via seed may be why this species is not very abundant anywhere throughout the range. *Arctostaphylos glauca* is one of the first shrubs to begin flowering in late fall and early winter, producing white (aging rose-tinted), urn-shaped flowers and later forming large, sticky drupes that are eaten

and then dispersed by coyotes. Bigberry manzanita tends to have a single trunk and glabrous, noticeably glaucous foliage, so that it is easy to identify when growing near the other manzanita, *A. glandulosa* subsp. *mollis*, a broad plant that forms a burl with many basal stems and has noticeably hairy leaves.

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