

Ribes L. CURRANT, GOOSEBERRY

Ribes speciosum Pursh, FUCHSIA-FLOWERED GOOSEBERRY. Shrub, drought-deciduous (semi-evergreen), spinescent, with long-shoot and short-shoot organization, < 100–220 cm tall; shoots with leaves tufted on short shoots, short shoot new stem subtended by tardily deciduous bud scales + 4–7 leaves and an inflorescence; bud scales broadly ovate to linear, 1–5 mm long, with short point at tip, the first scales firm, scalelike, and brownish orange, the later ones longer, more herbaceous, and pale green. **Stems:** cylindric, of long-shoots ± zigzagged, with nodal spines and internodal prickles, younger stems sometimes lacking internodal prickles; nodal spines radiating from swollen bases, generally 3 (sometimes 1 or 2, rarely with 1 or 2 additional downward-pointing spines), very hard, needlelike, ± ⊥ stem, the lateral spines oriented ⊥ central spine, 4–18 mm long, central spine > lateral spines, reddish orange to brownish orange on younger stems aging grayish; prickles initially erect, to 5 mm long, glandular and flexible, often with raised bases, becoming hard and sharp and losing glandular head; periderm tan-rose to brownish orange or reddish brown; leaf scars narrowly sickle-shaped. **Leaves:** helically alternate, palmately ± 3-lobed, petiolate, appearing to be without stipules; petiole channeled, 4–31 mm long, glabrous or with scattered, stalked glandular hairs; blade obovate to roundish in outline, 10–32 × 11–30 mm, mostly length > width, thin and flexible, broadly tapered to rounded or truncate at base, notches between lobes 0.7–4 mm deep, terminal lobe with 3–5 crenate to dentate teeth, lateral lobes with 2–3 teeth, tooth with minute point = vein extension, rounded to truncate at tip, palmately veined with 1 principal vein for each lobe raised on lower surface, glabrous, upper surface glossy dark green, lower surface duller and lighter green. **Inflorescence:** raceme, on lax peduncle 1 per short shoot with pendent flowers, flowers 1–4 on flexible pedicels, bracteate, with stalked glandular hairs having red to ruby red, spheroid to tack-shaped heads; peduncle 14–22 mm long, green, sparsely glandular but becoming more densely stalked-glandular upward, sometimes with thin nonglandular hairs, the glands mostly reddish to ruby red often pale green at base; bract subtending and partially sheathing pedicel, ± recurved, round to broadly ovate, 2.5–5 × 1.5–3.5 mm long, green becoming reddish, upper side glabrous, lower surface sparsely glandular-hairy and glandular-ciliate approaching flower; bractlets subtending pedicel 0–2, needlelike and ± 0.7 mm long or acuminate-lanceolate and 1–1.5 mm long, transparent to whitish and gland-tipped (needlelike) or green (lanceolate) and ciliate with stalked glands, becoming reddish; pedicel 2.5–7 mm long, initially green at anthesis turning red, densely glandular-hairy. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ± 4 mm across, 25–30 mm long; hypanthium arising from top of ovary, ± saclike with 4 bulges, 2–3 × 3.5–5.5 mm, strawberry red to ruby red but sometimes greenish at base, with stalked glandular hairs, veins obscure, the inner surface green and nectar-producing; **sepals** 4, erect (downward-pointing) and appearing like a tube, linear-oblong to oblanceolate-tapered, (4–)7–9 × 2–3.5 mm, strawberry red to ruby red, rounded to notched or 2-toothed at tip, sometimes yellowish at tip, with stalked glandular hairs especially at base; **petals** 4, erect (downward-pointing), narrowly wedge-shaped, sepal ≥ petal, strawberry red to ruby red, curled inward on margins to appear somewhat tubular, ± truncate and often indistinctly toothed at tip; **stamens** 4, arising from hypanthium top, alternate with petals, erect (downward-pointing), long-exserted; filaments 15–26.5 mm long, strawberry red, often flattened and twisted, glabrous; anthers basifixed,

dithecal, compressed-ovoid, 1.8–2.2 mm long, dark red, rounded at tip, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen very pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, top-shaped, 1.5–3 mm long, green covered with red, stalked glandular hairs, 1-chambered with 2 placentae on outer wall, each with 10–20; style long-exserted, straight-cylindric, 24–30 mm long, strawberry red sometimes greenish or yellowish green at base, forked just below tip, the branches \pm 0.2–1 mm long; stigmas positioned either below or above anthers, discoid to cuplike but sometimes appearing rounded when covered with a dried, clear exudate. **Fruit:** berry, 4–10-seeded, spheric, 10–12 mm (fully hydrated), green covered with radiating, hard bristles formed from bases of glandular hairs; skin (exocarp) blackish fading to whitish when dried; pulp juicy, orangish but soon drying. **Seed:** broadly ellipsoid, $2.2\text{--}3 \times 1.4\text{--}2$ mm, black often with brownish coating, often somewhat 3-sided with convex face and 2 flattish faces, faces often shallowly pitted. Late January–mid-May.

Native. Shrub occurring commonly in southern oak woodland and on shaded slopes in chaparral away from the coast. *Ribes speciosum* generally has prickles on stems, although some shoots on an individual may have none. The pendent, strawberry red flowers, as expected, are visited by hummingbird, so this is a winter and early spring source of nectar for this guild of pollinators. In range petals tend to be longer than often reported for the species. Leaves of this shrub can turn bright red during summer before they abscise.

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