

RHAMNACEAE – BUCKTHORN FAMILY

Plant: woody vines, shrubs and trees, rarely herbs

Stem: often spiny

Root:

Leaves: simple, alternate mostly but sometimes opposite; small stipules or no stipules

Flowers: mostly perfect, sometimes monoecious or mixed, regular (actinomorphic), solitary or in clusters, small; 5(4) sepals, 5(4) petals or rarely none, often clawed; 5(4) stamens; ovary superior or inferior, 1-5 carpels, usually 3

Fruit: berry, capsule, nut, or drupe; often opens in 3 parts

Other: widespread in world; common in Calif.; many are cultivated;
Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 50+ genera; locally *Berchemia*, *Ceanothis*, *Rhamnus* (buckthorn)

RHAMNACEAE – BUCKTHORN FAMILY

New Jersey Tea; *Ceanothus americanus* L.

Jersey Tea [Redroot]; *Ceanothus herbaceus* Raf.

Glossy [European Alder] Buckthorn; *Frangula alnus* P. Mill.

Carolina Buckthorn; *Frangula caroliniana* (Walter) A. Gray

Common [European] Buckthorn; *Rhamnus cathartica* L. (Introduced)

New Jersey Tea

Ceanothus americanus L.

Rhamnaceae (Buckthorn Family)

Kitty Todd Nature Preserve, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: small shrub; flowers small, mostly white, 5-parts, petals clawed, in panicles of small umbels without bracts, lower peduncles long; leaves elliptical to ovate, pubescent or not (for some a basis for varieties), finely toothed, 3 main nerves from base; fruit 3-lobed; summer

[V Max Brown, 2006]



Jersey Tea [Redroot]

Ceanothus herbaceus Raf.

Rhamnaceae (Buckthorn Family)

Wah-Kon-Tah Prairie, St Clair County, Missouri

Notes: small shrub; flowers small, mostly white, 5-parts, petals clawed, peduncles of flower clusters similar, clusters terminal; leaves elliptical, shallow teeth in upper half, usually dense beneath; young stems densely hairy, older stems woody; fruit 3-lobed; summer

[V Max Brown, 2013]



Glossy [European Alder]

Buckthorn

Frangula alnus P. Mill.

Rhamnaceae (Buckthorn Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: shrub to small tree; small 5-lobed flower, greenish white, solitary or in clusters in older leaf axils, long pedicels; leaves ovate (<2x long as wide), entire, 8-10 lateral veins; bark with abundant lenticels; twigs hairy, turning reddish-brown; buds brownish, without scales, hairy; fruit red but turning purplish-black

[V Max Brown, 2007]



