



Photo: by Charles Webber of the
California Academy of Sciences

Common Name: Lemonadeberry

Scientific Name: *Rhus Integrifolia*

Kumeyaay Name: Huusill if it has red
berries or huutat if it has orange berries

Description: The twigs are stout and the
leaves are thick and green and a little bit
serrated. It has pinkish-white flowers
from February until May. It has a sticky,
fuzzy, reddish berry fruit. It is a round-
shaped shrub that can grow as tall as
three meters.

The Kumeyaay used this plant to quench
their thirst on long journeys. They put the
leaves in the corner of their mouths. They
ate the berries fresh or sometimes they
soaked them in water to make a flavored
drink. They could grind the seeds up and
make them into a tea. They would drink it
when they were sick or had a fever. They
also had a tea made from the bark that
they would drink after a baby was born.
(From *Delfina Cuero* by Florence Shippek,
Ballena Press, Menlo Park, CA, 1991)

You can read about this plant in *Indians of
the Oaks* on pages:

By Summer