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Coyote Brush (*Baccharis pilularis*)

Family: Asteraceae

Description: Coyote brush is a common shrub found in a variety of habitats on the West Coast, from coastal strand communities to coastal sage scrub, chaparral, woodlands, and forests. The many-branched shrub has smooth, dark brown stems and small, sticky leaves with sawtooth-like (serrate) edges that can vary in shape and have three principal veins. The plant has profuse, white or yellow, rayless flowers that bloom in early winter.

Pollinator and Wildlife Use: Coyote brush has male and female flowers that bloom in mass and are heavily visited by predatory wasps, butterflies, ants, honey bees, and native flies. Although not often eaten due to its low palatability, coyote brush is good at invading grasslands where it can provide cover for many species.

Ethnobotany: Some California Indians applied boiled leaves to skin as a remedy for poison oak rash.

Erosion Prevention: The deep roots and abundant canopy cover help to stabilize slopes in restoration projects. Coyote brush can become dominant and outcompete other important species. Many management agencies use mechanical masticators or fire to keep meadows open and free of coyote brush.

Other Facts: This shrub is dioecious (male and female flowers on separate plants), with the yellowish male flowers producing pollen and the pollinated white female flowers producing fruit (cottony seed clusters).



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References and Useful Websites:

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