

Greenbark Ceanothus (*Ceanothus spinosus*)

Order: Rosales

Family: Rhamnaceae (Buckthorn Family)

Flowers: January - May

Ceanothus spinosus is an erect perennial shrub to tree. It is found in only a few canyons on the peninsula. The stems and trunk are generally green. The stems can also be thorn-like or not. The leaf is elliptic to oblong, evergreen, and leathery (especially older leaves). The leaf margin can be entire to dentated. The adaxial side of the leaf is usually a dark green and shiny. The abaxial side of the leaf is lighter in color and can be glabrous or hairy. The corolla of the flower can be blue, pale blue or whitish. The petals form a hood-like structure. There are 3 styles and the ovary is 3-lobed. The fruit is a capsule that is circular, has 3-ridges on the distal end, no horns present, and is sticky. The seed is somewhat circular, stony, and a brownish to grayish color.

