

Rosaceae Rose family

Chamaebatia foliolosa Benth.

bearmat

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Other common names. southern bear-mat, mountain-misery, Sierran mountain-misery, San Diego mountain-misery, bearclover, tarweed, and running-oak.

Growth habit, occurrence, and use. Two varieties of this species—*Chamaebatia foliolosa* Benth. and *C. foliolosa* var. *australis* Brandg.—are recognized. The typical variety, bear-mat, is an evergreen shrub, 15 to 60 cm tall, that grows between 600 and 2,100 m elevation on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. It occurs in open ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa* Dougl. ex Laws.) and in California red fir (*Abies magnifica* A. Murr.) forests (Munz and Keck 1963). Southern bear-mat (*C. foliolosa* var. *australis*) grows to a height of nearly 2 m on dry slopes in the chaparral type from San Diego County to Baja California.

The typical variety is normally regarded as a pest because it inhibits the establishment and growth of trees (Adams 1969; Dayton 1931). From an aesthetic viewpoint, the plant provides attractive ground cover, but the glutinous leaves are highly aromatic (Bailey 1928; McMinn 1959). It is useful for watershed stabilization and is under study as a potential landscape plant (Magill 1974).

Flowering, seed production, and seed use. Bear-mat produces perfect flowers throughout its range from May through July; southern bear-mat flowers from November through May (McMinn 1959). The fruits are brown achenes about 5 mm in length (figures 1 and 2). Seeds require from 1 to 3 months of moist stratification at temperatures ranging from 1 to 5 °C before they will germinate (Emery 1964; Magill 1974). In the nursery, seeds should be sown in spring (Bailey 1928).

Literature Cited

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Figure 1C *Chamaebatia foliolosa*, bearmat: achene (left) and extracted seed (right), $\times 8$.

Figure 2C *Chamaebatia foliolosa*, bearmat: longitudinal section through an achene, $\times 8$.