

M0013184: Pages from Eriodyction Californieum, 1876

Publication/Creation

October 1953

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/nw5a8yz4>

License and attribution

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

THE PHARMACIST.

VOL. IX.

CHICAGO, FEBRUARY, 1876.

No. 2.

ERIDYCTION CALIFORNICUM.

BY HENRY S. WELLCOME, PH. G.

Eriodyction Californicum, Benth; *E. Glutinosum*, Benth; *Wigandia Californica*, Hooker and Arnott. Natural order, *Hydrophyllaceae*.

This is a plant inhabiting many localities on the Pacific Slope, and is specially abundant on the mountain ranges of Northern Mexico and Southern and Central California. It grows thriftily among the rocks and in the most barren soil; the seeds germinate readily, from which the young plants spring up close together, in dense bunches and patches, attaining the height of from three to five feet, usually branching near the earth, giving three to eight stems from one root. The foliage is ever-green.

The root, which is very tough and withy, sends out long, slender rootlets, like most shrubs of similar habits. The leaves (see engraving) are coriaceous, elliptical, lanceolate, finely dentate, rarely entire, petioled, alternate, one to three inches in length, frequently as many as three or four growing from one axil. The upper surface is glabrous, indistinctly reticulated; has a rich, deep-green color, and is completely varnished by its copious resinous excretion, rendering it very beautiful as it glistens in the sunshine. The under surface is covered with very fine white hairs, and exhibits a heavy mid-rib, with delicate ribs extending nearly to the edges, and is cut up by an intricate net-work of prominent veins, which are traced, as are also the ribs, with a resinous secretion. This secretion is first presented upon the second leaves of the young plant, and as it develops the resin is exhibited upon the whole plant. The flowers (see figs. 2, 3, 4,) are light purplish-blue, and very showy, racemed, somewhat densely clustered, corolla funnel-shaped, five lobed, style two cleft, ten stamens included, and slightly hairy near the base. The ripe fruit (see figs. 6, 7,) consists of grayish-brown, ovoid, one-celled capsules, with calyx still attached, having two parital placentæ, to which are attached twelve to twenty-four minute, irregular-formed, shriveled, reddish-brown seeds, which are very rich in a fixed oil. The capsule is saturated with an oil, or resin, which gives it a semi-transparent appearance.

