

# California Phenology Project: species profile for Coyotebrush (*Baccharis pilularis*)



**CPP site(s) where this species is monitored:** Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Redwood National Park, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area



Photo credit: stonebird (Flickr)

## ***What does this species look like?***

This shrub can be up to three meters tall. The leaves are toothed, oval, and sticky. Coyotebrush is dioecious, meaning that each plant either produces flowers with only male parts or with only female parts. The male flowers produce yellow pollen and appear yellowish from a distance, and the female flowers produce fruit and are white. The flower heads appear round and disc-like.

*When monitoring this species, use the USA-NPN **broadleaf evergreen (with pollen, no leaf buds) trees and shrubs** datasheet.*

## ***Species facts!***

- The CPP four letter code for this species is **BAPI**.
- BAPI is a member of the sunflower family (Asteraceae).
- This species arrives as a secondary pioneer species after fire or grazing.
- *Baccharis* derives from the Greek word "bakkaris", referring to plants with fragrant roots, and *pilularis* refers to sticky globs on the flower buds.
- Native Americans used the heated leaves to reduce swelling, and the wood to make arrow shafts and houses.
- This species is an important nectar source for wasps, flies, and butterflies.



Photo credit: Jerry Kirkhart (Flickr)



Photo credit: KQED QUEST (Flickr)

## ***Where is this species found?***

- Found in many habitats including coastal bluffs and oak woodlands.
- Found from 0 to 750 meters elevation, but occasionally up to 1500 meters.
- This species is occasionally found on serpentine soil.

For more information about phenology and the California Phenology Project (CPP), please visit the CPP website ([www.usanpn.org/cpp](http://www.usanpn.org/cpp)) and the USA-NPN website ([www.usanpn.org](http://www.usanpn.org))

# California Phenology Project: species profile for Coyotebrush (*Baccharis pilularis*)



Brian Haggerty

### Young leaves

Young leaves are generally thinner and lighter colored than mature leaves.



Crystal Anderson

The flowers pictured to the left have only male parts (anthers) and will not produce fruit.



Crystal Anderson

The flowers pictured to the right have only female parts and will produce fruit. Each flower may produce a single seed.



Miguel Viera

### Flowers or flower buds

When monitoring flower and flower bud abundance for this species, count each inflorescence as a single flowering structure! For example, if there are two inflorescences with many flowers or buds each, then abundance should be recorded as <3.



Steven Krause

### Open flowers

Can you see the anthers or stigma? Proportion of open flowers should be recorded at the scale of individual flowers, not inflorescences (i.e. count individual flowers)!

**Note:** flower phenophases are nested; if you record Y for "open flowers" you should also record Y for "flowers or flower buds"



Crystal Anderson

### Fruits

The fruit is a tiny, one-seeded capsule tipped with a tuft of white hairs. Fruits are grouped in a seed head and change from yellow-green to tan or light brown as they ripen. When fully dry, the fruits are blown from the plant.



Steven Krause

### Ripe fruits

The fruit is considered ripe when it is tan or light brown.

**Note:** fruit phenophases are nested; if you record Y for "ripe fruits" you should also record Y to "fruits"

Phenophases not pictured: **Pollen release, Recent fruit or seed drop**