

***Heteromeles arbutifolia* (Lindley) Roemer**

[*Heteromeles salicifolia* Abrams, *Heteromeles arbutifolia* var. *macrocarpa* (Munz) Munz, *Photinia arbutifolia* Lindl.]

Toyon, Christmas Berry, Christmas Holly, Hollywood

Description: Evergreen shrub/small tree <5 m high, trunk bark grayish, twigs puberulent. Leaves simple, short-petioled, leaf blade 4-11 cm long, elliptic to oblong, leathery, sharply toothed, shiny dark green above, dull & paler below. Inflorescence a terminal panicle, ± open, flat-topped. Flowers many, flower hypanthium 2-3 mm, ± obconic, sepals 1-2 mm, petals 2-4 mm, white, stamens 10 in pairs opposite sepals, pistil 1, ovary ± inferior, 2-3-chambered, styles 2-3. Fruit a pome, 5-10 mm diameter, bright red, pulp mealy, seeds 3-6, compressed, brown. Flowers in spring, fruits mature in November-December.

Habitat: slopes & flats in poor sandy soils; chaparral, Coast Live Oak Woodland, Yellow Pine Forest; <1,300 m.

Distribution: throughout cismontane California (Humboldt & Butte Counties) south to Baja California, Mexico) to Baja California, Mexico. Not in desert areas.

Landscape Position: Best in dry, open, well-drained locations, all aspects of house in hot valleys and mountains. Give plenty of room. Hardy to USDA Zone 8.

Landscape Attributes: Provides dark green texture, attractive colorful fruit. Evergreen requiring NO irrigation. Tolerates shade and full sun. Single or multiple trunks, easily trained as a standard.

