

Fringe cups



shore plant but reaches the coast in wooded places and ranges from central California to Alaska. It flowers from April to June.

In the gooseberry family (Grossulariaceae) is **FUCHSIA-FLOWERED GOOSEBERRY (*Ribes speciosum*)**, a red-flowered spiny shrub. It is remarkable among currants and gooseberries because it has only four sepals and petals instead of the usual five. The bush is more or less evergreen, three to six feet tall, and very spiny and has glossy, deep green leaves. The bright red hanging flowers are striking and appear from January to May. It ranges on coastal bluffs and in adjacent canyons from Santa Clara County, California, to northern Baja California.

NOOTKA ROSE (*Rosa nutkana* var. *nutkana*), of the rose family (Rosaceae), is another plant that is not primarily a shore plant but reaches the coast in northern wooded areas. It is a stout-stemmed plant, mostly armed with straightish heavy



Fuchsia-flowered gooseberry

prickles, and grows to a height of three to six feet. The fragrant pink flowers are three or more inches wide, and the rounded fruits are over half-an-inch in diameter. As its name indicates, it grows in southern Alaska and southward along the coast into northern California, where it can be found in damp soils of forest openings. In southern California, the common **CALIFORNIA WILD ROSE (*Rosa californica*)** often reaches the coast.



Nootka rose

This rose can be distinguished by its entire, not toothed, sepals and its recurved prickles. Specimens that combine characteristics of more than one species are occasionally found, suggesting that our native rose species hybridize with each other.

SALMONBERRY (*Rubus spectabilis*) is a blackberry relative that occurs from the Santa Cruz Mountains to Alaska. The common name may allude to its fruits, which are often the same orange color as the eggs of the salmon that spawn, or once spawned, in the coastal streams and rivers along which this shrub is so common; or it may allude to the fact that Native Americans along the northwest coast once ate its berries mixed with salmon eggs. Although the berries are edible to humans, to some palates they are at best insipid and at worst



Salmonberry



Coast clover, or cow clover

distasteful. In early spring, the beautiful reddish purple flowers produced on the bare twigs of this member of the rose family are a welcome sign that winter is over.

The clovers belong to the pea family (Fabaceae) and are characterized not only by their pea-shaped flowers and compound leaves, usually of three leaflets, but also by their short, generally one- to two-seeded pods. A clover that can be found on the immediate coast is **COAST CLOVER**, or **COW CLOVER**, (*Trifolium wormskjoldii*), named for its Danish discoverer. It is a perennial from creeping rootstocks and has branching, rather coarse stems. The flowers are about half-an-inch long and whitish to purplish red. This clover occurs in wet places and is quite common in seeps on rocky bluffs from central California to British Columbia.

Another member of the pea family is **ROUND-LEAVED PSORALEA** (*Hoita orbicularis*), which is found in moist places in much of California, including along the shore. It has prostrate stems with long leaf stems up to 20 inches high, leaflets one to three inches





Round-leaved psoralea

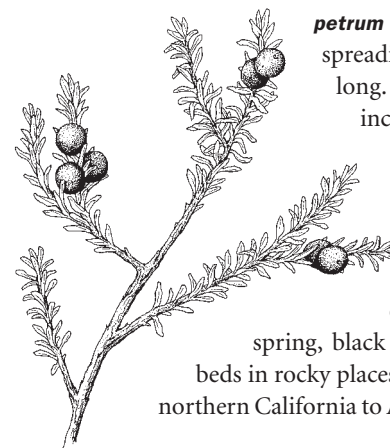
long, and flower stalks one to two feet tall. The flowers are reddish purple, over half-an-inch long, and appear in early summer. The heavy-scented foliage is gland dotted and sometimes hairy.

SAND PEA (*Lathyrus japonicus*) is a perennial beach pea that has well-developed tendrils like most species of *Lathyrus*. The leaves are green and more or less fleshy. The flowers are two to eight in number, about one inch long, and purple or with whitish wings and keel. Sand pea grows on the coastal strand from extreme northern California to Alaska and also near the Great Lakes. Flowering is from May to July. Two introduced annual species with only two leaflets per stem are Tangier pea (*L. tingitanus*), which is not at all hairy, and the cultivated sweet pea (*L. odoratus*), which is hairy. Both the Tangier pea and the sweet pea escape along the coast.

The crowberry family (Empetraceae) is small and has low, heathlike, evergreen shrubs with slender, freely branched stems and rigid, narrow leaves. **BLACK CROWBERRY (*Em-***



Sand pea



petrum nigrum) has prostrate or spreading stems to about one foot long. The leaves are one-fourth inch long and thickened. The minute, purplish flowers usually have three sepals and petals and are solitary in the axils. The black or red berry has several nutlets. Blooming in spring, black crowberry occurs in dense beds in rocky places on sea bluffs from extreme northern California to Alaska.

In the sumac or cashew family (Anacardiaceae), a woody group often with poisonous or acrid sap, we find poison-oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), cashews (*Anacardium* spp.), mangoes (*Mangifera* spp.), and pistachios (*Pistacia* spp.). **LEMONADEBERRY (*Rhus integrifolia*)** is a rounded, or, near the sea, wind-pruned shrub three to

