

DIPSACALES

(Dipsacalids)

Honeysuckles



Moschatels



Family ADOXACEAE (Muskroots)

Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus cerulea*)



shrubby habit

Lee Cyn; SMNRA; NV



smooth stems

Lee Cyn; SMNRA; NV



Mather Point; Grand Canyon National Park; AZ



clustered flowers

Mather Pt; Grand Cyn NP; AZ



pinnate leaflets

Mather Pt; Grand Cyn NP; AZ

- Flowers:** perfect; flat umbel inflorescence; 4-5 petals, fragrant (foul); white to cream; .25"
- Stems:** erect; several from base; highly branched; **green** (young) to **brown** (mature); various lengths
- Leaves:** lanceolate; toothed; opposite, pinnate (5-9 leaflets); glabrous to hairy; **green**; 6"
- Blooms:** March to June
- Range:** western North America
- Habitat:** diverse habitats; riparian areas to montane woodlands; Lower Sonoran to Canadian Life Zones

Notes:

uncommon; short-lived, deciduous perennial; grows to 30' in w NA from sw CAN south to nw MEX, Pacific coast east to OK/TX at elevations up to about 10,000'; blue-black, globular, .25" **drupe** fruit with characteristic pale powdery coating; aka **Blue Elder**; raw fruit edible in small quantities (otherwise toxic) or used to make preserves

Mojave presence: native

Comments:

Though elderberries occur in the Mojave region, they are quite uncommon--and definately **not** desert plants! They will **only** be encountered in the high elevations of "sky islands." An example is the specimen shown above from Lee Canyon in the **Spring Mountains National Recreation Area** in the Spring Mountain Range west of Las Vegas, NV, in September of 2018. However, look for blooms in May, followed by berries in July, as seen on the specimens from **Grand Canyon National Park** in 2017.