

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Pyracantha fortuneana – CHINESE FIRETHORN [Rosaceae]

Pyracantha fortuneana (Maxim.) H. L. Li, CHINESE FIRETHORN. Shrub, fall-deciduous, somewhat spinescent, several-stemmed at base, with most leaves clustered on short, determinate spur shoots, in range to 3 m tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, on woody twigs forming spine tip on determinate spur shoots having leaves at lower nodes, puberulent. **Stems:** not cylindrical with buttress decurrent from projecting leaf scar, densely short-hairy, soon forming periderm, twigs densely covered with persistent short hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, at base of petiole, mostly awl-shaped, 2.5–4 mm long, having several minute glands on margins, with rusty short hairs above midpoint and especially at tip; petiole shallowly channeled, 2–8 mm long, puberulent on lower side; blade oblanceolate to obovate, 14–64 × 5–21 mm, tapered at base, entire or with < 12 minute teeth above midblade, obtuse or truncate to slightly notched at tip, pinnately veined with midrib slightly sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, initially inconspicuously short-hairy with colorless hairs, upper surface appearing glabrous, lower surface with some hairs especially along midrib. **Inflorescence:** panicle of cymelike branches, terminal, 9– < 20-flowered, flat-topped, branches several, ascending, bracteate, in range nearly glabrous and lacking glandular hairs; bract subtending panicle = cauline leaf; bract subtending principal leaflike with petiole but diminutive; axes cylindrical, green, peduncle short-hairy, other axes nearly glabrous or glabrate with comparatively few short hairs; bract subtending branchlet appressed, awl-shaped, 2–2.5 mm long, keeled, greenish and light rose-red, short-ciliate on margins, often with a minute rose-red point at tip, bractlet subtending pedicel similar, awl-shaped, 1–1.5 mm long, small bracts and bractlets deciduous when flowers in bud, after abscised having an axillary, red, threadlike structure 1 mm long; pedicel 0.5–6 mm long, green, glabrous, bracteoles absent. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 7 mm across; hypanthium funnel-shaped, ca. 3 × 3 mm, light green, essentially glabrous, inner surface upper portion = **nectary**, 1.2 mm long, green; **sepals** 5, arising on rim of hypanthium, erect, ± semicircular with short point at tip, ca. 0.9–1 × 1.8–2 mm, mostly light green bordered by white with narrow red line on margin, sparsely short-hairy on outer (lower) surface, persistent in fruit; **petals** 5, widely spreading, not clawed, 2 mm long, white; **stamens** ± 20, arising on short white ring at top of hypanthium; filaments wide at base gradually tapered to narrow top, white, alternating ascending and curved toward center, glabrous; **pistils** 5 in a ring, having outer faces of ovaries fused to lower portion of hypanthium; ovaries inferior, 3-sided with lateral faces flat and adjacent ovaries touching, ca. 0.7 mm long, green, conspicuously hairy on top of ovaries, each ovary 1-chambered with 2 ovules; styles 5 (1 style/ovary), suberect, in bud light yellow aging whitish, with terminal stigma 0.35–0.5 mm long slanted toward anthers. **Fruit:** pome, with thin pulp surrounded a ring of 5 stonelike structures (pyrenes), subspheroid-broadly obovoid, in range 5–6 × 5–6 mm, orangish red, with 5 sepals leaning over top, surface essentially glabrous; pyrene 2-seeded, plump 3-sided rounded on back and top and flat on lateral faces, ca. 3.5 × 1.4–1.8 mm, glossy brown, obovate in outline, mostly when immature with a persistent style at top of central angle, with a loose tuft of long hairs on top near the style; sepals with some short hairs and minutely ciliate.

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