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*Rubus ursinus*

[Synonyms : *Rubus macropetalus*, *Rubus vitifolius*]

**PACIFIC DEWBERRY** is a prickly evergreen shrub. Native to western North America it has white flowers.

It is also known as Boysenberry, California blackberry, California dewberry, Dewberry, and Western dewberry.

This is a parent of the loganberry.

*Ursinus* is derived from Latin *ursus* (a bear) meaning ‘bear-like’ with reference to smell or its shaggy appearance, or occasionally to ‘northern (from the Great Bear constellation)’.

The stems played a role in purification rituals performed by the North American Saanich Indians before dancing.

Several North American Indian tribes enjoyed eating the fresh fruit including the Digueño, Hesquiat, some of the Pomo, the Makah, some of the Salish and the Klallam. The Thompson, some of the Salish and the Digueño tribes all ate the dried fruit, the Makah Indians made them into pies and preserved them as jam, and some of the Pomo used them to make pies and sauces. Saanich Indians made a tea with dry leaves.

The shrub was a source of medicine for one or two tribes including the Hesquiat. It was used by the Kwakiutl tribe to ease vomiting and internal bleeding, and they, some of the Pomo and the Digueño all turned to it for treating diarrhoea. Hesquiat Indians were prescribed it for stomach upsets.