

Cherokee Ethnobiology

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BUCKBRUSH

Cherokee Usage

Buckbrush has been used for many generations by Cherokees in such crafts as basketry and other forms of weaving. The Cherokee name comes from the Cherokee word for “broom”...bundles of the live plants would be used for sweeping and dusting. The berries can be made into a red dye that can be used to stain designs onto the baskets.

Description

A short, perennial vining shrub, 2-3 feet in height. Small oval-shaped, opposite leaves. The dark red fruit ripens in mid to late summer and remain on the plant throughout the winter. Buckbrush has been used by Cherokees in crafts for many generations, both in the Old and New Lands.

Where found: Buckbrush can be found growing just about anywhere in this region.

Other names: Coralberry

Taxonomy:
Kingdom - Plantae
Phylum - Magnoliophyta
Class - Magnoliopsida
Order – Dipsacales
Family – Caprifoliaceae
Genus – *Symphoricarpos*
Species – *orbiculatus*

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