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# On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 1004

**RHAMNUS**—continued

- \*alaterna** L. A useful, large, bushy, fast-growing evergreen shrub. Leaves alternate, small, dark glossy green; flowers yellowish-green in April; fruits red, becoming black. Mediterranean Region; Portugal. I. early in the 17th century. This evergreen should be pot-grown in nurseries. It is splendid for maritime exposure and industrial areas. In warmer, more sunnier climes, it rivals the English holly in fruit. Not recommended for the coldest inland areas.
- 'Angustifolia'**. A small, compact bush of dense, rounded habit, with narrow, conspicuously-toothed leaves.
- 'Argenteovariegata'**. Leaves green, marbled grey with an irregular, creamy-white margin. One of the best of all variegated shrubs, but a little less hardy than the type.
- alpina** L. "Alpine Buckthorn". A slow-growing, small to medium-sized shrub of compact habit, producing numerous erect stems. Leaves broad elliptic, finely-toothed, glossy green and attractively veined. Fruits black. S.W. Europe; C. Alps, Italy. I. 1752.
- \*californica** ESCH. (Frangula Section). "Coffee-berry". An interesting, more or less evergreen shrub of medium size with oblong or oval leaves about 5cm., occasionally to 10cm. long. Fruits red changing to purple-black. Western N. America. C. 1871.
- crassifolia** C. B. WOLF. A remarkable variety with larger leaves which, like the shoots are conspicuously grey velvety pubescent.
- cathartica** L. "Common Buckthorn". A large, native shrub or small tree, a common hedge or woodland shrub on chalk. Branches spiny, quite attractive in autumn, when laden with masses of shining black fruits. Europe.
- davurica** BALL. "Dahurian Buckthorn". A large shrub or small tree with slender-pointed, oblong leaves and black fruits in autumn. Siberia; Manchuria; N. China. I. 1817.
- frangula** L. (*Frangula alnus*). "Alder Buckthorn". A large shrub or small tree with ovate leaves turning yellow in autumn. Fruits red, changing to black. Its wood makes the best charcoal for gunpowder. Europe (including British Isles).
- 'Aspleniifolia'**. A curious form in which the leaf blade is reduced to a mere thread 3 to 5mm. wide.
- \* × hybrida billiardii** DIPP. (*alaterna* × *alpina*). A medium-sized, usually semi-evergreen shrub with small, narrow, coarsely-toothed leaves.
- imeretina** KIRCHN. The most outstanding of the buckthorns. A medium-sized to large shrub with stout shoots and large, handsome corrugated leaves which are dark green above, downy beneath, usually becoming bronze-purple in autumn. Some leaves may be as much as 30 to 35cm. long and 10 to 15cm. wide. A splendid shrub for a damp, shaded site. W. Caucasus. I. 1858.
- infectoria** L. "Avignon Berry". A spreading shrub to 2m., with spine-tipped branches and ovate or obovate leaves. The black fruits were once used by dyers. S. Europe.
- japonica** MAXIM. Medium-sized shrub with glossy, pale-green obovate leaves, crowded at the ends of the branchlets. The small, faintly-scented, yellowish-green flowers are produced in dense clusters in May. Fruits black. Japan. I. 1888.
- parvifolia** BGE. A spiny, medium-sized shrub with elliptic, dark green polished leaves and black fruits in autumn. It hasn't grown very successfully in our area. N.E. Asia. I. 1910.
- procumbens** EDGE. A prostrate species from the Himalaya, making a low mound of intricate stems, small, shining, bright green leaves, and producing black fruits. Most suitable for the rock garden.
- pumila** TURRA. "Dwarf Buckthorn". A dwarf, sometimes prostrate shrub, only a few inches high. Fruits blue-black. Suitable for the rock garden. Mts. of S. Europe; Alps. I. 1752.
- purshiana** DC. (Frangula Section). A small tree or large shrub worthy of inclusion in a representative arboretum. The rather large leaves are prominently veined, and downy beneath. Fruits red turning black. The drug "Caucara Sagrada" is obtained from the bark of this tree. Western N. America. C. 1870.