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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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**cas·car·a buckthorn** 🗨️ (kă-skăř ə)

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*n.*

A buckthorn (*Rhamnus purshiana* syn. *Frangula purshiana*) native to western North America, the bark of which is the source of cascara sagrada.

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[Spanish *cáscara*, bark, from *cascar*, to break off, from Vulgar Latin *\*quassicāre*, from Latin *quassāre*, frequentative of *quātere*, to shake; see **kwēt-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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