

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Ammannia robusta – ROBUST AMMANNIA [Lythraceae]

Ammannia robusta Heer & Regel, ROBUST AMMANNIA. Annual, sometimes aquatic, diffuse-rooted, 1-stemmed at base, branches above, ascending to decumbent, in range 8–60 cm tall; shoots with conspicuously ranked cauline leaves and bracts in 4 vertical files, green, glabrous. **Stems:** 4-sided, to 4 mm diameter, 2 sides somewhat concave between the ridges descending from each leaf and 2 convex below each leaf, tough, internodes to 25 mm long, lower stem nearly cylindric and forming periderm at base. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blades linear, $< 30\text{--}100 \times < 3.5\text{--}9$ mm, the widest at base with rounded lobes but usually not clasping, entire, acuminate at tip, 1-veined with midrib conspicuously sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** leafy cyme, axillary, cymes paired at nodes, each cyme (1)3–5-flowered with subsessile flowers, bracteate, glabrous; occasionally at a node on lower stem forming a pair of lateral branches from sessile cyme, having internodes to 7 mm long and alternate to subopposite bracts subtending only 1 flower; bract subtending cyme leaflike; bractlets subtending the oldest flower 2, paired, oblong, ca. 2 mm long, green with colorless margins; bractlets (bracteoles) subtending later flowers 2, awl-like and $<$ bractlets of central flower. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 4 mm across; in population of only 1 type (homostylous); hypanthium (floral tube) at anthesis pleated, bell-shaped with 8 ribs, ca. 2.5×2 mm, expanding and spheric in fruit, appendaged, appendages (epicalyx lobes) spreading, prow-shaped, 1 mm long, green; **sepals** 4, alternate with hypanthium appendages, broadly triangular with short reddish tip, not spreading; **petals** 4, opposite hypanthium appendages, obovate, $2.5\text{--}2.9 \times 1.6\text{--}1.9$ mm, pale pink to light pink, abscising soon after anthesis (fugacious); **stamens** 4, opposite petals, free but inserted on hypanthium in green furrows ca. 1 mm from base, exerted 1.4–2 mm above hypanthium; filaments 3.4–3.9 mm long, white; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ± 0.5 mm, cream-colored, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, 4-lobed, ca. 1 mm long, yellow-green, 1-chambered with numerous ovules attached to center; style exerted from hypanthium, cylindric, 2.5–3 mm long, light green aging whitish; stigma terminal, capitate and hemispheric, ± 0.35 mm diameter, green. **Fruit:** capsule, dehiscent irregularly, many-seeds (200+ seeds), spheric, – mm, hidden by papery hypanthium and top at same level as hypanthium margin, at least exposed top crimson drying brown. Seed: stout wedge-shaped or inversely pyramid-shaped, 0.35–0.4 mm long, with blunt angles, glossy golden brown on fresh seeds.

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