

## Vascular Plants of Williamson County

*Apocynum cannabinum* – INDIAN HEMP, HEMP DOGBANE, PRAIRIE DOGBANE  
[Apocynaceae]

*Apocynum cannabinum* L., INDIAN HEMP, HEMP DOGBANE, PRAIRIE DOGBANE. Perennial herb, winter-dormant, from horizontal rootstock, fibrous-rooted, 1-stemmed at base, main axis with 1 or pairs of ascending branches from below midplant lateral branches from successive nodes, main and lateral branches terminating in an inflorescence, ascending to erect, in range to 125 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, glabrous; latex milky; adventitious roots on buried basal stem. **Stems:** cylindric, to 12 mm diameter, tough (phloem fibers), bright initially green aging purple-red, main stem internodes commonly 70–140 mm long, first internode of lateral branch commonly 130–190 mm long, lower stem often glaucous; early periderm at base of stem. **Leaves:** opposite (at several nodes subopposite), simple, short-petiolate to sessile (lower cauline leaves) and forming a pair of ledges across node, without stipules (appearing to be the minute appendages); petiole hemicylindric to shallowly and broadly channeled, to 7 mm long, forming pairs of conic, upward-pointing, minute, greenish or red-tipped appendages (extrafloral nectaries) 0.3–0.9 mm long at base of petiole along ledges; blade in range ovate to broadly ovate, in range 24–85 × 12–55 mm, dull, truncate or broadly tapered to subcordate or cordate at base, sometimes basal lobes ± clasping, entire, acute to obtuse with short point at tip, pinnately veined with raised principal and many minor veins raised on lower surface, lower surface grayish green (not glaucous). **Inflorescence:** cyme, terminal, many-flowered, with several principal axes at base, bracteate, glabrous; bracts subtending cyme 2, acuminate, to 4–6 × 0.8–1 mm decreasing upward, 1-veined with green midrib and membranous margins, puberulent-ciliate at tip; bractlet subtending pedicel awl-shaped, ca. 2.5 mm long, partially sheathing, sometimes with low teeth on margins; pedicel 2–23 mm long, occasionally with bracteole < 1 mm below flower, bracteole < 1 mm long resembling a diminutive bractlet. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, in range 3–3.5 mm across; receptacle cup-shaped, externally appearing to be a calyx tube; **calyx** 5-lobed, slightly fused at base; lobes overlapping in bud, appressed to corolla, ovate-triangular, 1.6–2.1 × 0.8–1 mm, light green to light yellowish green with white margins; **corolla** 5-lobed, bell-shaped, ca. 4 mm long; tube + throat bell-shaped, 2.5 × 2.5 mm, green at base to creamy white above, with 10 faint green veins, internally with 5 deltate appendages arising near bases and opposite lobes appressed to corolla tube, ± 0.5 mm, greenish; lobes overlapping, erect to ascending, ovate, 1.2–1.5 × 1.1–1.3 mm, white, with inrolled margins; **stamens** 5, fused to base of corolla tube; filaments broad, sigmoid and flattened front-to-back, ± 0.8 mm long, greenish, puberulent especially on inner side and minutely jagged approaching anther; anthers tightly appressed along margins forming a pyramid concealing and contacting stigma just above filament, dorsifixed, dithecal, arrow-shaped, 1.3–1.4 mm long, light yellow with reddish margins or orangish, longitudinally and inwardly dehiscent; pollen colorless; **nectary** 5-lobed, the lobes between filament bases and next to ovaries, subspheroid, 0.3 mm long, greenish; **pistil** 1, ± 1.6 mm long; ovaries 2, superior, free, hemispheroid with flattened common face, green, each chamber with many ovules; style + stigma complex (clavuncle) fusiform, 0.7–0.9 × 0.4 mm, greenish, with thickening midpoint where

contacting anthers, sticky. **Fruits:** follicles 2 per flower, pendent, many-seeded, cylindric, 60–90 mm long, joined at tips.

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