

## Vascular Plants of Williamson County

*Asclepias oenotheroides* – SIDE-CLUSTER MILKWEED, HIERBA DE ZIZOTES  
[Apocynaceae/Asclepiadaceae]

*Asclepias oenotheroides* Cham. & Schlecht., SIDE-CLUSTER MILKWEED, HIERBA DE ZIZOTES. Perennial herb, with fibrous roots from caudex, not rosetted, several-stemmed at base, ascending (decumbent) 30–45 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves,  $\pm$  short-pilose with hairs  $< 0.3$  mm long; latex white, copious when shoot broken. **Stems:** cylindric, to 5.5 mm diameter, nodes somewhat knobby, internodes mostly 10–20 mm long, uniformly short-hairy and puberulent. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole channeled, to  $20 \times 2$  mm, pale green, sparsely short-hairy; blade lanceolate to ovate,  $< 40$ – $100 \times < 16$ – $56$  mm, tapered at base, entire and often conspicuously wavy on margins, roundish to acute at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins slightly sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, short-pilose with scattered hairs along veins, upper surface less hairy and darker green. **Inflorescence:** cyme (umbel), “axillary” and 1 per node formed on ledge between petioles on successive nodes in canopy, cyme hemispheroid, 40–50 mm across, several–12(–20)-flowered, bracteate; bract subtending peduncle leaflike,  $>$  cyme; peduncle axis to  $5 \times 1.5$ – $2.5$  mm, expanded top to 4.5 mm wide, short-hairy like stem, persistent with or without developing fruits; bractlet subtending pedicel long-acuminate flared at base, 1.5–3.5 mm long, pale green, short-ciliate on margins; pedicel cylindric, at anthesis  $9$ – $19 \times < 1$  mm but funnel-shaped at top, pale green,  $\pm$  short-pilose and with scattered stalked glandular hairs. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 5–6 mm across, ca. 20 mm long; **calyx** 5-lobed fused only at base, lobes strongly reflexed; tube and lower lobe green and thickened; lobes overlapping at bases, narrowly triangular,  $3.3$ – $4.5 \times 1.3$ – $2.2$  mm, green with colorless margins, finely parallel-veined at base, outer (lower) surface sparsely short-hairy; **corolla** deeply 5-lobed, lobes strongly reflexed; tube short bell-shaped becoming inverted, 0.5–1.3 mm long; lobes acute-lanceolate,  $10$ – $11 \times 3.5$  mm, pale light green,  $\pm$  touching at base, exposed (upper) surface glabrous, back (lower) surface nearly glabrous with several short hairs above midpoint; **stamens** 5, fused into staminal column with filaments surrounding but free from lower pistils and anthers fused to the enlarged stigmatic head (stigma + anthers = gynostegium), with a whorl of 5 elaborate appendages (corona) opposite anthers, the corona 5-lobed with 5 hoods erect exerted 4–5 mm above staminal column, with horns; filament column ca. 3 mm long, fused to and continuous with corolla tube; corona hoods (lobes) arising from filament column and green lower portion fused to column 1.5–2 mm, hood bases connected by tissue having several teeth, on free portion of hood narrow, tubelike, and green extending above stigma, upper portion obovate and spathe-like flaring outward, ca.  $3 \times 2$  mm, dull cream-colored or with pink, notched at tip, papillate-ciliate on open side and papillate on inner surface, from the center on upper portion having an inward-arched, tail-like horn, visible from horn orifice, pinkish to rose and papillate, forked having a shorter, suberect, papillate appendage from horn; anthers dithecal, dehiscent along tip, flat and fused to sides of stigma except for a horny, conspicuously projecting lateral wing and a terminal appendage; anther sacs and connective green and reddish; lateral wings broadly triangular, projecting ca. 0.7 mm, sideways (laterally) appressed to adjacent wing of neighboring anther and forming a slit with gland (corpusculum) joining the pollinia positioned at top of

slit, tissue around gland yellowish; terminal appendages flaps covering edges of stigma, the flaps semicircular, ca. 1.5 mm wide, pinkish aging papery; pollen united into pollinia, each pollinium flattened and teardrop-shaped,  $\pm 1.5 \times 0.5$  mm long, glossy amber-colored, 2 pollinia from adjacent anthers united by spreading translator arms to a black gland (corpusculum) ca. 0.35 mm long; gland visible on surface of gynostegium, translator arms flattened, reddish, ca. 0.5 mm long; **pistils** 2, together appearing 2-stemmed and chalice-shaped,  $\pm 4.5$  mm long; ovaries superior, free at base, ovoid but flattened on common side,  $\pm 1.3 \times 1.1$  mm, greenish, glabrous, each ovary 1-chambered with many ovules attached on inner side; styles 2, **S**-shaped, pale yellow-green and fused at stigma; stigma capitate (includes some stylar tissue), 1 mm thick, ca. 3 mm across, the top deeply slightly depressed, 5-cornered (star-shaped), ivory-colored or with rose dots. **Fruit:** follicle, many-seeded, acuminate-lanceoloid,  $60\text{--}80 \times 18\text{--}21$  mm, with scattered short hairs. **Seed:** with a terminal tuft of many seed hairs, seed body ovate in outline strongly flattened and winged,  $6\text{--}7.5 \times 5$  mm, obtuse at tip, chamber bulging, brown and somewhat glaucous, wings completely around seed, stiff, 1 mm wide, orangish light brown to golden light brown; seed hairs 27–33 mm long, silky white.

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