

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Astragalus nuttallianus var. *nuttallianus* – NUTTALL'S MILKVETCH, TURKEY-PEA,
PEAVINE [Fabaceae]

Astragalus nuttallianus DC. var. *nuttallianus*, TURKEY-PEA, PEAVINE, NUTTALL'S MILK-VETCH. Annual, taprooted, not rosetted, several-stemmed at base, in range to 30 cm tall; shoots with cauline leaves, strigose and short-strigose. **Stems:** ± cylindric, < 2 mm diameter, with 3 faint ridges descending from leaf, green or aging purple-red, short-strigose with white, upward-pointing hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, odd-1-pinnately compound mostly with 6 pairs of lateral leaflets, petiole with pulvinus, with stipules; stipules 2, arising on node at pulvinus, narrowly triangular, ca. 4 mm long, green with membranous on margins at base, ciliate on leading margin, strigose with upward-pointed hairs on green tissue; petiole channeled above pulvinus; rachis channeled, to 20 mm long; petiolules 0.3–0.35 mm, glabrate; blades of leaflets ± elliptic to obovate, ca. 8 × 2.5–3 mm, oblique tapered at base, entire, notched at tip, with visible midrib raised on lower surface, upper surface with mostly appressed hairs, lower surface strigose with upward-pointing hairs. **Inflorescence:** raceme, mostly with < 10 flowers, flowers helically alternate, short-strigose; peduncle 5-ridged, to 35 mm long, 0.6 mm diameter; rachis ridged having a ridge descending from each bractlet; bractlet sheathing, < 1 mm long, having translucent food bodies on margins; pedicel arching to hooked, 1–1.5 mm long, short-strigose with upward-pointing white and also reddish hairs. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, pealike (papilionaceous), 4–6 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, 3.6–3.9 mm long; tube bell-shaped, 2 × 1.2 mm, green but reddish on upper half, strigose; lobes acuminate, 1.7–3 mm long, with raised midvein; **petals** 5; banner ca. 10 mm long, claw 1–1.5 mm long, white, limb roundish with notch at top, ca. 8.5 × 6 mm, violet with white center and radiating veins violet, strongly reflexed; wings 2, ca. 8 mm long, < banner, claw 2 mm long, white, limb obovate, ca. 6 × 2 mm + backward-pointing lobe < 1 mm long, white and light violet; keel of 2 petals fused almost to base of claws and nearly to tip of limbs on lower edge, 6.5–7 mm long, claws slender, 2 mm long, white, with open notch between them at base, limbs oblanceolate, ca. 5.5 × 2.2 mm including backward-pointing triangular lobes 0.5 mm long, dark violet with purple-red approaching tip; **stamens** 10, diadelphous (9 fused + 1 free); filament sheet 5 mm long, white, free filament portions 2–2.5 mm long; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.3 mm long, orange, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen orange; **pistil** 1, ca. 7 mm long, with short stalk 0.5 mm long; ovary superior, oblong, ca. 4.5 mm long, green, 2-chambered, each chamber with ca. 6 ovules attached to upper side; style 2–2.5 mm long, pale green, curved above midpoint, glabrous; stigma terminal, minute. **Fruit:** pod (legume), short stalk (stipe) 0.5 mm long, dehiscent, ca. 10-seeded, 2-valved, 2-chambered separated by papery septum, cylindric and straight to slightly curved, 15–22 × 2–2.3 mm, brown, with conspicuously raised veins mostly ⊥ on valve, somewhat 4-sided in x-section, with point at tip, seeds mostly 4–6 per chamber. **Seed:** prismatic and rectangular to parallelogram in surface view, ca. 1 × 0.8 × 0.6 mm, olive-brown with black spots, hard.

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