

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Brickellia cylindracea – GRAVEL-BAR BRICKELLBUSH [Asteraceae]

Brickellia cylindracea A. Gray & Engelm., GRAVEL-BAR BRICKELLBUSH. Subshrub, winter-dieback to ground, several–many-stemmed from base, with ascending principal branches, in range 45–115 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, foliage having short and shaggy hairs aging somewhat scabrous and gland-dotted with nearly sessile glandular hairs, mildly aromatic. **Stems:** ± cylindric aging low-angled and woody, to 4 mm diameter, internodes 30–55 mm long and not striped, short-tomentose and with comparatively few short-stalked glandular hairs. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole slightly channeled only at base, to 5 mm long, aging purplish on exposed side; blade narrowly ovate to lanceolate, 20–60 × 10–20(–30) mm, tapered at base, serrate on margins, acute at tip, 3-veined from just above base with principal veins and minor veins sunken on upper surface and principal veins raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** heads, in short axillary flowering shoots, flowering shoots 2 per node and ± equal at each node, heads (1–)2–6 per shoot in leafy clusters, head discoid, ca. 3 mm across, 8–11-flowered, bracteate, coarse short-hairy and sparsely glandular-hairy; axillary flowering shoots 2 and subequal per node, with (1–)2–6 heads and alternate bracts subtending branchlet or peduncle, the lowest bract subsessile, leaflike, and acute-lanceolate, decreasing upward; peduncle lax, cylinder, at anthesis 3–4 mm long increasing 2× in fruit, coarsely short-tomentose and with short glandular hairs; **involucre** initially ± cylindric, to 11 × 3 mm, aging lanceoloid-cylindric with ascending phyllaries, phyllaries 16–21 in several series, unequal, 2.6–11.6 × (0.6–)0.9–1.2 mm, tannish striped green (with reddish patch) aging tan and brown with narrow membranous margins, ± short-hairy on outer phyllaries narrowly ovate and inner phyllaries linear-lanceolate to strap-shaped, outer < 1/2 inner phyllaries and sparsely glandular-hairy, phyllaries conspicuously striped and ribbed, inner phyllaries mostly acuminate with short point and appressed-ciliate at tip, glabrous on faces, persistent; receptacle top-shaped with craters for callus of flowers, without bractlets (paleae), glabrous. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 0.7 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of ca. 45 capillary bristles in 1 whorl, straight, ca. 6 mm long, white; **corolla** 5-lobed; tube narrowly cylindric, 7.5–8 mm long, 5-veined to sinuses; lobes erect, acute, 0.4 mm long, whitish to pale yellowish green; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla tube ca. 2.3 mm from base, ± included; filaments ca. 2 mm long, colorless; anthers free, basifixed, monotheal, ca. 2 mm long, light orange, rounded at base, elliptic at tip with pale orange, oblong appendage, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale orange; **nectary** fringed crown surrounding base of style, 0.5 × 0.5 mm, pinkish with whitish fringe; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, ± cylindric tapered to base, 4–4.2 × 0.8–0.9 mm, angled and 10-ribbed, off-white to pale green at top, appressed short-villous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted 2 mm, to 10 mm long, glabrous, 2-branched, whitish becoming pale yellowish green above midpoint, branches hemicylindric, ca. 6.5 mm long, ca. 0.7 mm diameter, cream (hidden portion) to greenish yellow. **Fruits:** cypselae, straight, ± club-shaped, 4–4.2 mm long, low 10-ribbed, brown, short-villous with ascending to appressed hairs, with a small whitish hemispheric callus at base attached somewhat laterally; pappus persistent, bristles fused at base and spreading, ca. 45 in 1 series, subequal, straight, ca. 7 mm long, white, short-barbed.

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