

## Vascular Plants of Travis County

*Croton alabamensis* var. *texensis* – TEXABAMA CROTON [Euphorbiaceae]

***Croton alabamensis*** E. A. Smith ex Chapm. var. ***texensis*** Ginzb., TEXABAMA CROTON.

Shrub, winter-deciduous, of observed individuals < 140 cm tall; dioecious; shoots with only cauline leaves, axes tannish and lower surfaces of foliage reflective light silver consisting of appressed scales = stellate hairs. **Stems:** appearing cylindric and tannish, densely covered with reflective scales, the scales all initially with brown-red centers.

**Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole flattened on upper side, to 10 mm long, densely covered with reflective scales and dotted with their brown-red centers; blade ovate to elliptic, 22–93 × 8.5–50 mm, ± truncate at base, entire, truncate or rounded (obtuse) to slightly notched at tip, 3+-veined at base, pinnately veined with principal veins slightly sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, upper surface green to dark green with widely spaced individual appressed scales, lower surface reflective light silver dotted with brown-red centers of the widely spaced outermost scales. **Inflorescence:** raceme or panicle of racemes, unisexual, terminal on lateral shoots, several-flowered, bracteate, with scales; bractlet of staminate flower awl-shaped, 1.1–1.8 mm long, densely covered with scales, bractlet of pistillate flower elliptic awl-shaped, ± 3 mm long; pedicel of staminate flower cylindric expanded approaching flower, 1.4–3.5 mm long, flexible, ± greenish with scattered scales, pedicel of pistillate flower cylindric, 3.5–4.5 mm long, covered with scales. **Staminate flower:** radial, 5–7 mm across, with broad, platelike receptacle to 1.5 mm long, base of flower ± truncate, receptacle densely white-hairy with hairs to 0.5 mm long; **sepals** 5, erect, deltate, 2–2.2 mm, obtuse to rounded at tip, outer (lower) surface with scales having red centers, inner (upper) surface bright green and ± glabrous; **petals** 5, alternate with sepals, ascending, ovate to elliptic, 2–2.2 × 1.3–1.4 mm, lower surface green with hairs having arms not regularly appressed, inner (upper) surface mostly glabrous but hairy approaching margins; **nectaries** 5 or continuous forming a ledge, opposite sepals at outer bases of the outer stamens, to 0.3 mm wide, light orange, nectar-producing; **stamens** 20–40 in 4 whorls; filaments 1.5–2 mm long, pale green to midpoint and yellow above midpoint, enlarged and with hairs at base; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ± 0.7 mm long, yellowish green to orange-yellow, having scales (stellate hairs with ascending, fused arms), longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow-green to orange-yellow; **pistil** absent.

**Pistillate flower:** radial, 4–4.5 mm across, bud ovoid with a small receptacle; **sepals** 5, triangular, 2.7–3.5 × 2–2.3 mm, lower surface densely covered with scales having red centers, inner surface ± hairy and green; **petals** to 5, often unequal, mostly acute-elliptic, 1.8–3.5 × 0.5–1.3 mm, < sepals, green; stamens absent; **nectary disc** wavy to the inside of petals, 0.3–0.35 mm wide, orange to red-orange; **pistil** 1; ovary spheroid, ± 2 mm, green covered with appressed scales, 3-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 3 each 2-lobed, ascending, fleshy lobes exserted from flower, wedge-shaped, lobes ± obtuse < 1 mm long, aging recurved, tips of lobes with to 3 short sublobes, outer surface covered with scales, inner side channeled and surface green with edge aging reddish.

**Fruit:** not observed;

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