

## Vascular Plants of Williamson County

*Croton glandulosus* var. *lindheimeri* – LINDHEIMER'S TROPIC CROTON [Euphorbiaceae]

*Croton glandulosus* L. var. *lindheimeri* Muell.-Arg, LINDHEIMER'S TROPIC CROTON.

Annual, taprooted, 1-stemmed at base, not rosetted, with an ascending to spreading branch on principal axis from each node, 10–22 cm tall; monoecious; shoots with only cauline leaves, densely stellate-pubescent with arms of hair unequal. **Stems:** cylindrical, to 2.5 mm diameter, tough, green aging with light brown periderm on lower plant, having stellate hairs persistent on periderm. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to stem at node, fingerlike, 1–1.5 mm long, with several stellate hairs and having some erect, 1-armed hairs at tip; petiole channeled, < 8–20 mm long, < blade, projecting from the edges at top of petiole and blade junction with a pair of glands (extrafloral nectaries), the nectaries cuplike and  $\pm 0.6$  mm across, in nature with a drop of exudate; blade oblong-narrowly ovate to ovate, 12–45  $\times$  10–22 mm, tapered at base, serrate on margins, toothed to subtruncate at tip, pinnately veined with 3 veins at base and principal veins raised on lower surface, upper surface having hairs with fewer arms (some 1-armed), lower surface stellate-hairy throughout, arms subequal but with erect central arm. **Inflorescence:** raceme, with 1–3 pistillate flowers at base and < 10 staminate flowers above, bracteate, stellate-pubescent; raceme green, near base with 2 stalked, orangish yellow glands 0.35–0.4 mm long; bractlet subtending pedicel of staminate flowers club-shaped in outline, 0.5–0.7 mm long, < pedicel,  $\pm$  green. **Staminate flower:** radial, ca. 3 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed; tube dishlike, 0.5 mm long, white; lobes ovate,  $\pm 1.3 \times 0.8$  mm, green with white margins, having scattered stellate hairs on lower (outer) surface; **petals** 5, horizontally, widely spreading, obovate, 1.5  $\times$  0.6 mm, white, thin, long-ciliate to midpoint, gland-dotted; **nectary glands** 5, alternate with petals,  $\pm$  columnar with constriction near top, 0.4 mm long, white; **stamens** 10 in 2 whorls, free, opposite petals; filaments of outer whorl  $\pm$  appressed of petals, of inner whorl ascending, 1.9–2.1 mm long, white; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ca. 0.5 mm long, white, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **pistil** absent, flower center densely soft-hairy. **Pistillate flower:** radial, ca. 1.5 mm across; **calyx** 4–5-lobed, fused only at base, at anthesis lobes unequal, oblong-obovate, 1–1.7 mm long, folded upward from midvein, lower (outer) surface stellate-hairy; **petals** absent; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1, densely stellate-hairy; ovary superior, 3-lobed, ca. 1  $\times$  1 mm, green; styles 3, 2-forked below midpoint, 1.5 mm long, vanilla-colored to fork, the branches papillate and with some hairs on back. **Fruit:** schizocarpic capsule, 3-seeded, 6-valved, slightly 3-lobed, 4.5  $\times$  4 mm + persistent styles, depressed on top in center, with scattered stellate hairs; calyx tube 1 mm long and whitish, calyx lobes unequal,  $\pm$  spatulate, 5.3–7.2 mm long, folded upward from midvein. **Seed:** with fleshy appendage (caruncle),  $\pm$  ovoid and 3-sided, 4  $\times$  2.5  $\times$  2 mm, glossy mottled brown, pale brown, and black, smooth, rounded on back, with straight angle in front view; caruncle covering hilum end, 1  $\times$  2 mm, white.

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