

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Gutierrezia texana var. *texana* – TEXAS SNAKEWEED, TEXAS BROOMWEED, KINDLING-WEED, ANNUAL BROOMWEED [Asteraceae]

Gutierrezia texana (DC.) Torrey & A. Gray var. *texana*, TEXAS SNAKEWEED, TEXAS BROOMWEED, KINDLING-WEED, ANNUAL BROOMWEED. Annual, wispy, with photosynthetic branches, taprooted, not rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, erect with ascending branches and upper plant with spreading branches, in range 30–90 cm tall; shoots with widely spaced, short and slender leaves, gland-dotted and resin-coated, somewhat aromatic, not viscid, glabrous. **Stems:** several-angled or also with furrows, \pm 5-sided, < 5 mm diameter at plant base, with 3 inconspicuous ridges descending from each leaf, tough, green, canopy stems mostly 0.5–1 mm diameter and wiry, internodes mostly 35–40 mm long. resin-coated, lower stem lacking leaves when blooming and covered with light brown periderm and flaking epidermis. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, subsessile, without stipules; petiole < 0.5 mm long, if present indistinct from blade, often inconspicuously puberulent on upper side; blade linear, $< 5\text{--}38 \times 0.3\text{--}2.2$ mm, long-tapered at base, entire or with minute teeth on margins, blunt-acute at tip, 1-veined with midrib sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface (if wide pinnately veined with 3 veins at midblade), with glandular hairs in sunken pits on both surfaces. **Inflorescence:** heads, solitary and terminal on canopy shoots, head radiate, 7–12 mm across, in range with (5–)6–8 ray flowers and 8–13 disc flowers, bracteate, glabrous, resinous; bract subtending peduncle leaflike, linear, to 2 mm long; peduncle of head several-ridged, ca. 0.3 mm diameter, with several alternate bracts approaching head (= subtending future peduncles); **involucre** narrowly inversely conic, at anthesis ca. 1.5 mm diameter spreading in fruit, conspicuously resinous in bud, phyllaries ca. 15 in. 3 series, outer phyllaries 1.5–2 mm long and others to 3 mm long, with wide membranous margins to midpoint, outer phyllaries linear and green above wings, other phyllaries oblong to narrowly obovate with flattish, acute tips; receptacle domed, lacking bractlets (paleae), pitted with a toothed crown surrounding each ovary + minute hairs. **Ray flower:** pistillate, bilateral, 1–2 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of ca. 10 scales in 1–2 series, scales minute (0.1 mm long), translucent and scarious, jagged above midpoint; **corolla** mostly unlobed or scarcely notched, 4.2–5.8 mm long; tube 0.7–1 mm long, pale to light yellow, channeled on lower side; limb spreading, ovate, $3\text{--}4.8 \times 1\text{--}2.2$ mm, light yellow, often with 2 creases on upper surface and short-truncate at tip, after pollination or when stressed coiling under; stamens absent; pistil 1; ovary wedge-shaped compressed top-to-bottom, ca. 0.7×0.4 mm, pale green, with resin glands and minute hairs; style exerted from corolla tube, 1–1.2 mm long, 2-branched, branches to 0.5 mm long, divergent, light yellow. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, ± 1.3 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of ca. 10 scales in 1–2 series, scales minute (0.1 mm long), translucent and scarious, jagged above midpoint; **corolla** 5-lobed, 2.3–3 mm long; tube cylindrical, $0.7\text{--}0.9 \times 0.4$ mm, pale yellow; throat narrowly bell-shaped, $1.3\text{--}1.5 \times 0.7$ mm, light yellow, glabrous, tube and throat 5-ribbed to sinuses; lobes spreading and not becoming strongly recurved, equal, narrowly ovate, $\pm 0.4\text{--}0.5$ mm long, light yellow; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla at base of throat, to 2 mm long; filaments 0.5 mm long, pale yellow; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, included, basifixed, dithecal, 1.5 mm long, yellow, rounded at base, acute at tip, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary

inferior, wedge-shaped, ± 0.7 mm long, with short, ascending hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted ca. 1 mm, ± 2.5 mm long, 2-branched below midpoint, yellowish below fork, the branches nearly erect (not spreading), conspicuously papillate-hairy.

Fruits: cypselae, monomorphic, club-shaped, $1.8\text{--}2 \times 0.4\text{--}0.7$ mm, in range purple or mottled purple drying dark brown and light brown, 5-ribbed, cells minute and domed, short-hairy with ascending hairs not obscuring fruit wall; with minute scarious scales surrounding truncate top.

A. C. Gibson