

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Habranthus tubispathus – COPPER RAINLILY, RIO GRANDE COPPERLILY
[Amaryllidaceae/Liliaceae]

Habranthus tubispathus (L'Hérit.) Traub (syn. *Habranthus texensis*, *Zephyranthes texana*), COPPER RAINLILY, RIO GRANDE COPPERLILY. Perennial herb, geophytic, bulb-bearing, fibrous-rooted, rosetted, scapose with 1 ascending inflorescence per bulb, in range < 27 cm tall (aboveground); shoots with only basal leaves from bulb, leaves to 6, present at or after anthesis, green, glabrous, not odorous when crushed; bulb to 5 cm deep, ovoid, to 35 × 25 mm, covered with dark brown papery old leaf sheaths and above the bulb have a persistent, brown cylinder to ground level of old leaf tissue (neck of tunic), cylinder < 5 mm diameter; adventitious roots from base of bulb. **Stem (peduncle):** cylindrical, ca. 3 mm diameter, green from base upward, white belowground, hollow below flower node.

Leaves: alternate distichous, simple and sheathing (including belowground portion); sheath closed to ground level to above top of bulb, membranous; blade linear, in range to 150 × 1.5–3.8 mm, broadly U-shaped in x-section, entire (domed cells), broadly acute at tip, parallel-veined with veins slightly raised on lower surface, midrib absent.

Inflorescence: flower solitary, terminal on peduncle (scape), in bud flower erect, pedicellate, funnel-shaped, bracteate, glabrous; peduncle cylindrical, in range to 200 mm long aboveground; bractlet subtending pedicel (spathe) closed, in range to 21 mm long, membranous, upper portion splitting equally or unequally from tip downward into 2 acute lobes 5–7 mm long but lower sheath not split during flowering, colorless, low-ridged, aging papery showing parallel veins; pedicel cylindrical, to 50 × 2 mm (at node) with internode ca. 1.3 mm diameter, >> bractlet, pale green. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 25 mm across, in range ca. 35–40 mm long, diurnal; hypanthium above ovary cylindrical (= perianth tube), 2–2.5 mm long, green, thick-walled, with nectar; **tepals** 6 in 2 whorls, subequal, ascending, ± monomorphic, acute-oblongate, lower portion cupped, ca. 10 × 5 mm (flattened), whitish, upper portion light yellow aging with reddish veins (orangish yellow), 6.5–7 mm side, light yellow aging with reddish veins (orangish yellow or bronze yellow) with colorless membranous margins, parallel-veined, with a curtainlike corona inside the inner whorl, the corona 2 mm long, membranous, fringed from midpoint; **stamens** 6, attached at top of hypanthium at bases of tepals (subtended by corona), excluded; filaments erect, unequal, in range 11–19 × 0.4 mm, pale light yellow, slender at top; anthers ± versatile, dithecal, somewhat crescent-shaped, in range 3.5–5 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **nectary** on top of ovary; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, 3-lobed somewhat wedge-shaped, at anthesis 5 × 3–3.3 mm, 3-chambered, each chamber with to 20 ovules in 2 vertical stacks attached to center; style exerted to 6 mm above anthers, in range to 26 × 0.5–0.6 mm, pale light yellow, at top 3-lobed with 3, diverging, fleshy stigmatic lobes 2.5–3 mm long. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 3 valves narrowly spreading, many-seeded, subspheroid and 3-lobed, 11–12 mm long and to 15 mm wide before dehiscing, the broad valves ca. 12 × 10 mm, with seeds in 2 rows per chamber. **Seed:** thin and flattened often D-shaped (truncate on 1 margin), ca. 4.5–5 × 4 mm, glossy black and papery, winglike margin 0.5–1 mm wide, with shriveled body faces (minimal endosperm present).

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