

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Hypericum drummondii – DRUMMOND ST. JOHNS WORT, NITS AND LICE
[Clusiaceae/Hypericaceae]

Hypericum drummondii (Grev. & Hooker) Torrey & A. Gray, DRUMMOND ST. JOHNS WORT, NITS AND LICE. Annual, taprooted, not rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, erect to suberect, unbranched or in canopy with several ascending flowering lateral branches, in range 25–40 cm tall; shoots lacking basal leaves and having only paired, suberect to ascending cauline leaves, glabrous and sometimes lightly glaucous, foliage \pm gland-dotted with scattered secretory sacs in tissue aging reddish to brownish on surface (easily observed back-lighted). **Stems:** strongly 4-ridged and 4-sided, ca. 1 mm diameter, with 1 ridge descending 2 internodes from each leaf, tough, green, on lower stem with peeling papery epidermis aging cylindrical and reddish brown. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple and sessile, without stipules; leaves often appressed, awl-shaped, in range 8–13 \times 0.7–1.3 mm, entire, acute at tip, appearing 1-veined with midrib conspicuously raised on lower surface and blade somewhat folded upward from midrib. **Inflorescence:** monochasial cyme, terminal and axillary on primary and lateral branches, each cyme 1–several-flowered, bracteate, glabrous and sometimes lightly glaucous; bracts subtending cyme 2, opposite (1 = bractlet subtending pedicel of the first flower), leaflike, 4–5 mm long; peduncle absent; bract subtending axis and bractlet subtending pedicel paired at each node pedicel, bractlet leaflike, ca. 3 mm long, and green; pedicel conspicuously 3-ridged, 2–2.5 mm long, with ridge descending from each outer sepal. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 7–9 mm across; **sepals** 5 in 2 series overlapping at base, leaflike, lanceolate, 4–4.5 \times 0.7–1.4 mm (inner sepals the narrowest), green and somewhat glaucous on lower surface, 5-veined to midpoint with midvein conspicuously raised on lower surface, gland-dotted; **petals** 5, widely spreading, conspicuously asymmetric, obovate in outline, in range 5–6.5 \times 2–3 mm, $>$ sepals, light yellow-orange, the whorl with all petals curved on 1 margin and strongly angled on the other margin with a red midvein terminating at the angle, the expanded upper portion shriveling but the lower portion flat and persistent in fruit; **stamens** (10–)12–20, free and not fused into sets; filaments threadlike, 2–3.5 mm long, light yellow-orange; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, \pm 0.3 mm long, whitish, longitudinally dehiscence; pollen colorless; **nectaries** lacking; **pistil** 1, ca. 3 mm long; ovary superior, ovoid, ca. 1.7 \times 0.6 mm, whitish and greenish, glabrous, 1-chambered with many ovules attached to outer side (parietal); styles 3, pale green, with flared, truncate stigmas. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, 3-valved, ca. 20–30-seeded, before dehiscing ovoid, 4–6.2 \times 2–2.5 mm, brown-purplish red, the valves spreading and separating downward to 1 mm from base. **Seed:** \pm barrel-shaped in outline, ca. 0.8 \times 0.4 mm, brown, appearing ribbed with pits arranged in ca. 10 vertical files.

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