

## Vascular Plants of Williamson County

*Hypericum hypericoides* – RECLINING ST. ANDREW'S WORT, MULTI-STEM ST. ANDREW'S CROSS [Clusiaceae/Hypericaceae]

*Hypericum hypericoides* (L.) Crantz (if recognized, subsp. *hypericoides*), RECLINING ST. ANDREW'S WORT, MULTI-STEM ST. ANDREW'S CROSS. Shrub, deciduous, thin-stemmed and highly branched, in range often height < width, to 50 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, foliage appearing condensed by having early-emerging axillary shoots with new leaves, blades conspicuously gland-dotted (pellucid dots containing hypericin), totally glabrous (nonglandular and glandular hairs absent on plants). **Stems:** 2-ridged, with 1 pointed ridge descending from midrib of each leaf and a fainter ridge on each face, internodes 9–20 mm long, soon forming light brown periderm with peeling (exfoliating) red-purple outer layer; twigs woody with extremely narrow pith. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade elliptic to oblanceolate or oblong, in range mostly (5–)9–16(–25+) × 2–4 mm, dull light green, with minute cupped lobes at base (not stipules), entire, acute to obtuse at tip, midrib sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, surfaces having evenly spaced pellucid dots and especially lower surface glaucous. **Inflorescence:** dichasial cyme, terminal on branches and branchlets, 3-flowered, bracteate, glabrous; bractlets 2 subtending pedicel, leaflike, awl-shaped, ca. 2.5 mm long, cupped upward and spreading, nearly fused across pedicel in pair with lobelike bases touching; pedicel 2-ridged with a ridge descending from each outer sepal. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, ca. 15 mm across (petals); **sepals** 4 in opposite decussate pairs, dimorphic, outer sepals bractlike, ± ascending, ovate broadly acute, in range ca. 9 × 5 mm increasing slightly and appressed in fruit, pale green, entire and sometimes wavy on margins, 3-veined at base with only midvein approaching tip, veins fine and slightly sunken on upper surface, gland-dotted (especially visible during fruit development); inner sepals spreading and appearing fused at base to outer sepals, acute-lanceolate, 1.8–2 × 0.5–0.6 mm, whitish, faintly 3-veined; **petals** 4 in 2 pairs, widely spreading, oblanceolate, in range ca. 7 × 1.5 mm, pale light yellow; **stamens** ca. 30, free (not fused at bases into 4 sets) and side-by-side; filaments slender, ca. 4 mm long, light yellow; anthers dorsifixed near midpoint, 0.35–0.4 mm long, longitudinally and upwardly dehiscent; pollen light orange; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ovate in outline compressed parallel to septum, ± 4 × 1.5 × 1 mm, pale green, glabrous, 1-chambered (2 carpels) with placenta having many ovules in vertical lines along suture on outer side (parietal placentation); styles 2, arched outward at top of ovary and minute stigmas, acuminate, ± 0.5 mm long. **Fruit:** capsule, septicidal, dehiscent by 2 valves, 30+-seeded, ovoid to ellipsoid somewhat compressed parallel to septum and bulging at seed, in range ca. 6–8 × 3 × 2 mm, brown, with 2 short beaks (persistent styles); mostly concealed by persistent outer sepals. **Seed:** oblong-ellipsoid, 0.8–0.9 × 0.5 mm, dark brown to purplish brown, textured with fine longitudinal lines and a faint network of shallow pits (collapsed cells).

A. C. Gibson