

**Vascular Plants of Williamson County**  
*Ilex vomitoria* – YAUPON [Aquifoliaceae]

*Ilex vomitoria* Aiton, YAUPON. Evergreen shrub, several-stemmed at base, highly branched, in range to 400 cm tall; dioecious; shoots with tough leaves, young growth puberulent and short-hairy. **Stems:** initially green and 1 mm diameter, puberulent, aging with light brownish gray periderm; bark dull tight gray. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole somewhat flat on the upper side, 3–5 mm long, blade ± elliptic to obovate or ovate, 11–39 × 5–18 mm, tapered at base, low-toothed with minute purplish points on margins, obtuse to roundish at tip, pinnately veined with midrib somewhat raised on lower surface, upper blade glabrous, lower blade short-hairy along midrib aging glabrescent. **Inflorescences:** cymes, unisexual, axillary, mostly 1–3-flowered, bracteate; bractlet subtending pedicel, of staminate flower appressed, ovate, 0.4 mm long, of pistillate flower broadly triangular, ca. 0.3 mm long, reddish; pedicel of staminate flower 3–3.3 mm long with constriction at base, of pistillate flower 2–2.5 mm long not increasing in fruit. **Staminate flower:** radial, ca. 6 mm across; **calyx** shallowly 4-lobed; tube cup-shaped, ca. 0.8 mm long; lobes subequal, broadly acute-triangular to rounded semicircular, 0.3–0.4 mm long, green with colorless margins; **corolla** 4-lobed, white; tube cup-shaped, ca. 0.5 mm long; lobes ± obovate cupped above midpoint, 2.5–3 × 2–2.5 mm; **stamens** 4, free; filaments erect to ascending, 1.6–1.8 mm long, white; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 1.6–1.8 mm long, ± light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **nectary disc** beneath ovary but weakly defined, nectar-producing; **pistil** 1, sterile; ovary superior, hemispheroid weakly 2-lobed with groove, 1 mm wide, green, lacking chambers (ovules absent); style absent. **Pistillate flower:** radial, ca. 5 mm across; **calyx** shallowly 4-lobed; tube cup-shaped, ca. 0.8 mm long; lobes subequal, broadly acute-triangular to rounded semicircular, 0.3–0.4 mm long, green with colorless margins; **corolla** 4-lobed, white; tube cup-shaped, 0.4–0.5 mm long; lobes widely spreading, ± oblong, 2–2.6 mm long, often cupped above midpoint; **stamens** 4, fused at corolla sinuses, sterile; filaments suberect, ca. 1.2 mm long, flared and flattened at base, white; anthers basifixed, dithecal, vestigial, whitish; pollen absent; **nectary disc** surrounding ovary base; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ovoid, 1.2–1.3 × 1.1–1.3 mm, green, glabrous, 4-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; style not obvious (constriction); stigma capitate, hemispheric, 0.8 mm across, green. **Fruit:** berrylike drupe, having to 4 stones. spheroid, 5.8–6.4 mm, scarlet to orangish red, with a black, stout, persistent beak (style); pulp juicy, watery yellow-orange; stone 1-seeded, 3-sided rounded on back and flat on 2 faces, ca. 3.5 mm long, tannish to pale brown.

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