

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Ipomoea nil – MORNING GLORY [Convolvulaceae]

Ipomoea nil (L.) Roth (syn. *Pharbitis nil*), MORNING GLORY. Perennial vine (annual), twining, not rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, with long, flexible shoots to several m long, trailing on ground, over structures and along wires, and on elevated vegetation; shoots with only cauline leaves widely spaced along twining axes, foliage velveteen with pilose hairs; latex colorless. **Stems:** cylindric, to 3 mm diameter, tough, internodes to 150 mm long and twining, pilose with yellowish hairs, densely pubescent on shoot tips. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple unlobed or with 1 shallow lobe or 2 equal lateral lobes, long-petiolate, without stipules; petiole cylindric (except at axillary bud), 35–95 mm long, tough, densely short-pilose with descending hairs; blade inversely heart-shaped in outline, 55–190 × 45–140 mm, > petiole, often with a pair of ovate lateral lobes and sinus 1/2 to 2/3 to midrib, when only 1 lateral lobe more shallow or only a shoulder, deeply cordate and symmetric at base, entire (including lobes), acuminate at tip, palmately veined at base with to 7 veins, principal veins raised on both surfaces, the midrib pinnately veined, surfaces with pilose hairs mostly spreading toward margins. **Inflorescence:** cyme, axillary on peduncle, cyme condensed at top, 2–10-flowered, bracteate, pilose; peduncle stemlike, to 75 mm long, < petiole; bract subtending cyme ± awl-shaped, 10–13 mm long, light green, soft-hairy, abscising from persistent base; bractlet subtending pedicel, ± awl-shaped, 5–6 mm long, light green, pilose, withered from tip downward with base persistent; pedicel cylindric, 4.5–6 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 50–60 mm across; **sepals** 5, helically alternate, overlapping, appressed in bud to fruit, heteromorphic, outer 3 sepals acuminate-widely lanceolate sickle-like above midpoint, 16–17 × 4.5–5 mm, whitish to above midpoint and green above, to 17 parallel veins at base, green portion with cross-wrinkles, outer (lower) surface pilose, inner (upper) surface glabrous, sepal 3 with wide membranous margin to midpoint, inner 2 sepals symmetric, acute-lanceolate with 2 wide, membranous margins to above midpoint, 3–3.5 mm wide, outer surface with some short hairs along midline; **corolla** scarcely 5-lobed (small green points), ± trumpet-shaped, ± 70 mm long, glabrous; tube slightly flared, 7.5–8 mm long, 3 mm diameter at base and 4.5 mm at top, white, glabrous; throat funnel-shaped with widely spreading limb, funnel to 30 mm long, 15 mm across at orifice, light rose, limb entire except points, blue at end of day aging light rose-violet, with 5 starlike strips to points defined by a pair of raised veins; **stamens** 5, attached at top of corolla tube; filaments erect, unequal, gradually tapered base to top, within a flower 9–20 mm long, white, to 4 mm densely pubescent with white hairs to 1.5 mm long; anthers included, dorsifixed, dithecal, 5–5.5 mm long, whitish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **nectary disc** short-cuplike surrounding ovary, sinusoidal, 0.7–0.8 mm long, white, with copious thin nectar; **pistil** 1, 30–32 mm long, not exerted; ovary superior, 3-lobed conic, ca. 1.5 × 1.5 mm, yellowish to white at top, 3-chambered, each chamber with 2 ovules; style erect, white, with 3 conspicuous stigmatic lobes, stigma ca. 1.5 mm across, each lobe tuberculate and conspicuously papillate. **Fruit:** in range not observed, capsule with 1–4 seeds.

A. C. Gibson