

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Iva annua – SEACOAST SUMPWEED, SHARP-BRACTED SUMPWEED, PELOCOTE [Asteraceae]

Iva annua L., SEACOAST SUMPWEED, SHARP-BRACTED SUMPWEED, PELOCOTE. Annual, taprooted, 1-stemmed at base, not rosetted, erect principal axis having paired, ascending branches mostly above midplant, in range 20–170 cm tall; monoecious; shoots with only cauline leaves, foliage scabrous with stiff, upward-pointing short hairs, gland-dotted with colorless heads uniformly distributed in depressions, pleasantly aromatic like *Ambrosia*. **Stems:** 6-ridged, in range to 13 mm diameter, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, tough, internodes to 110 mm long, exposed side often red-purple, hairs upward-pointing aging with bases persistent; lower stem rigid, bark dull brown with ringlike scar at each node; pith narrow. **Leaves:** opposite decussate but helically alternate in flowering canopy, simple, petiolate having pairs fused across node, without stipules; petiole deeply channeled, to 33 mm long, ridged and grooved on lower side, with raised glands along ridges; blade ovate, 18–105 × (8–)14–70 mm, tapered to broadly tapered or subtruncate at base, low-serrate on margins with several widely spaced teeth per edge, < 12 teeth per blade, the teeth obtuse with a callus, somewhat swollen point at end of vein, acute to acuminate at tip, blade appear somewhat channeled at base on upper surface, 3-veined at base with principal veins raised on the lower surface. **Inflorescence:** heads, in terminal on main axis and lateral branches, leafy, spikelike arrays, array erect to suberect or ascending, < 30–150+ × 7–12 mm, heads helically alternate, 25+, 1 per node and stiffly nodding, head discoid, 3–5 mm across, in range each head with 3 disclike pistillate (peripheral) flowers, each subtended by a phyllary at its midpoint, and in range 12+ staminate (central) disc flowers, flowers nonshowy, bracteate, with nonglandular hairs and gland-dotted; main axis stemlike, somewhat ridged, tough, yellowish green, pubescent; bract subtending peduncle leaflike, ascending and partially concealing head, acuminate-ovate, < 6–20 × < 3–5.5 mm decreasing upward, tapered at base, entire, 3-veined with veins raised on lower surface; **involucre** hemispheroid, in range of 3 unequal, cupped phyllaries not fused, ca. 3 mm long, ciliate on margin, green mottled with colorless veins, the widest on outer side broadly obovate to top-shaped and 3–5 mm wide, truncate at top, to the outside of inner, narrower lateral phyllaries 2–3 mm wide, not keeled, pubescent and gland-dotted; receptacle low-domed, with flattened, oblanceolate-linear bractlets (paleae) long-tapered to base, in range 2.5–2.8 mm long, colorless aging red purplish, with orangish knobs (glands) along axis and tip with glandular hairs, palea slightly longer than staminate flower bud. **Peripheral flower:** pistillate, bilateral, ca. 0.9 mm across, 2.5 mm long; **calyx (pappus)** absent; **corolla** inconspicuously and irregularly minutely several-toothed, narrowly tubular, in range ca. 1 × 0.3 mm, white, with glandular hairs, persistent around lower portion of style; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, ± trapezoidal compressed front-to-back, ± 0.8 × 0.9 mm, white, with short hairs especially at the top, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style ca. 2 mm long, 2-branched at midpoint with branches exerted above corolla, white, the branches linear, minutely papillate and stigmatic on margins. **Central flower:** functionally staminate, radial, 1 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** absent; **corolla** 5-lobed, to 2.5 mm long; tube curved and narrowly funnel-shaped, 1 mm long; throat abruptly expanded from tube, bell-shaped, ca. 1 × 1 mm, colorless or with minute reddish spots at base; lobes deltate, 0.5 mm, colorless aging red-purple and inrolled, with glandular

hairs in bud; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla near base; filaments free, 0.4–0.5 mm long eventually elongating to push anthers out of corolla, colorless; anthers not fused, dehiscent while included in corolla later exerted, basifixed, dithecal, \pm 1.4 mm long including deltate appendages 0.2–0.25 mm long, pale light yellow with colorless appendages, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen copious, pale light yellow, dry; **pistil** = a vestigial, cylindrical inferior ovary 0.1 mm beneath corolla. **Fruits:** cypselae, 3, of different ages per head, each with phyllary, obovoid, $2.3\text{--}2.8 \times 1.7\text{--}2.3$ mm, plump and compressed front-to-back, glossy black, resinous, with minutely warty glandular faces; pappus absent.

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