

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Krameria lanceolata – TEXAS RATANY, TRAILING RATANY, CRAMERIA [Krameriaceae]

Krameria lanceolata Torrey, TEXAS RATANY, TRAILING RATANY, CRAMERIA. Perennial herb, woody-rooted, not rosetted, with many radiating, long, procumbent branches from root crown, with principal branches trailing and radiating from the base, in range to 10 cm tall, plant often 100+ cm across; shoots with only cauline leaves, axes tough and flexible, with primary shoots with a leaf at each nodes and spreading and ascending short axillary shoots, the lowest secondary shoots vegetative and later ones with a single flower, axes and foliate strigose with white, upward-pointing hairs. **Stems:** ± ridged to cylindric, with 1 ridge descending from each leaf, to 2 mm diameter (principal axes), tough, green or aging purple-red near the root, hairs ± appressed with upward-pointing hairs 1–2 mm long (± strigose) but also randomly oriented and often hooked at base, with minute, colorless, short-stalked glandular hairs; axes of lateral branches < 0.4 mm diameter; principal axes at base having a condensed array of bud scales, the scales ca. 0.5 × 0.7 mm, red-purple, persistent, the uppermost sometimes expanded and reddish orange. **Leaves:** helically alternate and on lateral branches, simple and sessile to subsessile, without stipules; petiole < 1 mm long, indistinct from blade, pale green; blade linear (on secondary shoots) and narrowly elliptic to narrowly lanceolate (on secondary shoots), (4–)10–25 × 0.9–3.5 mm, light green, long-tapered at base, entire, acute with sharp red-purple to black point < 1 mm long at tip (mucronate), venation inconspicuous (1-veined), strigose with upward-pointing hairs. **Inflorescence:** 1-flowered terminal on short axillary shoot, bracteate, strigose; shoots upright from procumbent shoot, < 30 mm long; at inception with short peduncle increasing (intercalary elongation) to 15 mm long at anthesis, at top of peduncle with a pair of leaflike bractlets, linear and subsessile, 13–15 × 1–1.2 mm, green, strigose with upward-pointing hairs, persistent; pedicel cylindric, erect, 3.5–6 mm long, at anthesis crimson. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, 18–22 mm across, bud asymmetric with leading side saclike, strigose with upward-pointing hairs on exposed tissue (lower surface); **sepals** 5 in 2 series, widely spreading, varying within flower, acute-ovate, 9–10 × 3–5.5 mm with a flower, in range strawberry-colored off-white at base, symmetric to somewhat asymmetric, 1 sepal enlarged and saclike below midpoint, of inner series lower surface with glabrous panels; **petals** 5, dimorphic, upper 2 petals ascending, sessile and fleshy, broadly fan-shaped, ca. 3 × 4 × 0.5 mm, mostly dark strawberry, collarlike on sides of ovary with villous hairs and base and a patch on appressed hairs, on inner side with subterminal glands with glutinous secretion; lower 3 petals fused to midpoint forming column with 3 clawed petals palmate at top, column fleshy, greenish aging white, free portions flat (not fleshy), obovate (central petal) and broadly obovate (lateral petals), 3 mm long, pale green and jagged below midpoint and crimson above; **stamens** 4, fused into hemi-cylindric column on lower side of style, filaments fused side-to-side and 4-lobed on outer side, ca. 3 × 1.3 mm, white, free filaments leaning inward; anthers basifixed, dithecal, ovoid, white, sacs dehiscent from tip downward; pollen white; **pistil** 1, 5–5.5 mm long; ovary superior, ovoid and slightly 2-lobed (shape concealed with dense villous hairs), green, with 15–20 reddish prickles to 0.5 mm long emergent from hairs, 1-chambered with 2 pendulous ovules; style erect, candlelike, 3 mm long, rose-red, surrounded by staminal column with stigma at top of stamens after pollinating appearing exerted. **Fruit:** indehiscent, 1-seeded pod, body subspheroid or spheric to oblate with radiating, hard prickles, body ca. 6.5–8 mm, densely

villous, prickles 15–20 and spaced, the prickles $1.5\text{--}2.5+ \times 1$ mm, with barblike cells approaching red tip; wall thick with 2 distinct wall zones; scars of sessile petals below fruit. **Seed:** inversely pear-shaped to broadly obovoid, ca. $4\text{--}5 \times 2\text{--}3$ mm, brownish, with furrow on 1 face.

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