

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Lantana camara – WEST INDIAN LANTANA [Verbenaceae]

Lantana camara L., WEST INDIAN LANTANA. Shrub, mildly spinescent, branched throughout canopy with spreading to ascending flowering shoots, in range < 120 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, scabrous, short-hispid and hispid and with short-stalked glandular hairs having colorless heads, foliage aromatic when crushed, longer hairs with enlarged bases. **Stems:** initially 4-sided, 2 flat faces descending from leaves at nodes alternating with other 2 faces concave, scabrous, with persistent leaf bases and a pair of densely hispid ledges across each node, nonglandular hairs bent upward, edges rounded with some prickles having elongated base to 1 mm long and straight to curved green axis to 1 mm long, having abundant short-stalked glandular hairs, internodes to 70 mm long aging woody; pith solid, white. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole shallowly channeled, to 25 mm long but poorly defined from narrowly tapered portion of blade base, short-hispid and glandular-hairy, sometimes with prickles along long side (also along blade midrib); blade ovate, < 40–95 × 20–60 mm, appearing broadly tapered at base but with narrow taper to petiole, crenate on margins with narrow sinuses, acute to acuminate at tip, pinnately veined with most veins sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, upper surface with uniformly distributed short to long nonglandular hairs and glandular hairs especially along veins; lower surface especially with stiff hairs along white veins. **Inflorescence:** compressed headlike spike, axillary, 1 or 2 per node, produced slightly above the subtending leaf, domed and somewhat hemispheric, ca. 25 mm across, 30+-flowered, flowers aligned in ± 10 vertical files in whorls of 5, with flowers of different color combinations in spike, bracteate, short-hairy and glandular-hairy; peduncle ascending, stemlike, 4-sided, to 75 mm long, with hairs as on stems; rachis often 15+ mm long, enlarged to 6 mm diameter, with shallow depression forming for each fruit defined by rims around a flat circular scar, short-hairy between scars; bracts subtending spike absent; bractlet subtending and appressed to flower in range linear-narrowly triangular, of the lowest whorl ca. 9 × 1.5 mm (in other forms acute-oblong, shorter and wider), green, 3-veined at base, short-hispid with upward-pointing hairs and glandular-hairy, decreasing to bractlets of younger flowers 6.5–7 × 1.2 mm, of unopened flowers in center of head exceeding flower bud 1.5–2 mm. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, 8–10 mm across (vertical), lightly fragrant; **calyx** 2-lipped, ca. 2 mm long, scarcely 4-lobed, alternating colorless and pale green strips to lobes, 4-veined at base with 2 veins 2-forked, outer surface with ascending short hairs; tube barrel-shaped somewhat compressed side-to-side, 1.5 × 1.5 × 1 mm; lips shallowly notched; **corolla** 2-lipped, 4-lobed, in faceview to 10 × 7 mm, in bud 4 lobes inrolled together appearing pillowlike, trumpet-shaped (salverform); tube weakly 5-angled, to 5 mm long, white, glabrous at base and puberulent on outer surface and short-hairy on inner surface above midpoint; throat lower portion slightly bulging around stamens and narrowly funnel-shaped above, to 5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide at orifice, white aging pigmented with pink and light yellow (other forms yellow at anthesis), outer surface puberulent and with some stalked glandular hairs on lower portion, on inner surface short-hairy above zone of stamens, upper throat above orifice dishlike, to 3 mm long, at anthesis light yellow aging orange often blushed with red; lips glabrous on upper surface and puberulent on lower surface, upper lip oval, 2.5 × 5–5.5 mm, in range upper surface commonly white at anthesis aging to rose (pale on lower

surface); lower lip 3-lobed, in range commonly white at anthesis aging to rose (pale on lower surface), central lobe oval, $3 \times 5-5.5$ mm, lateral lobes overlapping upper lip, semicircular, 2×3 mm; **stamens** 4, pairs fused to corolla throat at base of throat and 1.5 mm above, included; filaments 0.5 mm long (lower stamens) and 1 mm long (upper stamens), white to pale yellow; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.6–0.7 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen paleyellow; **pistil** 1, ca. 4 mm long; ovary superior, gumbdrop-shaped, $0.7-0.8 \times 0.7-0.8$ mm, pale green, glabrous, 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; style from top of ovary, erect, white (greenish at top), 2-branched at tip, the stigmatic branches lateral, calluslike, 0.7–0.8 mm long, translucent, papillate. **Fruit:** drupe, 1-stoned, 2-seeded, spheric, 5.5–6.5 mm, purple-black; surface smooth with minute cellular design, sometimes with puberulent patches; pulp purple-red, watery; stone hard, ovoid to ellipsoid, $4.5-5 \times 3-4$ mm, brownish. **Seed:** white, minutely textured.

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