

## Vascular Plants of Williamson County

### *Lespedeza procumbens* – TRAILING BUSHCLOVER [Fabaceae]

*Lespedeza procumbens* Michx., TRAILING BUSHCLOVER. Perennial herb, not rosetted, several-stemmed at base, trailing near the ground, to 28 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, axes and foliage short-hairy with spreading hairs (never appressed), lacking tendrils and not twining. **Stems:** somewhat ridged, to 1.5 mm diameter, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, green and short-hirsute, at ground level periderm light brown and having several well-defined axillary buds subtended by deltate scales to 3 mm long, the bud scales short-hirsute on margins. **Leaves:** helically alternate, pinnately-trifoliolate, petiolate with pulvinus, with stipules; stipules 2 attached at node, long-tapered linear,  $1.5\text{--}6 \times 0.25\text{--}0.45$  mm, purple-red, flared and to 4-veined at base, short-hirsute on outer (lower) surface; petiole pulvinus to 2 mm long, short-hairy, axis above pulvinus channeled,  $< 1.5\text{--}15+$  mm long, short-hairy; rachis channeled, to 7 mm long, lateral leaflets arising on upper side; petiolules = pulvinus,  $\pm 1$  mm long, light salmon-colored, short-hairy; blades of leaflets unequal (terminal leaflet  $> 1$  lateral leaflet  $>$  other lateral leaflet), broadly elliptic or elliptic-ovate to obovate, in range  $2.5\text{--}25+ \times 2\text{--}13+$  mm, rounded to broadly tapered at base, entire, rounded to truncate or shallowly notched with short point at tip, pinnately veined with conspicuous venation and midrib raised on lower surface, surfaces uniformly short-pilose, bicolored with lower surface light green having darker vein network.

**Inflorescence:** raceme, axillary, diverging and  $>$  leaf, having 3–5 nodes, at each node with 2 flowers formed on the same side, bracteate, short-hirsute with spreading hairs on green surfaces; peduncle to 50 mm long,  $>$  stem internode; rachis somewhat zigzagged; bracts subtending node 3 = central bract + bractlet subtending each pedicel, bract deltate ca. 0.7 mm, bractlet ovate, ca.  $0.8 \times 0.3$  mm, reddish, short-hirsute; pedicel not straight, cylindrical, at anthesis to 3.5 mm long increasing in fruit, short-hirsute, at top with a pair of bracteoles appressed to calyx, awl-shaped, ca. 1 mm long, green to reddish and short-hirsute. **Flower** (chasmogamous and probably cleistogamous): bisexual, bilateral, 5–6 mm across; **calyx** 4-lobed to midpoint, 3.2–3.8 mm long, not increasing in fruit; tube bell-shaped, reddish and green-striped to lobes; upper lobe with 2 triangular teeth ca. 0.5 mm long, lower lobes narrowly triangular, inner surface inconspicuously short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs; **petals** 5, glabrous, clawed; banner obovate (“claw” inversely deltate) lower portion 1.5 mm long and white with inrolled margins and auriclelike at top, limb  $\pm$  circular, 5 mm, pink-purple darker than wings with ca. 13, fainter, radiating nectar lines from white base; wings 2, claws linear,  $\pm 1.5$  mm long, white, limb adherent to keel at basal lobe, broadly oblong,  $\pm 5 \times 2$  mm, pale pink-purple at base to light pink-purple at tip, basal lobe semicircular 0.5 mm wide,  $\pm$  rounded at tip; keel of 2 clawed petals, claws linear,  $\pm 1.5$  mm long, white, limbs hatchet-shaped fused on lower edge nearly to tip ca. 5.5 mm long and slightly  $>$  wings, whitish at base to pale pink-purple grading to dark red-purple approaching tip; **stamens** 10 (9 fused + 1 free), ca. 7 mm long, whitish; filament sheet  $\pm 5$  mm long, free portions subequal, curved upward, 1.5–2 mm long; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, monomorphic, 0.35 mm long, light yellow-orange, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow-orange; **pistil** 1, stalked (stipe), stalk  $< 1$  mm long, light green; ovary superior,  $\pm$  fusiform,  $1 \times 0.4$  mm, green, short-hirsute, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style curved upward above midpoint, short-hirsute to midpoint. pale green and glabrous; stigma

minute, terminal, light green, papillate, having several minute hairs at base. **Fruit:** pod (legume), on stalk ca. 1 mm long, indehiscent, 1-seeded, elliptic strongly compressed side-to-side but bulging at seed, ca.  $5.5 \times 3.5$  mm, brown, veiny with raised veins on valve surfaces, short-hirsute. **Seed:** kidney-shaped somewhat ovate in outline, ca.  $3 \times 2 \times 1.3$  mm, light green mottled with dark brown, smooth; hilum slightly closer to narrower tip.  
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