

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Ligustrum lucidum – CHINESE PRIVET [Oleaceae]

Ligustrum lucidum W. T. Aiton (incl. all common naturalized forms often referred to as *L. japonicum*), CHINESE PRIVET. Tree to shrubs, evergreen, with several principal stems or trunks at base, in range < 10 m tall; shoots often 2-dimensional (plagiotropic) with tough leaves, glabrous and lacking appressed, umbrellalike (peltate) scales. **Stems:** cylindric but flaring below each node, tough becoming woody and stiff, having projecting leaf bases, lenticels on green stems lens-shaped along axis, 1–2 mm long, orangish, periderm light brown. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole channeled, (6–)10–16(–23) mm long, pale green, sometimes narrowly winged approaching blade and with constriction at base (abscission zone); blade ovate to broadly ovate or elliptic, (30–)45–145 × (16–)30–70(–80) mm, ± flat (scarcely folded upward from midrib), tapered to truncate at base, entire, acute (obtuse) at tip, pinnately veined with midrib slightly sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, upper surface glossy dark green and with 5–8 secondary (lateral) veins on each side of midrib, lower surface with minute speckles (crystals within tissue). **Inflorescence:** panicle of racemelike cymes, terminal and axillary (1 node below panicle), broadly ovoid, 80–180 mm long having 6+ nodes along principal axis, many-flowered, with 3–4 orders of opposite decussate branching before ultimate flower cluster 1–3-flowered cyme; 3-branched at base typically lacking a peduncle and having pair of primary lateral branches at base to 100 mm long, ultimate branchlet mostly 2–5-flowered + undeveloped buds, flowers bisexual, subsessile to sessile, bracteate, completely glabrous; principal axes somewhat to conspicuously 4-sided or aging cylindric, the largest with lenticels; bracts subtending panicle = pair of cauline leaves, sometimes also having a pair of branches at next node with reduced green leaves; along principal axis primary lateral branches to 150 mm long, decreasing upward; bract or bractlet subtending each branchlet (2 at each node), ovate to lanceolate, 2–2.5 mm long, thin aging orangish brown and papery, early-deciduous leaving a pair of curved scars; bract subtending 3-order branchlet ovate, 1–1.5 mm long, mostly absent at flowering; bractlet subtending flower cupped-ovate to awl-shaped, 0.4–1 mm long, early-deciduous; pedicel 0–1 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, (4–)5–6.5 mm across (ascending to spreading stamens), sweetly fragrant, sometimes terminal 2 flowers on an ultimate branch fused; **calyx** inconspicuously 4-lobed to subentire; tube bell-shaped to cup-shaped or funnel-shaped, ca. 1.5–1.9 × 0.9–1.3 mm, light green to cream-colored, glabrous; **corolla** 4–5-lobed, in bud greenish white, 3.5–5 mm long; tube bell-shaped, to 1 mm long, pure white; throat slightly flaring, to 1 mm long, creamy white; lobes usually subequal, reflexed, acute-ovate, 2.5–3.5 mm long, creamy white, thickish, initially spreading aging arching, faintly 3-veined, if unequally 5-lobed 1 lobe may be wide and deeply notched; **stamens** 2(–3), fused to top of corolla tube alternate corolla lobes beneath sinus, in bud anther snugly cupped by corolla lobes; filaments initially 2.8–3.2 mm long and bent inward at tip increasing to 4 mm long and either ascending or divergent and widely spreading in old flower, white, tapered and bent inward at tip; anthers dorsifixed, strongly dithecal, mostly hemispheroid with sac narrowly kidney-shaped, 2–2.5+ × 1.8–2 mm, cream-colored to pale yellow or pale light yellow often with a wide connective initially green aging orange-red, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow to pale yellow, copious; **pistil** 1, ca. 4 mm long; ovary

superior, top-shaped to inverted conic, 0.6–1 mm long, green, top shallowly 4-lobed (**nectary**) covered with thin nectar, 2-chambered, each chamber with 2 ovules; style erect, ca. 2 mm long, white; stigmas 2, exerted, \pm appressed and together appearing compressed-ovoid and thickish, 0.8–1 mm long, white aging pinkish, papillate. **Fruit:** drupe, with 2-parted stone, ellipsoid, 8–8.5 \times 5–5.5 mm, bluish black, minutely rough, not glaucous; pulp (mesocarp) to 1 mm thick; stone (endocarp) extremely hard, parts hemi-lanceoloid with common flat side, 6.2–6.8 \times 2.5–3 mm, brown, 5-ribbed on rounded face.

A. C. Gibson