

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Lonicera sempervirens – TRUMPET HONEYSUCKLE, CORAL HONEYSUCKLE [Caprifoliaceae]

Lonicera sempervirens L. TRUMPET HONEYSUCKLE, CORAL HONEYSUCKLE. Liana, somewhat twining also with long, spreading to trailing unbranched shoots, others tightly twining around other branches; shoots with only cauline leaves and 2-dimensional (plagiotropic), leaves inconspicuously pubescent only on glaucous lower surface. **Stems:** cylindrical, initially glaucous and greenish or blushed red, internodes on vigorous suckers to 100 mm long, tough, shoots soon woody. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate commonly fused as ledges across node, without stipules; petiole hemi-cylindric to biconvex, to 7 mm long, mostly light green, lowerside 3-toothed at attachment; blade broadly elliptic to narrowly elliptic (oblanceolate), of single leaves $< 35\text{--}66 \times (< 11\text{--})20\text{--}38$ mm, tapered at base, entire, obtuse to rounded at tip, pinnately veined with veins faintly sunken on upper surface and principal veins raised on lower surface, upper surface somewhat glossy dark green, in range totally glabrous, and lacking stomates, lower surface light greenish gray, conspicuously glaucous and with white short-strigose hairs pointing either to tip or margins. **Inflorescence:** condensed cymes in terminal spike, to 23-flowered, cluster on peduncle somewhat drooping, flowers sessile appearing in to 4 whorls of 5–6, each whorl composed of a pair of 3-flowered cymes (5 flowers in terminal whorl), flowers at pollination spreading-descending, several–many open on the same day, bracteate, glabrous; inflorescence subtended by 2 opposite bracts fully fused across node (connate perfoliate), bracts leaflike lacking petioles, \pm half-elliptic, each to 35 mm long, width = length; peduncle above perfoliate bracts 18–25 mm long, glaucous hiding green blushed red; rachis cylindrical, the lowest internode to 11 mm long decreasing upward, blushed reddish and glaucous; bracts subtending whorl of flowers 2 typically narrowly fused around node, each triangular, to 1.5 mm long, spreading or commonly reflexed, glaucous, bractlet subtending each flower shorter with tooth at midpoint and a pair of fleshy lateral structures (bracteoles?) projecting between adjacent ovaries, the lateral structures half-ovoid to hatchet-shaped and 1 mm long, glaucous pale green (rarely modified as an extrafloral nectary in the lowest whorl). **Flower:** bisexual, \pm radial, 10–15 mm across, 45–54 mm long, unscented; **calyx** minutely 5-lobed (teeth), crownlike, 0.2–0.35 mm long, glaucous pale green; tube \pm 0.1 mm long; lobes = 5 subequal teeth; calyx persistent at top of fruit; **corolla** 2-lipped, 4-lobed on upper lip, somewhat twisted and tubular position often gently curved, lobes spreading in a radial manner, outer surface in bud and at anthesis coral; tube narrowly funnel-shaped, = to midpoint of tube + throat, lower portion low-ribbed, < 1 mm wide at base, often filled with thin nectar, inner surface having short-pilose hairs below stamens but with an orangish, broad panel of tissue devoid of pilose hairs but having minute papillate hairs (ca. 12×3 mm); throat above midpoint, light red-orange and lacking hairs, orifice at top 5–6 mm across; lips light orange on upper surfaces or orange tissues aging coral after pollination; lower lip unlobed, oblong-ovate rounded at tip, ca. 8×5 mm; upper lip having 3 similar lobes with overlapping margins, ovate, ca. $4\text{--}4.5 \times 4$ mm, lobe 4 next to lower lip ovate, ca. 7×4.5 mm, lobes rounded or nearly so at tip; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla above hairs of corolla tube, exerted; filaments free portion straight, cylindrical, 15–20 mm long, pale to light orange, decumbent within tube ca. 5 mm; anthers exerted from orifice, versatile, dithecal, 3.7–4.5 mm long, light

orange initially minutely speckled red (individual cells), longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light orange; **pistil** 1, to 53 mm long and > tubular corolla of each flower; ovary inferior, ellipsoid to oblong-ellipsoid, $2.5\text{--}3.2 \times 1.5\text{--}2.1$ mm, glaucous green, glabrous, 3-chambered, each chamber with 2 pale green ovules attached to center; **nectary disc** = ring surrounding style and touching calyx at top of ovary next to style, 0.1 mm wide and 0.6–0.7 mm across, green; style exerted, cylindrical, 40+ mm long ca. 5 mm > corolla tube + throat, pale orange especially above midpoint, straight to gently curved; stigma capitate and broad, hemispheroid, 1 mm across, light green, lobes 3 inconspicuous, papillate and glutinous. **Fruit:** berry, to 5-seeded, subspheroid, in range $8\text{--}9 \times$ ca. 7.5 mm, scarlet or red-orange to light orange (pale green and glaucous when immature); skin (exocarp) colorless; pulp (mesocarp) wet, scarlet to orange; with dry, persistent calyx at top. **Seed:** biconvex (domed like a turtle shell) broadly elliptic to broadly ovate in outline, $3.5\text{--}4 \times 2.5\text{--}2.9 \times 1.2\text{--}1.5$ mm, glossy light yellow, minutely notched at hilum, minutely textured with low-convex cells.

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