

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Malvaviscus arboreus var. *drummondii* – TURK'S CAP, DRUMMOND WAX MALLOW
[Malvaceae]

Malvaviscus arboreus Cav. var. *drummondii* (Torrey & A. Gray) Schery, TURK'S CAP, DRUMMOND WAX MALLOW. Shrub, many-stemmed at base, in range to 140 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, stellate-hairy, with 1–5 arms. **Stems:** cylindric, to 8 mm diameter, tough, green, with short unbranched and stellate hairs, the largest with 4–5 arms. **Leaves:** helically alternate, palmately 3-lobed, long-petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to stem at base of petiole, spreading, linear, 7–9 × 1 mm, green, becoming reflexed before abscising; petiole cylindric, to 100 mm long, tough, stellate-hairy on upper side; blade broadly ovate to squarish with projecting, broadly triangular terminal lobe, 80–150 × < 65–155 mm, cordate at base, coarsely serrate-crenate on margins, acute to obtuse at lobe tips, palmately veined from base with 5, 7, or 9 principal veins with principal veins raised on upper surface but furrowed along edges and conspicuously raised on lower surface, stellate hairs along all veins, the arms 0.1–0.7(–1.1) mm long. **Inflorescence:** solitary axillary flowers, bracteate, stellate-hairy; pedicel cylindric, ± 30 mm long, densely stellate-hairy, abscising at base, bracteoles 8–10 in whorl appearing like outer perianth whorl (epicalyx), in bud spreading later ascending to suberect, appressed to calyx, and persistent with spreading tips, narrowly spatulate-linear (2-lobed), 12–17 × 1.8–2.3 mm, slightly green flared at whitish base, 3-veined with midvein raised on lower surface, stellate-hairy and with longer unbranched hairs. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 12–26 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, ca. 13 mm long, pale light green, stellate-hairy base-to-tip; tube narrowly bell-shaped, ca. 8 × 5 mm, 3-ribbed to each lobe; lobes triangular, 4.5–6 × 2.9–3.3 mm, with 3-principal veins, upper surface with stellate hairs above midpoint; **petals** 5, fused in a ring to expanded base of staminal column, twisted in bud, asymmetrically narrowly fan-shaped with deltate basal lobe or shoulder (same side on 5 petals), 25–35 × 15–20 mm, crimson, basal lobe to 5 mm long, sparsely short-ciliate on margins at tips of lobes, the hairs red; **stamens** ca. 25, monadelphous (all fused into long column surrounding style), 45–50 × 1 mm, orangish red aging purple-red, column twisted several times, sparsely papillate above midpoint, free filaments 1–2 mm long arising 5–6 mm from top; anthers dorsifixed, monotheical, ± 1 mm long, purple-red, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale purple; **nectary** on outside of staminal dome alternate with petal bases; **pistil** 1, ± 45 mm long; ovary superior, oblate, 2 mm across, cream-colored, 5-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; style 10-lobed, white to pale strawberry on lobes, the lobes stigmatic, 3.5–4 mm long, style with long, scattered purple-red hairs. **Fruit:** berrylike schizocarp, of 5 fleshy mericarps, each mericarp 1-seeded, at maturity fruit oblate with depressed center and broadly topped, 8–9 × 11–13 mm, white maturing red-orange to scarlet, cover (exocarp) somewhat leathery, before drying smooth, glabrous; pulp somewhat dry, white; seapls acute and somewhat covering fruit. **Seed:** 3-sided ovoid, 5–6.2 × 3.5–4 mm, white to yellowish white.

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