

**Vascular Plants of Williamson County**  
*Mikania scandens* – CLIMBING HEMPWEED [Asteraceae]

*Mikania scandens* (L.) Willd., CLIMBING HEMPWEED. Perennial herb, twining, rhizomatous, fibrous-rooted with fleshy clustered roots, not rosetted, arising 1-stemmed from tip of rhizome, arching to trailing over low vegetation; shoots with curving and somewhat twining stem internodes and widely spaced, paired cauline leaves, short-hairy and with sessile glandular hairs having colorless heads. **Stems:** conspicuously 8-ridged, to 2.5 mm diameter, with medial ridge on each side and 3 ridges descending from each leaf, having ledges across each node with crestlike projections 1–1.5 mm long, internodes 80–200 mm long, purplish red at base of internode. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate with a pair of ledges across node, without stipules; petiole shallowly channeled base-to-top, 50+ mm long, with short hairs and sessile glandular hairs, on margin at base of petiole having a thick, pencil-like hair ca. 0.5 mm long resembling a rattlesnake tail; blade ovate to deltate or triangular, in range to 85 × 75 mm, cordate at base, entire or broadly low-dentate and wavy on margins, acuminate at tip, 3-veined from base and pinnately veined above with principal veins raised on lower surface, short-hairy, upper surface with scattered short hairs, lower surface also gland-dotted with sessile glandular hairs in pits. **Inflorescence:** heads, in flat-topped or domed array of many heads, arrays axillary, in range ca. 40 mm across, of opposite decussate branchlets each with ultimate clusters of 5–10 heads, head ca. 2 mm across, of 4 disc flowers; bract subtending inflorescence leaflike diminutive and spreading; axes of branchlets 6-ridged; bracts subtending cluster 1–2, acuminate-lanceolate, 3–4 mm long, mostly white, short-hairy; peduncle subtending head 4-ridged; **involucre** ± cylindric 4-sided, 1–1.3 mm diameter, of 4 equal, opposite decussate phyllaries, each phyllary subtending a flower, awl-shaped, ca. 5 × 1 mm, in range outer phyllaries green to above midpoint with white tips and inner phyllaries narrowly elliptic with wide membranous margins and a green midvein, short-hairy; receptacle ± flat, narrow, lacking bractlets (paleae), glabrous; pedicel of flower 0.1–0.15 mm long, white. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, 1–1.2 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of ca. 30 capillary bristles in 1 whorl, at anthesis ca. 2.5 mm long, white; **corolla** 5-lobed, 3.3–3.6 mm long, in bud with minute sessile glandular hairs; tube 1 × 0.35 mm, pale green; throat narrowly funnel-shaped, white, 1 mm wide at orifice, with 5 veins to sinuses; lobes deltate, 0.5 mm, white; **stamens** 5, fused to top of corolla tube; filaments 1 mm long, white; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, partially exerted, 1 mm long including acuminate appendages 0.25 mm long, white aging reddish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, narrowly wedge-shaped, 0.7 × 0.4 mm, green, 5-ribbed, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted from flower and involucre, ca. 5.5 mm long, 2-branched, lower portion 3.5 mm long, the branches ascending to spreading, threadlike, 1.5–2 mm long, white, stigmatic, and papillate above midpoint. **Fruits:** cypselae (to 4/head), prismatic wedge-shaped and strongly 5-ribbed, in range ca. 2 × 0.5 mm, glossy brown, strongly 5-sided, having a disclike callus at base, densely covered with sessile glandular hairs; pappus of ± 30 capillary bristles 2–3.5 mm long, in range white.

A. C. Gibson