

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Mimosa borealis – PINK MIMOSA, FRAGRANT MIMOSA [Fabaceae]

Mimosa borealis A. Gray, PINK MIMOSA, FRAGRANT MIMOSA. Shrub, fall-deciduous, somewhat spinescent, with open, ascending principal branches, in range to 170 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves clustered closely to young twigs, stem internode sometimes with a prickle compressed side-to-side (not in pairs), 3.5–8 mm long, often purple-red to purple. **Stems:** broadly ridged, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf or 1 from each prickle; bud scales short-tomentose. **Leaves:** helically alternate, even pinnately-2-compound with 1–2 pairs of primary leaflets (pinnae) diverging at ca. 60° from axis, flat, with 4–6 pairs of secondary leaflets, petiolate, glabrous; stipules 2, attached below petiole on leaf base, acuminate, 3–5 × 0.4 mm, green often purple at base, inner surface short-hairy near base; petiole hemicylindric flattened on upper side, to 26 mm long, glabrous; primary leaflet arising on upper side of petiole or somewhat channeled rachis, oblong in outline, to 38 × 16.5 mm, with constriction at base of rachilla, rachis continued past the upper pair of primary leaflets (positioned to the lower side), awl-shaped, ca. 1.5 mm long; petiolules of secondary leaflets (pulvinus) ca. 0.6 mm long, light green, glabrous, with minute colorless glands at the base; blades of secondary leaflets oblong or narrowly ovate to narrowly obovate, 2.5–5 × 1–1.2 mm, somewhat asymmetrically tapered at base, entire, obtuse to acute (rounded) at tip, pinnately veined with midrib not along midline, surfaces nearly smooth and minutely dotted (stomates), glabrous and ± glaucous. **Inflorescence:** headlike spike, axillary to leaf scar on twigs from previous year (periderm), forming on condensed lateral shoot with 1–several leaves, hemispheroid, 16–18 mm across, ± 18-flowered, flowers helically alternate without internodes, bracteate, glabrous; peduncle cylindric, at flowering 14–25 × 0.6–0.7 mm, broader at top and lacking pulvinus at base, yellow-green and somewhat glaucous; rachis subspheroid, 1.5 × 1 mm, glabrous; bractlet subtending flower awl-shaped to oblanceolate-linear, 1.2–1.9 × 0.4 mm, green or upper portion reddish, short-ciliate on margins and with several short hairs at tip. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 5–7 mm across, 9–10 mm long; pleasantly fragrant; **nectary** on receptacle around stalk of pistil, glossy green; **calyx** inconspicuously 5-toothed, 1.3–1.5 mm long; tube ± funnel-shaped (bell-shaped), 1 mm wide at top, green or pinkish above midpoint, teeth (lobes) short and broad, < 0.25 mm long, with ephemeral glandular hairs on margin; **petals** 5, ascending, obovate to oblong, 2.8–3.2 × 1.1–1.4 mm, often twisted or somewhat wavy, inrolled to lower side, midvein green and margins rose-pink; **stamens** 8–11, free; filaments ascending-radiating, subequal to unequal, cylindric, 6.5–8.5 mm long, dark pink to rose aging lighter, glabrous; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.55–0.7 mm long, light yellow or blushed with rose, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1, short-stalked (stipe), stalk 0.2–0.35 mm long, greenish, pistil 9–9.5 mm long and slightly > stamens; ovary superior, ellipsoid to narrowly obovoid, 1 × 0.4 mm, green, glabrous, 1-chambered with 5 ovules attached to upper side; style pale pink at base to darker pink or rose-pink above (same color as filaments), tapered to a minute terminal stigma. **Fruit:** pod (legume), schizocarpic, lax on peduncle, 1–4(–5)-seeded, breaking into 1-seeded joints after valves separating from sutures, an upward-curved series of bulging seeds with constricted valves and indented margins between seeds, 15–55 × 8–11 mm, brownish, convex on 1 surface and concave on other surface, commonly with 1–3 prickles 1–3.5 mm

long on lower edge; stalk cylindric, to 2.5 mm long, glabrous; peduncle in fruit to 24 mm long. **Seed:** enclosed within joint, ovoid, ca. $5-5.5 \times 4 \times 3$ mm, brown, with well-developed raphe and short hilum at top of raphe; surface irregularly pitted.

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