

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Nama jamaicense – FIDDLELEAF NAMA [Boraginaceae]

Nama jamaicense L., FIDDLELEAF NAMA. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, several-stemmed at base, prostrate with basal branches mostly appressed to ground, to 3 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, cauline leaves appearing subopposite and with winged stems from decumbent bases forming 2 green wings per leaf, stiff short-hairy and with inconspicuous, colorless, subsessile to short-stalked glandular hairs, scattered nonglandular hairs sometimes > 0.5 mm long. **Stems:** winged, axis < 1.5 mm diameter, wings to 1.5 mm wide, internodes short in initial basal cluster or to 17 mm long on rapidly growing lateral branches, green or tinged purplish red, short-hirsute and ascending with upward-pointing hairs to reclining (never strictly strigose), hair bases somewhat swollen. **Leaves:** alternate with blades oriented to upper side (on condensed shoots, when young appearing as in pairs), simple, petiolate to 45 mm long with margins conspicuously decurrent, without stipules; petiole 2-strongly flattened and indistinct from blade, to 4 mm wide, midvein white and densely short-hairy; blade obovate to spatulate, fully expanded to 37 × 10–20 mm, dull, long-tapered at base grading into petiole, entire and at maturity often wavy and purple-red on margins, obtuse to rounded at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins somewhat sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** flowers solitary, axillary, with 1 flower and 1 shoot per node, not 1-sided, buds and open flowers never coiled at tip, stiff short-hairy and glandular-hairy; bract subtending inflorescence = cauline leaf; bractlets absent; pedicel cylindrical, at anthesis ca. 1 mm long increasing to 3 mm long and ± straight in fruit, with short-hairy and with stalked glandular hairs. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 2.5–3 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed but fused only at base, green, with raised midvein, short-hairy and short glandular-hairy; tube cup-shaped, < 0.5 mm long, aging reddish; appendages absent; lobes subequal, at anthesis to 4.8 mm long increasing somewhat in fruit, with raised midvein; **corolla** 5-lobed, sparsely short-hairy and short glandular-hairy on exposed outer surface; tube broadly cylindrical, to 5 × 2–2.5 mm, whitish at base then yellowish green below midpoint to pale pink above (white in young bud), with 20 or more fine, purplish veins, lacking appendages; lobes spreading, hemi-circular, to 0.8 mm long, pink aging lavender, upper (inner) surface glabrous; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla tube ca. 0.5 mm from base, included; filaments somewhat unequal, 2–2.5 mm long within 1 flower, often yellowish below midpoint and white above, with winglike margins (free-margin scales) to 0.9 mm from base and above cylindrical and tapered to tip, glabrous; anthers ± versatile, dithecal, 0.6–0.7 mm long, cream-colored, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen cream-colored; **nectary disc** beneath ovary, ringlike and shallowly 10-lobed, not wider than ovary base, green; **pistil** 1, ca. 3.5 mm long; ovary superior, blunt conic somewhat compressed front-to-back, ca. 2 mm long, green, with scattered, short glandular hairs and several short nonglandular hairs at top and on the base of style, 1-chambered with many ovules; style included, erect, ca. 1.5 mm long, pale green, 2-branched, the branches ascending, 0.5 mm long; stigmas terminal, truncate. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 2 valves, many-seeded, ± sausage-shaped and 2-lobed, slightly compressed ⊥ valves, ca. 7.5 × 2.5 × 2 mm, valves slightly bulging by seeds, with persistent style, glabrescent; fruit spreading on opposite side of leaf having the pedicel strongly bent so fruit projecting away from stem hidden by persistent calyx to 14 mm long.

Seed: caplike deeply indented on 1 face, ± 0.3 mm, brown, light-weight, with netlike ridges and projecting cells.

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