

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Phyllanthus abnormis var. *abnormis* – DRUMMOND'S LEAF-FLOWER, SAND LEAF-FLOWER
[Euphorbiaceae]

Phyllanthus abnormis Baill. var. *abnormis*, DRUMMOND'S LEAF-FLOWER, SAND LEAF-FLOWER. Annual, taprooted, several-stemmed at base, lateral shoots slender, to 22 cm tall; monoecious; shoots with only cauline leaves, 2-dimensional (plagiotropic) appearing like a compound leaf, with sleep movements, glabrous and glaucous. **Stems:** cylindric, < 1.5 mm diameter, green and photosynthetic dotted with tiny stomates. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple, short-petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to projecting, persistent leaf bases, acuminate-ovate to triangular or lanceolate, symmetric or asymmetric, 1–1.5 mm long, whitish; petiole, 0.3–0.5 mm long, often tinged reddish; blade elliptic to oval, < 4–8.3 × 2.5–4.2 mm, rounded at base, entire, rounded at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface; upper surface uniform. **Inflorescence:** cyme, axillary, initially of 1 pistillate and later 1 smaller staminate flower at base, nodding beneath leaves on short, descending axis (pedicel of pistillate flower), glabrous; bractlet subtending pedicel of pistillate flower, lanceolate, < 0.5 mm long, white; pedicel of pistillate flower at anthesis to 5 mm long increasing in fruit, aging thicker. **Staminate flower:** bilateral, 0.6 mm across; **perianth** 4 opposite decussate, ovate, ± 0.5 × 0.35 mm, white and yellowish, sometimes minutely toothed; **nectaries** 4, at bases alternate with tepals; **stamens** 2, fused at center of flower; fused filaments 0.3 mm long, greenish; anthers dithecal, 0.2 mm long, yellowish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellowish; **pistil** absent. **Pistillate flower:** 1.5 mm across; with enlarged, cuplike receptacle; **sepals** 3, ascending, ovate, ca. 0.7 0.5 mm, green with whitish margins; **petals** 3, ovate, ca. 0.5 × 0.3 mm increasing 2× in fruit, white with green midvein, in fruit spreading (not appressed); **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, 6-lobed, ca. 0.6 × 0.6 mm, green, glabrous, 3-chambered, each chamber with 2 ovules attached to center; styles 3, 0.25 mm long, pale green, 2-branched at midpoint, the branches recurved. **Fruit:** capsule, schizocarpic, loculicidal and septicidal, 6-seeded, oblate 6-lobed, 1.7 × 2.5 mm, green. **Seed:** 3-sided with rounded back and 2 flat sides, ca. 1.3 × 1 mm, brown, back finely sculptured with files of lengthwise cells.

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