

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Polanisia dodecandra subsp. *dodecandra* – REDWHISKERED CLAMMYWEED [Cleomaceae]

Polanisia dodecandra (L.) DC. subsp. *dodecandra* (Torrey & A. Gray) H. H. Iltis, REDWHISKERED CLAMMYWEED. Annual, taprooted, with several ascending branches, erect, in range to 80 cm tall; shoot with only cauline leaves, with stalked glandular hairs of different lengths, strongly odorous. **Stems:** cylindric, to 4 mm diameter, often tinged reddish or purplish. **Leaves:** helically alternate, pinnately-(1-)3-foliolate (1-foliolate on the first small leaf of an axillary shoot), petiolate, without stipules; petiole cylindric but channeled near base, to 3.5 mm long, often tinged rose, abscising just above base; petiolules of lateral leaflets ascending, < 2.5 mm long, lacking pulvinus, yellowish white, of terminal leaflet conspicuously narrow-channeled, emerging from lateral pair of petiolules rotated 90°; blades of leaflets ovate or narrowly ovate to lanceolate to elliptic, 7–35+ × 4–16+ mm, tapered to broadly tapered at base, entire, acute at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins conspicuously sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, upper surface dull. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal, erect, many-flowered, ± flat-topped with flowers at level of buds, flowers helically alternate, bracteate, glandular-hairy with mixed lengths of hairs; bractlet subtending pedicel 1-foliolate leaflike, petiolate or sessile, petiole to 2.3 mm long, often purplish to midpoint, glandular-hairy, blade at the lowest node to 12 × 8 mm decreasing upward to 4 × 2.5 mm and folded upward along midvein; pedicel straight-ascending, cylindric, at anthesis to 11 mm long increasing 1.5× and spreading in fruit, pinkish rose above midpoint and approaching flower, with persistent nectary at fruit base and lacking stipe beneath erect fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, ± 15 mm across; **sepals** 4, sometimes 2–3 sepals on upper (adaxial) side fused with short tube (bilateral), 3 adaxial sepals acuminate-lanceolate, at anthesis ± 4 × 1.2–1.3 mm, lower (abaxial) sepal cupping shorter stamens and ovate, sepals growing during flowering, mostly green with some reddish purple, 5-veined from base, lower surface of sepals glandular-hairy, upper (inner) surface with short glandular hairs; **petals** 4(–5), long-clawed with limbs spreading, 5–6.5 mm long, claw 3–4 mm long, pinkish to light pink-purple, limb fan-shaped notched at tip, ca. 3 × 2 mm but upper and lower pairs slightly unequal, white and pink, pink-lavender, or pink with rose, pinnately veined; **nectary disc** well-developed, on adaxial side with smaller sepals next to bases of to 8 filaments, with ovoid base 2 mm diameter and cuplike at top, orange with purplish or purplish red, cup with frilled rim, 2 mm diameter, rim butterfly-shaped and 1.5 × 0.5 mm; **stamens** (12–)16 unevenly distributed in 4 groups, 8 next to nectary, free, exserted; filaments unequal, in bud short during flowers growing to 8 mm long, 8 long and 8 short, in bud green aging light pink-purple or rose, glabrous; anthers basifixed but appearing versatile, dithecal, ca. 1.3 mm long, purplish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **pistil** 1, 11 mm long, not borne on a stalk (gynophore); ovary superior, ellipsoid, ca. 7.5 × 1.5 mm, colorless with rose-red purplish suture, covered with glandular hairs, 1-chambered with many ovules formed in 2 rows along septum; style exserted from bud, 2.5 mm long, rose-red purple with several glandular hairs; stigma terminal, 0.2 mm diameter, purple. **Fruit:** capsule, ascending to suberect on spreading pedicel, lacking a gynophore, dehiscent by 2 valves from top downward to midpoint, many-seeded, cylindric and somewhat inflated, 43–53 × 4–5.7 mm, with an acute tip, valves ± papery, with stalked glandular hairs. **Seed:** somewhat snail-like (strongly curved like embryo) with a ⊥ groove, 2–2.2 × 2–2.2 ×

1.3–1.4 mm, dark brown and minutely roughened (domed cells) enhanced with a network of pits and lighter brown to golden brown, poorly defined ridges and larger flares.

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