

## Vascular Plants of Williamson County

*Ranunculus marginatus* var. *trachycarpus* – MARGINED BUTTERCUP, ST. MARTIN'S BUTTERCUP [Ranunculaceae]

*Ranunculus marginatus* d'Urv. var. *trachycarpus* (Fisch. & C. Meyer) Azn., MARGINED BUTTERCUP, ST. MARTIN'S BUTTERCUP. Annual, fibrous-rooted, rosetted, 1(–several)-stemmed at base, with ascending lateral branches from each cauline axillary bud, erect, in range to 35 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves present at flowering and more deeply dissected cauline leaves, pilose-hirsute with an enlarged cell at base (off-center), the hairs to 2 mm long. **Stems:** cylindric, to 4 mm diameter, pilose-hirsute; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** helically alternate, shallowly lobed and toothed (basal leaves) to deeply palmately 3-lobed, petiolate, without stipules (having stipulelike wings on petiole); petiole narrowly channeled, of basal leaves to 105 mm long and much shorter on cauline leaves, pilose-hirsute, lower portion with membranous wings as margins and also fused to node, the wings to 15 mm long on basal leaves tapered to narrow at top, on cauline leaves not fused at node, lobelike at top, and sometime ciliate on margins; blade of basal leaves in range kidney-shaped to semicircular mostly with 3–5 shallow lobes, 15–35 × 20–50 mm, tapered at base with margins inrolled upward, sinuses in range not reaching midblade, the broad lobes with coarse serrate to crenate teeth, 3-veined at base with a principal vein ending at the top of each lobe and a branch vein to each sinus, having principal veins sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, upper surface glabrous, lower surface pilose-hirsute mostly along veins; of lower cauline leaves deeply 3-lobed above midblade, central lobe symmetric with 3 sublobes (teeth) and the central the largest, lateral lobes asymmetric often with 2 sublobes (teeth) with the tooth on the trailing edge; of upper cauline leaves 3-lobed nearly to base, lobes oblanceolate, upper surface sparsely strigose with upward-pointing hairs and lower surface with shorter hairs. **Inflorescence:** cyme, terminal and axillary, open, several-flowered, bracteate; bractlet subtending pedicel leaflike, deeply 3-parted or with only 1 linear-oblanceolate blade, < 15 × 1.5 mm, short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs; pedicel ascending, slender, 5-ridged, to 15 × 1.5 mm increasing ca. 2× in fruit, short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 7–8 mm across; receptacle domelike (torus), < 1.5 mm long, with short hirsute (“hispid”) hairs between pistils; **sepals** 5, strongly reflexed 1 mm from base, ovate cupped to the upper surface, in range 3.5–4 × 1.5–2 mm, light yellow with red-purple midline (conspicuous above midpoint on unopened bud), hirsute (“hispid”) on outer surface, deciduous after pollination; **petals** 5, not clawed, widely spreading, obovate with limb cupped upward, in range 4.5–6 × 2.5–3 mm, whitish only at base, upper surface glossy light yellow and lower surface not glossy, glabrous, each having a **nectary** concealed by an outward-pointing flap attached above white base, with 5 radiating veins from above nectary, the flap fan-shaped or shallowly 2-lobed, ca. 0.5 × 0.7 mm, yellow; **stamens** ca. 15 in ca. 3 series, free, < 3 mm long; filaments ascending later spreading before abscised, light yellow but white at base; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 0.9–1.1 mm long, yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **pistils** ±15, helically alternate in a low gyre; ovaries superior, ± D-shaped compressed side-to-side and vertically oriented, 1.3–1.5 mm long, lacking hooked hairs on sides; style inconspicuous, forming a papillate stigmatic crest from the point partway down the interior edge. **Fruits:** achenes, in range to 15

radiating from short torus in several low series, the cluster of radiating achenes (with out-facing edges) to  $6 \times 7.5$  mm; fruit body ovate in outline and  $\pm$  lenticular, in range ca.  $2.1 \times 1.7 \times 1.3$  mm, stigma sessile (beak not evident), thick-walled with edges relatively smooth, in range faces with 20+ pimplelike bumps (tuberculate) lacking hooks or points.

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