

Vascular Plants in Williamson County

Ranunculus sceleratus var. *sceleratus* – CELERY-LEAF BUTTERCUP, BLISTER BUTTERCUP, CURSED CROWFOOT [Ranunculaceae]

Ranunculus sceleratus L. var. *sceleratus*, CELERY-LEAF BUTTERCUP, BLISTER BUTTERCUP, CURSED CROWFOOT. Aquatic annual, taprooted and fibrous-rooted, rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, with ascending lateral branches from each node, ascending to suberect, in range to 50 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, 3-lobed, glabrate with soft hairs in inflorescence; taproot slender to thicker and fleshy, adventitious roots dense on lower 10 mm of stem. **Stems:** ± cylindric with subtle, broad ridges, to 15 mm diameter, with rounded ridges descending from each leaf, glossy green, internodes to 80 mm long, smooth, glabrous; internodes wide-hollow, nodes solid. **Leaves:** helically alternate, deeply 3(5)-lobed, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, = wide-membranous wings along petiole, to 17 mm long, to 1.6 mm wide, narrower on cauline leaves; petiole flared at base above hemi-cylindric concave on upper side from base and broadly channeled above, < 30–115 mm long, rounded on lower side, somewhat compressed top-to-bottom, with sparse, long, soft hairs within broad channel; blades to 65 × 20–95 mm, length < width, of basal and floating leaves, semi-circular to kidney-shaped in outline, cordate at base, palmately veined with principal veins scarcely sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, lobes wedge-shaped or fan-shaped to obovate or elongate-rhombic, terminal lobe symmetric and 15–60 × to 30 mm, lateral lobes asymmetric and wider, each lobe with several rounded sublobes and broad teeth above midpoint (terminal lobe) or base-to-top on outer margin (lateral lobe), with a purple gland and margin on each sublobe or tooth; blade of upper cauline leaf 3-lobed, decreasing upward with only short teeth or entire, oblong to elliptic lobes. **Inflorescence:** cymelike, terminal for each principal shoot, on robust shoot 3-forked at node having diverging axes and a central pedicellate flower, diverging axes somewhat unequal (of different ages) at each fork and with decreasing internodes, bracteate; bract subtending each axis 1–3-lobed, cauline leaflike and entire, the lowest to 25 × 7 mm decreasing upward, green, 3-veined or 1-veined, with inconspicuous silky hairs, having a pair of membranous stipules at base attached to short petiole, stipules acuminate or ovate, to 4 mm long; pedicel at anthesis upright, ridged, 5–11 mm long increasing 3× in fruit, light green, glabrous, lacking pulvinus at base. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 6–7.5 mm across; receptacle conic, having stiff hairs to 0.4 mm long; **sepals** (3–)5, reflexed, cupped oblong-obovate, in range ca. 2–2.5 × 1.6 mm increasing to 3.5 mm long in fruit, green with colorless margins, silky pubescent on outer (lower) surface; **petals** typically 5, obovate, ca. 3.5 × 1.6 mm, glossy yellow on upper surface with projection 0.4 mm long and **nectary** at base; **stamens** helically alternate, 10 fertile in 2 series, lacking staminodes; filament 1.5–2.4 mm long, greenish; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 0.8–0.9 mm long, light yellow, with sacs produced on sides of connective, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistils** helically alternate, ca. 200, tightly arranged on receptacle in range to 7.5 × 4.5 mm; ovary ± D-shaped to asymmetrically ovate in outline compressed side-to-side, ca. 1 mm long, green, with depression on each face below midpoint, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style absent; stigma oriented to outer side, green, papillate. **Fruits:** achenes, helically alternate, in a dense, oblong-cylindric to ellipsoid cluster (3–)4.5–10 × (5–)7.5–13 mm; achene broadly elliptic in outline to D-shaped, compressed side-to-side,

1–1.2 × 0.8–1.2 × 0.4–0.5 mm, minutely bumpy (tuberculate) or forming widely transverse wrinkles, glabrous; beak ± absent (minute stigma), with oblique scar close to base.
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