

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Rubus trivialis – SOUTHERN DEWBERRY [Rosaceae]

Rubus trivialis Michx., SOUTHERN DEWBERRY. Woody climber, spinescent, not rosetted, several-stemmed at base, with arching to trailing perennial branches, growing along the ground and on itself or neighboring plants; shoots with only cauline leaves, axes with backward-curved and straight prickles. **Stems:** tough, internodes to 50 mm long, having backward-curved to straight prickles with broad bases. **Leaves:** helically alternate, pinnately 3–5-foliolate (appearing palmately compound), petiolate with pulvinus, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to lower petiole, acuminate-narrowly lanceolate to narrowly elliptic or linear, 3–3.8(–7) × (0.35–)0.5–0.6 mm, green; petiole channeled (including pulvinus), to 50 mm long, having backward-curved prickles with broad bases (not in channel), prickles to 3 mm long; rachis channeled, 6.5–18 × 0.5 mm, with some prickles on lower side; petiolules of lateral leaflets 0–0.4 mm long; blades of leaflets unequal, ovate to broadly elliptic in outline (lateral leaflets asymmetric), 40–55 × 25–42 mm, if 3-foliolate lateral leaflets often 2-lobed, tapered at base, short-lobed and serrate to 2-serrate on margins having acute principal teeth, acute at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins raised on lower surface, lower surface with short prickles along midrib. **Inflorescence:** cyme, 1(–3)-flowered, terminal and often erect on short lateral shoot, lateral shoots < 70 mm long, bractlet subtending pedicel petiolate and leaflike but 1-foliolate, resembling a terminal leaflet, with 2 stipules fused to lower petiole, stipules free portion narrowly triangular, to 6 mm long, petiole channeled, to 7 mm long, with 1–several prickles on lower side, short-tomentose, blade ovate, to 20 × 13 mm, 1–2-serrate on margins with purple-red teeth, pinnately veined with principal veins sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, upper surface ± glabrous, lower surface short-hairy along veins. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, in range 22–38 mm across; receptacle conic, with hairs between pistils; hypanthium shallowly dishlike, to 6 mm across, green, soft-hairy, not glandular-hairy, **nectary** green tissue below stamens, nectar-producing; **sepals** 5, arising from rim of hypanthium, broadly ovate cupped and reflexed, 5.5–8 × 4.5–5.5 mm, conspicuously folded along midline, with 1–3 points at tip 2–3 mm long with glands along margins, surfaces soft-hairy, on upper surface strongly appressed; **petals** 5, widely spreading, 16–23.5 mm long, white, limb ± round, 13–19 mm, with a clawlike base (not really a claw) fan-shaped, with several radiating veins from base; **stamens** 100+ in several series, on rim of hypanthium, free (not in clusters); filaments unequal, 2.5–6.2 mm long decreasing outer stamens to inner stamens, white, glabrous; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 1.1–1.4 mm long, cream-colored aging deep rose, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **pistils** 25+, helically alternate on conic receptacle (torus), 4–4.5 mm long; ovaries superior, ellipsoid to ovoid, 0.7–0.8 × 0.45–0.5 mm, dull green, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style cylindrical, curved or crooked, yellowish to pale green, stigmatic at oblique and channeled tip. **Fruit:** aggregate fruit of 12–25 fleshy 1-stoned drupelets from 1 flower, in a hemispheric to conelike cluster, having walls fused at base via a fleshy receptacle, aggregate 12–16 mm diameter; drupelets helically arranged, subspheroid to obovoid or oblate mutually compressed below midpoint, 3.5–4.5 × 4–5 mm, at maturity black, glabrous; style ± persistent; pulp (mesocarp) juicy, sweet, dark red; stone (endocarp,

putamen) D-shaped, ca. $3 \times 2 \times 1.3$ mm, tan but often stained darker from pulp, extremely hard, conspicuously netlike, ridged around edge.

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