

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Ruellia drummondiana, DRUMMOND'S RUELLIA [Acanthaceae]

Ruellia drummondiana (Nees) A. Gray, DRUMMOND'S RUELLIA. Perennial herb, with caudex, not rosetted, 1–3-stemmed at base, decumbent to ascending, in range 25–< 50 cm tall; shoots with cauline leaves, with spreading leaves. **Stems:** 4-sided (squarish in \times -section), enlarged above each node, faces mostly flat or alternating flat (descending for each leaf) and shallowly channeled (descending from ledge), to 5 mm diameter, green but reddish on enlarged portion of internodes, short-hairy with longer hairs along ledges, with short whitish streaks along veins, **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate fused as low ledges across node, without stipules; petiole \pm hemicylindric, indistinct from blade, appearing 10–19 mm long (with thin margin of blade often descending to below midpoint), greenish, short-hairy; blade ovate (broadly elliptic), 30–100 \times 20–65 mm, broadly tapered at base, entire, broadly acute to obtuse at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins slightly raised on upper surface and raised on lower surfaces, short-pilose with hairs denser along veins on lower surface and margins. **Inflorescence:** cymes, paired and axillary at node with leaves fused as ledges across node, each cyme axillary to leaf, somewhat unequal with one developing earlier, peduncle lacking, bractlets (bracts) subtending pedicel 2, narrowly oblong (oblanceolate), to 6 \times 1 mm, 1-veined, green, long-tapered at base, entire, acute at tip, with short-hirsute hairs and having longer stalked glandular hairs on margins; pedicel short. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 20 mm across, in range 23–32 mm long; **calyx** 5-lobed, in flower ca. 14 mm long increasing to 20+ mm long in fruit; tube funnel-shaped, \pm 3 \times 1 mm, light green, inner surface with scattered minute sessile glandular hairs; lobes linear, subequal, gradually long-tapered from narrowly triangular at base to slender at tip, 1-veined, outer (lower) surface short-hirsute, having longer stalked glandular hairs from midpoint on margins, inner (upper) surface with minute sessile glandular hairs and above midpoint short-hirsute hairs; **corolla** 5-lobed, not obviously 2-lipped, in range 23–32 mm long; tube not distinguished from slender portion of throat, \pm cylindric faintly 10-ribbed, together 7–12 mm, slightly enlarged to 2 mm around ovary and ca. 1.5 mm diameter at top, white, expanded base glabrous, above conspicuously short-pilose, inner surface with winglike decurrent filaments from near base upward, to 0.6 mm wide and short-pilose; throat upper portion funnel-shaped, 8–9 \times 8–9 mm, pale violet with 5 darker principal veins to lobes and pleated with 5 raised on outer surface and 5 paler veins to sinuses, conspicuously short-pilose + inconspicuous sessile glandular hairs; lobes subequal, widely spreading, \pm obovate to broadly oblong-elliptic, 7–9 \times 6–6.5 mm, violet but paler on lower surface, overlapping at bases, subentire on margin, rounded to obtuse at tip, upper surface glabrous, lower surface short-pilose; **stamens** 4 in 2 pairs arising from 2 tall ridges, a short and longer stamens center pair shorter than outer pair, attached to top of corolla tube; filaments compressed, unequal, flattened at base where fused, free filaments 5–7 mm long, white, often with several short hairs on 1 edge near the base; anthers included, dorsifixed, dithecal, 1.8–2.1 mm long, white, longitudinally and inwardly dehiscent; pollen white; **nectary disc** below ovary, barrel-shaped, ca. 0.7–0.8 \times 0.7–0.8 mm, white, producing copious thin nectar filling lower corolla; **pistil** 1, 19–24+ mm long, included, having stalk below pistil 1 mm long; ovary superior, \pm cylindric, 2–2.3 \times 0.8–0.9 mm, green but reddish at style, densely short-hairy approaching top, 2-chambered but not partitioned, with 4

ovules, the ovules pale yellow-green; style slender, white, with short-pilose hairs at base to below midpoint, stigma blunt narrowly triangular, ca. 1.3 mm long, white. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent tip to base with diverging valves, oblanceoloid, ca. 17–18 × 4.5 mm (capsule + stalk), brown, densely short-pilose (short-hirsute) with longer hairs at top and lacking glandular hairs, acute at base and tip but short-truncate at style, valves not noticeably grooved, when immature with a black spot at the top of each valve; calyx tube concealing stalk, lobes slender, > capsule, short-hirsute with longer stalked glandular hairs along margins above midpoint. **Seed:** waferlike but lacking papery wing; seed body roughly circular in outline, 4.5–5 × 3.5 mm, brown,

[[[roughly convex but flattish whenever adjacent developing seeds touch, with some short hairs; wing translucent, to 0.25 mm wide.]]]]

A. C. Gibson