

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Ruellia nudiflora var. *nudiflora*, VIOLET RUELLIA [Acanthaceae]

Ruellia nudiflora (Engelm. & A. Gray) Urban var. *nudiflora*, VIOLET RUELLIA. Perennial herb, with caudex, not rosetted, 1–3-stemmed at base, decumbent to ascending, in range 25–70 cm tall; shoots with cauline leaves, with spreading leaves. **Stems:** 4-sided aging cylindrical enlarged above each node, faces alternating flat (descending for each leaf) and channeled (descending from ledge), to 5 mm diameter, green but red-purple on enlarged portion of internodes, internodes to 90 mm long, with mostly with some appressed short hairs, 12-veined aging with whitish streaks along veins, having projecting leaf bases and at each node with a pair of straight to crescent-shaped ledges across each node, ledges with short and longer nonglandular hairs along edge. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate fused as ledges across node, without stipules; petiole ± hemicylindric, to 8 mm long, greenish, with collapsed hairs on ± flat on upper side; blade ovate, (20–)30–90 × (10–)14–48 mm, tapered at base, subentire to low-dentate and wavy on margins, broadly acute to obtuse at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins raised on both surfaces, ± strigose with upward-pointing hairs, upper surface midrib channeled to midblade.

Inflorescence: cymes, 1–10-flowered, in terminal inflorescence panicle with to 5 nodes of opposite decussate cymes, at other nodes with a pair of axillary inflorescences typically > subtending leaf or with 1 axillary inflorescence paired with an emerging vegetative shoot and < subtending leaf, when paired at node unequal, to 110 mm long; peduncle ascending, stemlike, 4-sided with pulvinuslike swelling at base, to 65 mm long, secondary axes 4-sided; bracts 2 per node fused as ledges across node, ledges short-hairy, petiolate, petiole 2.5–7 mm; bractlets (bracts) subtending pedicel 2, narrowly triangular, 3.5–6 × 0.8–1.2 mm, leaflike and ± petiolate, pilose-ciliate on margins, glandular-hairy; pedicel cylindrical, at anthesis ca. 2 mm long increasing 2× in fruit, glandular-hairy. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 28–40 mm across, 47–60 mm long; **calyx** 5-lobed, 13–17 mm long, green, with dense, stalked glandular short-pilose hairs; tube funnel-shaped to bell-shaped, 1–2.2 × 2.2–2.5 mm; lobes subequal, acuminate-linear, 11–15 × 1–1.5 mm, green or purplish at tip, with midvein raised, narrowly colorless and short-ciliate on margins, outer (lower) surface with dense, glandular short-pilose hairs, often ciliate with longer hairs on margins, inner (upper) surface minutely strigose; **corolla** 5-lobed, to 52 mm long; tube somewhat 5-ribbed, 15–20 × 1.5–2 mm, slightly enlarged around ovary, white at very base, light violet with some green to whitish, lower portion glabrous above glandular short-pilose, inner surface with decurrent filaments from above ovary and short-pilose; throat funnel-shaped, 15–22 mm long, pale to light violet and sometimes whitish, pleated with 5 raised on outer surface, white veins to lobes along folds and each with 2 principal veins on other (lower) surface having mostly stalked glandular hairs but lower throat with scattered short-pilose hairs; lobes subequal, widely spreading, ± obovate, 8–12 × 7.5–10.5 mm, violet but paler on lower surface, overlapping at bases, jagged on margin, rounded to obtuse at tip, upper surface glabrous, lower surface with glandular short-pilose hairs; **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, 6–8 and 7.5–10.5 mm long, white, glabrous; anthers included, dorsifixed, dithecal, 3.6–4.5 mm long, cream-colored with pink stripes to rose-pink, longitudinally and inwardly dehiscent; pollen white;

nectary disc below stalk of pistil short barrel-shaped, $0.7\text{--}0.8 \times 1.2$ mm, white with green, nectar-producing; **pistil** 1, 30–42 mm long, having stalk below pistil 1 mm long; ovary superior, \pm cylindric to lanceoloid, $3\text{--}3.7 \times 1$ mm, green to bluish green, densely puberulent to short-pilose, 2-chambered, each with 4 ovules attached to center; style exerted, slender, greenish at base and mostly white but light violet at top, with short-pilose hairs scattered to midpoint, stigma tonguelike, $2 \times 0.4\text{--}0.5$ mm, white aging violet, truncate. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent tip to base with diverging valves, oblanceolate, $14\text{--}16 \times 2.5\text{--}3$ mm, brown, short-hairy, each valve with median shallow groove. **Seed:** waferlike with uneven, papery wing; seed body roughly circular to broadly obovate in outline, 2.6–3.2 mm, brown, roughly convex but flattish whenever adjacent developing seeds touch, with some short hairs; wing translucent, to 0.25 mm wide.

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