Vascular Plants of Williamson County

*Sesbania drummondii* – RATTLEBUSH, POISON-BEAN, RATTLEBOX, DRUMMOND’S SESBANIA (Fabaceae)

*Sesbania drummondii* (Rydb.) Cory, RATTLEBUSH, POISON-BEAN, RATTLEBOX, DRUMMOND’S SESBANIA. Shrub, unarmed, with ascending branches, 120–350 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves to 230 mm long, leaflets having sleep movements, foliage bluish green and somewhat glaucous, initially soft-hairy aging glabrescent, not gland-dotted, somewhat odorous when crushed. **Stems:** ridged aging cylindric, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, tough. **Leaves:** helically alternate, even-1-pinnately compound with (5–)11–19 pairs of leaflets, petiolate with pulvinus, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to leaf base below pulvinus, ascending, sickle-shaped to asymmetrically ovate, 4–7 × 2–2.4 mm, green or with reddish, sometimes with basal lobe on stem side, finely short-ciliate on margin aging glabrescent, acuminate at tip, on inner side with winglike midvein, surfaces with several short soft hairs to glabrate, early-deciduous; petiole having pulvinus at base, pulvinus 6–9 × 3–3.5 mm, with some short, fine hairs, cylindric above pulvinus (faintly channeled), to 15 mm long; rachis narrowly channeled and 2-ridged, tough, pairs of leaflets arising along ridges on upper side of rachis, pairs 8–9 mm apart, with short extension beyond the uppermost pair of leaflets, initially ± sericeous; stipels 2 at end of ridge beside channel, minute-triangular, 0.2–0.3 mm long, withering above midpoint; petiolule = pulvinus, 1.2–2 × 0.6–0.8 mm, short-hairy; blades of leaflets, elliptic to lanceolate-oblong, < 20–44 × < 6.5–13 mm, bluish green, tapered and oblique at base, entire, acute to obtuse (often curved) at tip, pinnately veined with midrib slight raised on lower surface, upper surface glarous, lower surface ± short-sericeous aging sparsely short-hairy with fine appressed hairs. **Inflorescence:** raceme, axillary, mostly 12+-flowered, bracteate, axes with scattered short hairs; rachis somewhat lobed with broad ridges descending from each bractlet, furrowed above each pedicel, later with projecting, persistent bractlet bases; bractlet subtending pedicel, awl-shaped, partially sheathing; pedicels ca. 7 mm long increasing 2× in fruit, with 2 subopposite bracteoles at top subtending flower, bracteoles awl-shaped, ca. 2 mm long, green, short-ciliate on margins, absconding before anthesis leaving persistent bases in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, modified pealike (papilionaceous), 11–15 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, yellow-green, ca. 5 mm long; tube asymmetrically bell-shaped, 6–6.5 mm (widest); lobes ± deltate but low, somewhat soft-hairy along colorless margin; **petals** 5, clawed; banner claw suberect and somewhat inflated, about 3 mm long, white to yellowish; limb ⊥ claw, semicircular when flattened and deeply notched at top and truncate at base, 11–12 × 15–17 mm, spreading but often folded along midline, light yellow or tinged greenish sometimes with clusters of minute orange dots on lower surface and veins somewhat visible but not dark-pigmented, wings 2, claws ± 2.5 mm long and twisted, white to yellowish, limbs obovate, ca. 12 × 5 mm, yellow with veins same color; keel of 2 petals fused ca. 3 mm on outer edge approaching tip, claws ca. 3.5 mm long, limbs fused from tip nearly to claws on lower edges, broadly crescent-shaped, ca. 12 × 6 mm, light yellow with arching veins; **nectary** surrounding stalk and base of ovary, vane-shaped, producing some nectar; **stamens** 10, diadelphous (9 fused and 1 free), included (not visible); filaments strongly curved, sheet several mm long and free portions unequal alternating short and long, 3–4.3 mm long, pale
greenish yellow to light yellow; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ovate in outline with broad connective, 1.1–1.4 mm long, dul light yellow to light orange-yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light orange to yellowish; pistil 1, stalked (stipe), stipe ca. 4 mm long increasing in fruit, light green, glabrous; ovary superior, cylindric, yellow-green, glabrous, 1-chambered with to 7 ovules attached to upper side; style curving from end of ovary and bent 90°, 3.5–4 mm long, light yellowish green to pale yellow-green; stigma exerted ca. 1 mm above anthers, terminal, capitate, ca. 0.3 mm across. Fruit: pod (legume), dry, indehiscent with 4 papery wings, typically 2–7-seeded, pendent on pedicel and long stipe; pod 42–80 × 10 mm, dark brown, wings wavy, with bulging seeds; on stalk often 15+ mm long, often persistent. Seed: ± D-shaped compressed somewhat side-to-side, 6.5–10 × 5–6 × 4–4.5 mm, dull light to dark brown, smooth, with large, craterlike hilum on straight side.
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