

## Vascular Plants of Williamson County

*Sida lindheimeri* – LINDHEIMER SIDA, SHOWY FANPETALS [Malvaceae]

*Sida lindheimeri* Engelm. & A. Gray, LINDHEIMER SIDA, SHOWY FANPETALS. Perennial herb, taprooted, not rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, with several spreading to ascending principal branches forming canopy, in range to 35 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, foliage bi-colored with upper surfaces green and lower surfaces grayish, exposed photosynthetic surfaces covered with minute stellate hairs. **Stems:** cylindric initially with projecting leaf bases, to 2.5 mm diameter, tough, densely minutely stellate-hairy, lower stem aging woody with light brown periderm (lacking stellate hairs). **Leaves:** helically alternate, short-serrate, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to node at base of petiole, linear, 2–3+ mm long, mostly reddish, stellate-hairy, early-deciduous; petiole somewhat flattish on upper side, in range mostly < 3 mm long, light green or tinged reddish; blade symmetric, oblong to lanceolate (linear-lanceolate), in range mostly < 30 mm long, rounded to subtruncate at base, with low teeth base-to-tip or only above midblade on margins, acute to obtuse at tip, 3-veined at base (midrib conspicuous) with principal veins mostly sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, upper surface dull green, with evenly distributed, minute stellate hairs, lower surface densely stellate-hairy and appearing grayish. **Inflorescence:** solitary, axillary, on ascending pedicel axillary to foliage leaf (bractlet), stellate-hairy; pedicel ascending, in range mostly < 20 mm long, at anthesis with subtle, fusiform swelling near base or somewhere along axis, in fruit pedicel elongating and appearing jointed (geniculate) at swelling, densely stellate-hairy, inconspicuously 5-ridged approaching flower; lacking bracteoles (epicalyx) at top of pedicel. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 20–27 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, in bud conspicuously 5-pleated and ca. 7 mm long, light yellowish green, outer surface densely puberulent stellate-hairy, inner surface glabrous except with stellate hairs at lobe tips; tube cup-shaped, 10-veined; lobes from just above midpoint,  $\pm$  deltate, ca. 3 mm long, margins often purple, acute (obtuse) at tips; **petals** 5, fan-shaped conspicuously asymmetric, 12–15  $\times$  8–11 mm, orangish yellow aging more salmon, having unequal, rounded upper corners exaggerated on the same corner on each petal, with ca. 7 veins radiating from the claw, claw not ciliate, **nectaries** 5, each above the claw, biconvex and thickened, glandular short-ciliate on margins, midvein raised on lower surface, lower (outer) surface with sparse glandular hairs; **stamens** 20+, at least 15 fertile and others diminutive to abortive; filaments fused as spheroid envelope expanded by and tightly covering ovary, colorless, having scattered stalked glandular hairs, free filaments portions ascending to spreading and arising at the level of the top of the ovary, < 3 mm long, orangish yellow, sometimes having several stalked glandular hairs; anthers monotheical, dorsifixed, 0.35–0.4 mm long, when dissected colorless but appearing orangish yellow (= included pollen grains), longitudinally dehiscent; pollen orangish yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, oblate-spheroid, at anthesis 1–1.5 mm long, light green, glabrous or minutely puberulent, ca. 10-chambered, each chamber with an ovule in the lower portion and an inconspicuous, sterile upper portion; styles ca. 10 (= chambers), fused as a stout pale green cylinder ca. 0.5 mm long, free portions tentaclelike and generally not straight, < 2 mm long, pale green to midpoint and scarlet above; stigmas terminal, above fertile anthers, capitate and wider than style, light rose. **Fruit:** schizocarp, breaking into  $\pm$  10 dry, 1-seeded, segments (mericarps), top not concealed by dry calyx, when intact subspheroid, ca. 3  $\times$  4 mm + 10 pairs of spreading,

center-pointing, spinelike projections (2 per chamber), glabrous or inconspicuously puberulent; mericarps with loose seed, dehiscent on truncate face between the pair of projections, D-shaped (sideview) and wedge-shaped radiating from center, ca.  $3 \times 2 \times 1.3$  mm, purplish light brown and somewhat papery, back collapsed (indented), lateral faces (septa) flattish with raised vein network and textured with minute bumps, projections to 0.6 mm long and face depressed before projections; calyx bowl-shaped, in range ca. 7.5 mm long with 5 deltate, suberect lobes just above midpoint, persistent after mericarps disperse. **Seed:** 4-sided including truncate face with funiculus in mericarp, ca.  $1.4 \times 1.4$  mm, dull brown, 3 lateral faces depressed, funiculus = short, puberulent projection.

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