

## Vascular Plants of Williamson County

*Sida abutifolia* – SPREADING SIDA, CREEPING YELLOW SIDA [Malvaceae]

*Sida abutifolia* Kunth, SPREADING SIDA, CREEPING YELLOW SIDA. Perennial herb, from woody root, not rosetted, several-stemmed at base, casually branched on trailing to procumbent axes or prostrate on bare ground, < 25 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, leaves widely spaced and oriented away from lower side, short stellate-hairs with arms mostly < 0.2 mm long and some green structures with unbranched hairs. **Stems:** cylindric, < 1 mm diameter, tough, yellow-green, lax, internode > petiole or petiole + blade, stellate hairs mostly with 1–3 arms. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, attached at base of petiole and with node, spreading, linear, 1.7–2.2 mm long, green, stellate-hairy and with slightly longer unbranched hirsute hairs; petiole slender, cylindric, 3.5–10 mm long, ascending to spreading, stellate-hairy and hairs with mostly 6+ arms; blade ovate, (3–)5.5–24 × (3–)4.5–8 mm, dull, truncate to subcordate or cordate at base, crenate to dentate on margins with < 20 teeth per blade, having acute tooth at tip, with 3 principal veins at base and midrib sunken on upper surface and principal veins raised on lower surface, stellate hairs mostly 6–10-armed, with unbranched hirsute hairs on margins. **Inflorescence:** flowers solitary, axillary, not flowering at all nodes of canopy, without bracts, green surfaces having mostly short stellate hairs; bractlet = cauline leaf including stipules; pedicel slender, initially straight and ascending, cylindric, 13–17 × 0.35 mm not increasing in fruit but in fruit to 1 mm diameter, green often aging purplish, with pulvinus 0.45 mm diameter at top immediately beneath horizontal flower, in fruit pedicel widely spreading sharply bent at pulvinus making fruit oriented horizontal, densely stellate-hairy; lacking bracteoles at top of pedicel (no epicalyx). **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 12–14 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, green, outer (lower) surface densely covered with short stellate hairs; tube broadly funnel-shaped, ca. 3.5 mm long not increasing in fruit, length < width, 10-ribbed; lobes spreading, broad with acuminate tip, ca. 2.5 × 3 mm in fruit leaning inward concealing fruit and having wavy margins, inner surface with hairs having few arms or unbranched; **petals** 5, fused to base of staminal column, widely spreading, 2-lobed (cordate) fan-shaped, 8–9 × 4.5–5 mm, light orange-yellow (light yellow), with thick stalk at base and principal veins ascending from base raised on both surfaces, glabrous except for several stellate hairs on margin at base; **stamens** 15–20, monadelphous (fused into a column); column of fused filaments surrounding style and also fused to petals at base, 2.3–2.5 mm long, basal portion concealing ovary conic and ca. 1 mm long, erect cylindric column 0.4 mm diameter, orange-yellow, upper portion with scattered, radiating short hairs; free filaments arising from top of column individually and some unequally forked, spreading to ascending, slender, mostly 0.7–1.3 mm long, orange-yellow; anthers dorsifixed, monotheical, 0.3–0.4 mm long, orange-yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen orange-yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, hidden beneath staminal column, ovoid conspicuously 5-lobed, 0.8 × 0.9 mm, light green, at top with depressed center, with 5 pairs of short acute horns at top in rings around depressed center, glabrous to midpoint and with mostly short, unbranched hairs above midpoint, 5-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; style in depressed center of ovary, exerted, ca. 4 mm long, orange-yellow, 5-branched approaching top of staminal column, the branches curved and spreading; stigmas terminal, capitate, extending at least 0.5 mm beyond anthers, short-papillate. **Fruit:** schizocarp, of

5 dry, 1-seeded mericarps, before splitting conspicuously 5-lobed and muffin-shaped, ca.  $2.5 \times 3$  mm, with persistent base of style (beak) in depressed center and a ring of 10 acute, inward-facing horns; mericarp indehiscent, wedgelike and somewhat D-shaped but having a pair of short horns at top, ca.  $2.5 \times 1.5$  mm, tan and brown, back glabrous to midpoint and puberulent above midpoint including pair of horns with mostly unbranched hairs.

A. C. Gibson