

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Solanum triquetrum – TEXAS NIGHTSHADE, HIERBA MORA [Solanaceae]

Solanum triquetrum Cav., TEXAS NIGHTSHADE, HIERBA MORA. Perennial herb, rhizomatous with upright, belowground axes to 100 mm long, clump-forming, fibrous-rooted, not rosetted, ascending to erect, in range to 115 cm tall, to 300 cm across; shoots with only cauline leaves, axes and foliage essentially glabrous. **Stems:** initially \pm 3-angled, to 3 mm diameter, with 2 ridges descending from each leaf, green with minutely dotted (stomates), woody basal stems with tannish periderm having longitudinal splits. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole \pm hemicylindric, to 8 mm long, indistinct from blade; blade deltate to triangular or narrowly triangular, to 30×15 mm, truncate, cordate, or tapered at base, if present basal lobes rounded, entire, acute to rounded (notched) at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins somewhat raised on both surfaces, sparsely short-hairy and with minute glandular hairs. **Inflorescence:** cyme, forking with vegetative shoot, 4–6-flowered, often with 2 flowers at each fork, glabrous; peduncle at anthesis to 15 mm long; bractlet absent; pedicel with conspicuous, cup-shaped swelling at base and purplish to green, cylindric above swelling, at anthesis 7–8 mm long and becoming wider approaching flower, glabrous with scattered, minute glandular hairs, abscising above swelling. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 11–15 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, outer surface with scattered, minute glandular hairs; tube funnel-shaped, 2–2.5 mm long, green or aging with purple at sinuses and tips in fruit often purple, somewhat membranous at sinuses by stretching; lobes ascending, triangular or fingerlike above midpoint, 1.5–2 mm long increasing in fruit, green often with purple, acute to obtuse at tips, upper surface and margins minutely puberulent; **corolla** 5-lobed, white, in bud white and green including pale green veins; tube wide funnel-shaped, $7-8 \times 3-3.3$ mm, 3–3.5 mm wide at orifice, lower portion green, above pale green star pattern into lobes, pleated at sinuses; lobes spreading, acute-ovate, in range white, papillate-hairy mostly close to margins and tips; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla at base in ring ca. 0.7 mm long; filaments 1–1.5 mm long, white; anthers touching, basifixed, dithecal, 3–4 mm long, bright yellow but paler on inner sides, dehiscent by 2 terminal pores and orange around pores, sacs subequal or 1 shorter; pollen white; **nectary disc** absent; **pistil** 1, 7.5–8 mm long; ovary conic-ovoid, ca. 1.5×1 mm, light green, glabrous, 2-chambered, each chamber with many ovules attached to center; style straight, whitish to greenish, unbranched; stigma exserted 2–3 mm above anthers, oblique at tip, green, papillate. **Fruit:** berry, many-seeded, spheroid, 7–10.5 mm, black to dark red, glabrous; pulp thin. **Seed:** \pm kidney-shaped compressed side-to-side, $2.7-3.2 \times 2-2.2$ mm, yellowish.

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