

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Stillingia texana – TEXAS QUEEN'S DELIGHT, TEXAS STILLINGIA [Euphorbiaceae]

Stillingia texana I. M. Johnst., TEXAS QUEEN'S DELIGHT, TEXAS STILLINGIA. Perennial herb, not rosetted, several–many stemmed at base, principal branches spreading to ascending, 30–65 cm tall; monoecious; shoots with only cauline leaves, glabrous, odorous when crush; latex copious, white. **Stems:** cylindrical, to 7 mm diameter, tough, internodes < 1–10 mm long. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple and sessile, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to leaf base just below petiole; linear with enlarged persistent base < 1–1.5 mm long, upper portion withered; petiole to 1 mm long, light green; blade linear with the widest above midblade, < 35–60 × 3–4.5 mm, long-tapered at base, regularly low-serrate with glandular teeth, acute at tip, with midrib green or reddish. **Inflorescence:** spikelike, terminal, initially inflorescence above pseudowhorl of 2–5 ascending branches, of several helically alternate pistillate flowers at base and 15–50 helically alternate, lateral, condensed cymes with each cyme having 5–11 staminate flowers, protogynous, bracteate, glabrous; peduncle short; rachis irregularly ridged, (20–)35–90+ × 6.5–7 mm (initial inflorescence > secondary inflorescence), light green, 1 ridge descending from each bract, glabrous; bract subtending pistillate flower with (1–)2 lateral, saucerlike glands (stipules, resembling a cup fungus), bractlet appressed to ovary, cupped-broadly ovate, ca. 2.5 × 2.5 mm, yellow-green, margin minutely wavy and irregular low teeth above midpoint and acute with short point at tip, saucer stout-stalked, 2.5–3 mm across, green; bractlet subtending pistillate flower with (1–)2 lateral, saucerlike glands (stipules) of the bractlet, bractlet appressed to ovary, cupped-broadly ovate, ca. 2.5 × 2.5–3 mm, jagged on margins, saucer stout-stalked, 2.3–2.5 mm across, green; bractlet subtending pedicel of staminate flower lanceolate, minute–0.7 mm long; pedicel short on upper side of cluster. **Staminate flower:** somewhat bilateral, at anthesis 1–1.8 mm long with ascending stamens; **calyx (perianth)** 2-lobed, funnel-shaped, ca. 2 mm long, yellow-green, the lobes broad and shallow and somewhat jagged of margin; **stamens** 2, free, exserted; filaments ascending, 2.2–2.5 mm long, greenish; anthers basifixed, strongly dithecal, 0.5 × 1 mm, yellow-green to yellowish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale greenish yellow; **pistil** absent. **Pistillate flower:** radial, ca. 2.5 mm across; **sepals** 3, appressed to sides of ovary, obovate, 2 × 1.4 mm across, with short point at tip; **nectary disc** beneath ovary, 3-lobed, light green; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1, at anthesis ± 7.5 mm long; ovary superior, 3-lobed, 2.5 × 2.2 mm, green, 6-ribbed, glabrous, 3-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; style sharply 3-sided (triangular in x-section), ca. 4.5 mm long, style lower portion columnar, 3-branched, the branches spreading, ± 1.5 mm long. **Fruit:** capsule, appearing terminal in small cluster with radiating shoots beneath, loculicidal, 3-seeded, 3-lobed, subspheroid, ca. 6.5 × 7 mm, glabrous. **Seed:** with fleshy aril (caruncle), obovoid, ca. 4.5 × 4 mm, white, rounded large back and 2 inner faces flat or somewhat flattened along brown median line; caruncle covering narrower end, notched, 1.5 × 2 mm, fleshy, white.

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