

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Symphoricarpos orbiculatus – CORALBERRY, INDIAN CURRANT, BUCKBRUSH
[Caprifoliaceae]

Symphoricarpos orbiculatus Moench, CORALBERRY, INDIAN CURRANT, BUCKBRUSH. Shrub, evergreen, clonal forming monospecific patches via creeping stems rooting at nodes, in range to 100 cm tall; shoots often 2-dimensional (plagiotropic, especially in shady habitat) or not, uniformly short-hairy. **Stems:** ± cylindric, to 2 mm diameter, often reddish, short-hairy, older stem with strips of red-brown periderm. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole 1–3 mm long; blade roundish, 12–32 × 10–32 mm, roundish at base, entire and somewhat wavy on margins, rounded at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins somewhat sunken on the upper surface and raised on lower surface, uniformly short-hairy. **Inflorescence:** condensed spike, axillary and mostly paired at nodes, nodding with a strongly recurved peduncle, 10+-flowered, with opposite decussate pairs of flowers, bracteate, short-hairy; peduncle 2–2.5 mm long, expanded below flowers, with bud scales at base, bud scales toothed and short-ciliate; rachis, 4-sided, at anthesis internode < 0.8 mm long, short-hairy; bractlets 2 per node, narrowly fused across node, appearing deltate, 1 mm, fleshy green with thinner, reddish margins, sometimes ± keeled; bracteoles 2, free at base on upper side of flower, appressed, keeled, ovate, ± 1.2 mm long, green but often reddish above midpoint, sparsely puberulent and short-ciliate. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 3 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, 1 mm long; tube cylindric, 0.5 × 0.8 mm, green, somewhat beaded, glabrous; lobes subequal, deltate to ovate, 0.5 mm long, with broad sinuses, green with colorless, minutely ciliate margins; **corolla** 5-lobed, ± 4 mm long, pale green or blushed red, outer surface glabrous, inner surface white-villous from base of stamens to lobes; tube bell-shape; lobes overlapping, ascending, rounded, 1.2–1.4 × 1.2–1.5 mm (1 lobe wider); **stamens** 5, fused to corolla attached just below sinuses; filament 1.2–1.3 mm long, white, glabrous; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ± 0.9 mm long, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **nectary disc** a rim around base of style, producing nectar on top of ovary; **pistil** 1, 4 mm long; ovary inferior, subspheroid, ± 1.3 × 1 mm, green, glabrous, 4-chambered, 2 chambered with 1 large ovule each, 2 chambers with numerous small ovules; style straight, ca. 2 mm long, greenish and glabrous to midpoint, white and villous above midpoint; stigma capitate, unequally lobed, ca. 0.5 mm across, > style, green. **Fruit:** berry, spheric, 4–4.5 mm, reddish purple; seeds only in 2 opposite chambers. **Seed:** hemi-ellipsoid, ca. 3 × 2 × 1.2 mm, dull cream.
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