

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Tephrosia onobrychoides – MULTI-BLOOM TEPHROSIA [Fabaceae]

Tephrosia onobrychoides Nutt., MULTI-BLOOM TEPHROSIA. Perennial herb, several-stemmed at base, principal shoots ascending with diverging branch from each node, in range to 85 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, foliage velveteen, villous and short-villous, axes pilose and short-pilose. Stems: inconspicuously ridged soon aging cylindrical, to 5 mm diameter (midplant), with 3 ridges descending into internode from each leaf, tough, internodes to 120 mm long, short-pilose. **Leaves:** helically alternate, odd-1-pinnately compound with (6–)8–13 pairs of lateral leaflets, petiolate with pulvinus, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to stem extending from base of pulvinus projecting straight forward, narrowly triangular, to 8×1.2 mm, green speckled red, 3-veined at base, short-villous; petiole pulvinus conspicuously swollen, 2×2.5 mm, axis < 15 mm long, inconspicuously channeled and densely villous; rachis channeled, to 140 mm long, tough, with pairs of leaflets spaced to 18 mm apart, villous and short-villous; petiolules ± 1.5 mm long, densely short-villous; blades of leaflets folded upward from midrib before mature, \pm elliptic to narrowly obovate, $< 20\text{--}40 \times 6\text{--}13$ mm, the widest at base, tapered at base, entire, rounded to obtuse with short point at tip (point extending from midrib), symmetrically pinnately veined with evenly spaced lateral veins and principal veins raised on lower surface, conspicuously villous along veins, terminal leaflet smaller and wedge-shaped, truncate at tip with minute notch and a down-turned point. **Inflorescence:** racemelike with condensed cyme at each node, terminal, cymes 1–4-flowered, flowers descending, bracteate; peduncle low-ridged, 100+ mm long, with ridges descending from bracts, densely short-villous; rachis ridged, densely short-villous; bract subtending cyme lanceolate or narrowly triangular and stipulelike with projecting, pulvinuslike base, 3–5 mm long, villous and short-villous; bractlet subtending pedicel narrowly triangular-linear with pulvinuslike base, 2.5–4 mm long ($<$ bract), often with bractlets lateral to bract and appearing 3-divided, villous and short-villous; pedicel angled, 4–5.5 mm long, short-hirsute with some longer hairs. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, pealike (papilionaceous), 8–10 mm across, 15–17 mm long; **calyx** 5-lobed, ca. 6 mm long, green with scarlet dots and streaks; tube bell-shaped slightly compressed side-to-side, ca. 5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide at top; lobes unequal, the longest on lower side triangular, to 2 mm long, other lobes deltate, 1.3–1.8 mm, mostly glossy scarlet above midpoint; **petals** 5, clawed; banner folded over wings, claw 3 mm long, 1.2 mm at base to 2 mm wide at top, short-hairy on back, limb roundish, ca. 12×10 mm, pink aging crimson but with white triangle center at base and darker rose between white and crimson, nearly truncate at top; wings 2, claws 3.5×0.6 mm, white, limbs obovate with backward-pointing lobe at base, ca. 11×4 mm with basal lobe 3×1.4 mm, rose and pink, scarcely adherent to keel, glabrous; keel of 2 petals partially fused on lower edges from midpoint of limb to tip, claws 3.5 mm long, white, limbs hatchet-shaped, ca. 10×5.5 mm, whitish at lower edge mostly pale pink, with short backward-pointing lobe, glabrous; **stamens** 10, diadelphous (9 fused + 1 free); filament sheet ca. 8 mm long, white, free portions bent sharply upward, 2–5.5 mm long, free stamen filament with swelling at base; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.5–0.6 mm long, orangish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale orange; **pistil** 1, not stalked; ovary superior, linear flattened side-to-side, ca. 12×1 mm, densely short-hairy to upper side approaching style,

1-chambered with ca. 8 ovules attached to upper side; style bent sharply upward 90°, short-hairy on upper side, white, with small terminal stigma at level of anthers. **Fruit:** pod (legume) dehiscent, 2-valved, not stalked, to 12-seeded, straight narrowly oblong, 45–70 × 4.5–5.2 mm, slightly bulging at seeds, short-villous and having minute glandular hairs; in fruit pedicel ca. 8 mm long. **Seed:** kidney-shaped or with truncated ends, 3.7–7.6 × 2.5–3.3 mm, brown with darker dots, smooth, hard; hilum at midpoint on edge, 1 mm long.
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