

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Trifolium bejariense – BEJAR CLOVER [Fabaceae]

Trifolium bejariense Moric., BEJAR CLOVER. Annual, taprooted, not rosetted, several-nodulated. **Stems:** cylindric, < 2 mm diameter, green mottled with red-purple, short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs and having short-pilose hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, palmately 3-foliolate, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to stem at node and as wings attached to lower petiole, not fused across stem, asymmetric acuminate-ovate, 8–15 mm long, subentire and short-ciliate on membranous margins, veins not raised, surfaces glabrous; petiole channeled above stipules, to 45 mm long, pulvinus absent; petiolules pulvinuslike, ± 0.7 mm long, green, with several short hairs; blades of leaflets broadly obovate flat or initially folded upward from midrib, in range $< 8\text{--}12 \times < 6\text{--}10$ mm, tapered at base, low-dentate from below midblade, the teeth not sharp, rounded to shallowly notched at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface, lateral veins ending in teeth, upper surface glabrous, lower surface short-hairy. **Inflorescence:** headlike raceme, terminal, ca. 20 mm across, in range 8–14-flowered having a basal whorl of 7 flowers and for younger flowers not appearing whorled, presented on a pedicel hooked 90° and the basal whorl of flowers reflexed, bracteate, short-hairy, not glandular-hairy; **involucre** of fused bractlets forming a disc subtending the lowest “whorl” of flowers, disc vertical and 2 mm across, 0.4–0.5 mm wide, margin dentate and short-ciliate; bractlets subtending pedicel of other flowers half-collarlike (crownlike), to 0.5 mm long; pedicel cylindric, to 4.8 mm long, blushed reddish, short-hairy. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, pealike (papilionaceous), to 6 mm across (banner), **nectary** producing thin nectar at base of calyx; **calyx** 5-lobed, 2-lipped with sinus wide V-shaped 1.5 mm deep, in range ca. 5.5 mm long; tube ca. 1.2×2.1 mm, light green, 10-veined, glabrous; lobes unequal, acute oblong and 2×0.9 mm to acute oblong-ovate (obtuse) and $\pm 4 \times 1.5$ mm, the shortest lobe appressed to keel, short-ciliate on margins, outer (lower) surface essentially glabrous (not short-strigose); **petals** 5, to 6 mm long, at anthesis banner \pm wings $>$ keel; banner not clawed, ca. 6×6 mm, to 17-veined and colorless at base to 1.5 mm, above translucent rose with darker veins, drying papery and brownish, obtuse and minutely toothed approaching tip; wings 2, to 5.8 mm long, clawed, claws slender and flat, 2 mm long, white, limbs asymmetric acuminate-flamelike with serrate margins, ca. $3.5\text{--}4 \times 2$ mm, pinnately veined, white having teeth with rose pigment, semicircular basal lobe horizontal and whitish; keel of 2 partially fused petals, ca. 5 mm long, clawed, claws 2 mm long, white, limbs elliptic, 3×1 mm, fused from tip down lower edge ca. 1.7 mm (ventral), pale pink-purple, clinging to wings; **stamens** 10, diadelphous (9 filaments fused and 1 free), to 3 mm long; filament sheet broadly ovate (flattened), ca. $2.5 \times 1.2\text{--}1.3$ mm, whitish, free portions of filaments threadlike, 0.8–1 mm long; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 0.15 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1, ca. 3.2 mm long, not stalked at base; ovary superior, fusiform compressed side-to-side, ca. 2×0.5 mm, green, with a line of white, straight short hairs on curved upper edge next to style, 1-chambered with 6 ovules attached to upper side; style curved, ca. 1.2 mm long, translucent, with minute, terminal stigma. **Fruit:** pod (legume), subsessile, dehiscent along upper (dorsal) edge, elliptic in outline, in range mostly 2–6-seeded, oblong, to $4.5 \times 2\text{--}2.5$ mm, lateral wall thin and bulging with seeds, style often persistent and puberulent on exposed edge (below style);

calyx papery when dry. **Seed:** heart-shaped in outline, 1.6–1.9 × 1.5–1.8 × 1 mm, dull brown.

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