

## Vascular Plants of Williamson County

*Warnockia scutellarioides* – PRAIRIE BRAZORIA, RATTLESNAKE FLOWER [Lamiaceae]

*Warnockia scutellarioides* (Engelm. & A. Gray) M. W. Turner, PRAIRIE BRAZORIA, RATTLESNAKE FLOWER. Annual, taprooted, not rosetted, 1(–3)-stemmed at base, with opposite decussate pairs of ascending to spreading lateral branches from successive nodes along principal axis, erect, with inflorescences in range 7–35 cm tall; shoots with only paired cauline leaves, glabrous and not aromatic. **Stems:** ± 4-sided and 4-ridged, to 3 mm diameter (at ± persistent cotyledon), 2 sides low-convex to flattish (descending from leaf midrib) and 2 sides 2-ridged (descending from paired blade edges), green but often dark red-purple at base of plant, ridges often pinkish and with inconspicuous stalked glandular hairs. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade oblong, 11–50+ × 4–11+ mm, lobed and nearly clasping to long-tapered at base, entire to subentire and wavy or with small or inconspicuous teeth approaching tip, pinnately veined with principal veins sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal, erect, and relatively dense, having 10–20+ pairs of opposite decussate flowers, bracteate, short-hirsute and with stalked glandular hairs; peduncle 4-sided, to 25 mm long, lacking ledges, sides channeled; rachis 4-sided and channeled; bractlet subtending pedicel, at base of raceme lanceolate and to 11 × 4 mm, mostly appearing petiolate and obovate, 4 × 1.5–2 mm, ± reflexed from petiolelike, entire or with several teeth on margins approaching tip (large bractlets), with point at tip, short-hirsute and with stalked glandular hairs; pedicel ascending, compressed top-to-bottom, 1–2 mm long increasing in fruit, short-hirsute and with stalked glandular hairs. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, 8–9 mm across; **calyx** 2-lipped, 5-lobed, ca. 7 mm long, green with translucent dashes and dots (= crystal inclusions), short-hirsute on outer surface, glabrous on inner surface; tube funnel-shaped, to 3.5 mm long, 10-veined raised at least above midpoint to lobes and sinuses; upper lip 3-lobed, lobes from base of lip, ovate, lateral lobes 2.5 × 2 mm with short point at tip, central lobe 2 × 2.5 mm without a short point at tip, having scattered glandular hairs on outer surface; **corolla** 2-lipped, 4-lobed, 12–14 mm long; tube somewhat cylindrical, ca. 4 × 1.5 mm, white but above midpoint blushed pale pink-purple, enlarged around ovary, with short radiating hairs above midpoint pale pink-purple; throat conspicuously expanded and bell-shaped, ± 3.5 × 3.5 mm, light pink-purple with colored short hairs on outer surface, inner lateral and top surfaces with light pink-purple pattern but floor mostly white, outer surface papillate and with some glandular hairs; upper limb not lobed, rounded with margins somewhat curved downward, 4.5–5 mm, pink-purple; lower lip 3-lobed, angled downward, 5–6 mm long, lateral lobes obovate, ca. 4 × 3 mm, solid pink-purple, subentire on margins, central lobe with 2 subtle sublobes and a tooth in center, 1 mm > lateral lobes, pink-purple at margins but mostly white with 2 dotted lines outside floor of throat, outer surface of upper lip with some nonglandular and glandular hairs; **stamens** 4 in 2 pairs, positioned within upper corolla lip, long stamens arising laterally at top of corolla tube, shorter stamens arising in lower throat on upper side; filaments cylindrical, ca. 6 mm long (long stamens) and 4 mm long (shorter stamens), white but blotched pale pink-purple, short-hairy in middle portion; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.7 × 0.9 mm, red-purple with purplish pink connective, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellowish; **nectary disc** crownlike arising beneath ovary, on upper side to below midpoint on ovary, broad, and greenish, on lower

side nearly to top of ovary, broadly triangular, and whitish, nectar-producing; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, strongly 4 lobed from base, lobes obovoid rounded at top, 0.7–0.8 mm long, yellow-green, 2-chambered, each lobe with 1 ovule; style attached to ovary base at center of ovary lobes (gynobasic), positioned within upper corolla lip and not exerted beyond corolla,  $\pm$  9.5 mm long, white, glabrous, 2-branched, the branches stigmatic, at level of upper anthers, unequal, slightly recurved, 0.9–1.2 mm long with the shorter branch on top, light pink-purple aging darker and coiled. **Fruits:** nutlets (1–)4, 3-sided and wider above midpoint, 1.3–1.5  $\times$  1.3–1.4 mm, brown, minutely textured with domed cells; calyx lower lip pressed upward against upper lip concealing nutlets.

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