

## Vascular Plants of Williamson County

*Dysphania ambrosioides* – MEXICAN TEA [Chenopodiaceae]

*Dysphania ambrosioides* (L.) Mosyakin & Clemants, MEXICAN TEA. Annual, taprooted, several-stemmed at base, branched throughout, spreading or ascending (erect), in range to 130 cm tall; shoots with sparse,  $\pm$  appressed wavy hairs and sessile glandular hairs having colorless heads, strongly aromatic but not sticky, not mealy (not farinose). **Stems:** conspicuously ridged, to 15 mm diameter, with ridges descending from central and marginal veins of each leaf, tough. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate (lower leaves) and sessile (upper cauline leaves), without stipules; petiole of lower leaves 0–18 mm long, typically winged and indistinguishable from blade; blade ovate or lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate, 20–120  $\times$  4–40(–55) mm, flat, broadly tapered to tapered at base, coarsely serrate or dentate to irregularly cut or pinnately lobed on margins (subentire), acute to acuminate at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface, upper surface sparsely appressed-hairy to glabrescent, lower surface densely glandular-hairy, with  $\pm$  appressed and spreading hairs along principal veins, midrib translucent.

**Inflorescence:** spikelike branches with numerous, dense flower clusters (glomerules), in terminal and axillary leafy panicles of spikes, spikes 5–25 mm long of 10–15 glomerules, glomerule of 3–many sessile flowers, 2–3 mm across, bracteate, pubescent and glandular-hairy like shoot; main axis ridged like stem, pubescent; bract subtending lateral branch leaflike; bractlet subtending glomerule  $\pm$  narrowly oblanceolate to linear, typically 3–10 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 1.5 mm across when discharging pollen, protogynous; **calyx (perianth)** 4–6-lobed, fused at base; lobes ovate and cupped around anthers, 0.5–0.7 mm long, green with scattered glandular hairs, clinging to developing fruit; **corolla** absent; **stamens** 5, fused into ring beneath ovary; filaments linear or tapered, < 0.7 mm long, greenish, flat; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal,  $\pm$  0.5 mm long, dull yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, inversely conic, with coarse papillae on margin of flattish top; styles 3, exserted, spreading, 0.5–0.7 mm long, whitish. **Fruit:** achene, horizontal (vertical), wall not adherent to seed, compressed-obovoid. **Seed:**  $\pm$  thickly lenticular, 0.5–0.7(–1) mm diameter, glossy reddish brown, smooth or minutely cobblestonelike (rugulose).

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