

*Symphoricarpos mollis* Nutt., CREEPING SNOWBERRY, TRIP VINE. Trailing shrub, deciduous, clonal forming monospecific patches via creeping stems rooting at nodes, in range 40–135 cm tall; shoots 2-dimensional (plagiotropic) or not, pilose to villous. **Stems:** cylindrical to weakly angled, when young typically red, low-ledged where petioles fused across nodes; internodes often 50–65 mm long on rapidly growing shoots. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, short-petiolate, without stipules; petiole  $\pm$  channeled, 2–5 mm long, green or reddish or with red on margins, short-villous; blade broadly elliptic or round to broadly ovate, 10–35  $\times$  6–30 mm, thin, round at base, entire (serrate), obtuse to rounded at tip, pinnately veined, dull, of different color shades, pilose. **Inflorescence:** raceme, 2–6-flowered with opposite decussate pairs of flowers (terminal) and or flowers solitary where axillary (paired at node) of the terminal node and some subterminal nodes, bracteate; peduncle of raceme 1–4 mm long; bractlets 2 per node, free or fused across node, lanceolate-ovate, ca. 2 mm long, green, hairy; pedicel at anthesis 0.5–1.5 mm long; bracteoles 2, fused at base of flower, appressed, acuminate-triangular,  $\pm$  1 mm long, hairy, often purplish, with hairy, colorless margins, persistent. **Flower:** bisexual, radial,  $\pm$  4 mm across, lightly scented; **calyx** 5-lobed, cuplike, 1.5 mm long, lobed above midpoint; lobes equal or not, acute to broadly triangular, green to red-purple, colorless on margins; **corolla** 5-lobed,  $\pm$  5.5 mm long, lobed at midpoint, white at base and finely mottled pink to purplish red above, internally long white-villous from level of filament attachment to midpoints of lobes; tube bell-shaped, externally with some white hairs, internally conspicuously white-papillate on lower side; lobes overlapping, erect-ascending, rounded and cupped; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla tube from base to just below each sinus,  $\leq$  corolla; filaments free portion ca. 2 mm long, white, glabrous; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 2 mm long, cream, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **nectary disc** 5–many-lobed, around base of style, producing copious nectar; **pistil** 1, ca. 5 mm long; ovary inferior, subspheroid,  $\pm$  1.5 mm, green to red-purple, sparsely hairy at tip or glabrous, 4-chambered, 2 chambers with 1 large ovule each, 2 chambers with numerous small ovules; style straight, 2–3 mm long, white, glabrous; stigma capitate 4-lobed, yellow. **Fruit:** berry, 2-seeded, spheric,  $\pm$  8 mm, juicy, white; pulp colorless; seeds only in 2 opposite chambers. **Seed:** hemi-ellipsoid or compressed-ellipsoid, 3  $\times$  2–2.5 mm, dull cream. Late March–mid-May.

Native. A clonal shrub found occasionally inside or bordering southern oak woodland or riparian woodland in sun or shade in SMM and SH. *Symphoricarpus mollis* has bell-shaped flowers that produce white spheric fruits, hence the name snowberry.

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