

## Vascular Plants of Williamson County

*Allium canadense* var. *mobilensis* – MOBILE WILD ONION [Alliaceae/Liliaceae]

*Allium canadense* L. var. *mobilensis* (Regel) Ownbey, MOBILE WILD ONION. Perennial herb, geophytic, bulb-bearing, lacking rhizomes, fibrous-rooted,  $\pm$  rosetted, scapose, in range spreading to erect, 30–45 cm tall; shoots with only basal leaves from bulb, at least 2 least per shoot, glabrous; bulb ovoid, in range  $< 6$ –9 mm diameter, outer cover persisting as tough brown, fibrous reticulum; bulbils absent, bulblets not observed; adventitious roots on lower side of bulb from platelike stem. **Stems (scapes):** cylindric,  $< 250$ –550  $\times$  1.5–4.5 mm, green; solid. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple with sheath; sheath closed, barely extending above soil surface, persistent; blade spreading, linear and in range concave (troughlike), 200–350+ mm long, to 4 mm wide (6 mm wide when flattened), green, entire, long-tapered to tip. **Inflorescence:** umbel, terminal on scape, hemispheric, in range 30+-flowered (including tiny undeveloped flower buds), umbel (30–)45–55 mm across, with many flowers open at the same time, bracteate, glabrous; bracts subtending umbel and initially covering emerging buds 3, fused and whorled, 10–15 mm long, aging scarious and splitting downward into 3 fine-tipped, papery segments, white with several inconspicuous parallel veins; bractlet subtending pedicel mostly absent but minute at bases of some pedicels, slender and papery,  $< 5$  mm long; pedicel distinctly slender (filiform), 10–26  $\times$  0.4–0.6 mm, in each umbel mixed in lengths but always  $\gg$  flower, green to purplish and somewhat glaucous; receptacle lower side glaucous. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 7–12 mm across, star-shaped; in range fragrance not detected; **tepals** 6 in 2 whorls, fused in a ring and with stamen bases, monomorphic, widely spreading, of outer whorl acute-ovate, in range 4.5–5.4  $\times$  1.8–2 mm, of inner whorl obovate-elliptic, 4.3–4.5  $\times$  1.4–1.7 mm (narrower and shorter) and acute to obtuse at tip, lilac (not pink) with fine midstripe; **stamens** 6, fused to bases of tepals; filaments 3 mm long, white, of outer tepals long-tapered, of inner tepals wide-flaring at base; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.9–1.1 mm, anthers rose-purple to dark rose, longitudinally dehiscent, those opposite outer tepals dehiscent last; pollen pale yellow; **nectary** beneath ovary and concealed by stamen bases, producing a bead of nectar at inner base of each filament; **pistil** 1; ovary superior,  $\pm$  hemispheroid slightly 3-lobed, 1.2–1.3  $\times$  0.5 mm, white blushed lilac on lobes, lacking crests, with faint suture, 3-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; style erect, 1.5 mm long, white, acute at tip, with stigma below anthers. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 3 valves, 2–3-seeded, before dehiscent 3-lobed at top, 3.5–4 mm across, valves spreading. **Seed:** 3-sided, ca. 2  $\times$  1.8 mm, black, rounded on back, flat on lateral sides.

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