

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Anagallis arvensis – SCARLET PIMPERNEL, HIERBA DEL PÁJARO, POOR MAN'S WEATHERGLASS [Myrsinaceae]

Anagallis arvensis L., SCARLET PIMPERNEL, HIERBA DEL PÁJARO, POOR MAN'S WEATHERGLASS. Annual, taprooted, several-stemmed at base, prostrate to decumbent, often branching from only 1 axillary bud per node, typically < 20(–40) cm tall; shoots mostly glabrate. **Stems:** ± square (hexagonal) in ×-section with 4(6) winged edges, < 1.5 mm diameter, herbaceous, light green, at corners wings ⊥ narrow face and the 2 extensions descending from 1 leaf, young stems flatter and sparsely capitate-glandular; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** opposite decussate (whorled), simple, sessile, without stipules; blade ovate, 5–20 × 3–13 mm, dull, cordate to rounded at base, entire and papillate on margins, acute at tip, with principal veins radiating from base slightly sunken on upper surface and slightly raised on lower surface, lower surface with brownish dots, the dots composed of several slightly blistered cells. **Inflorescence:** flowers solitary, axillary, stalked, lacking bracts; peduncle (pedicel) ascending, 10–30 mm long, slender, glandular-hairy with colorless to transparent reddish heads. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 7–11 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed; lobes divided almost to base, initially spreading and later ascending, acuminate-lanceolate, 3.5–5 mm long, green with whitish membranous margins, keeled, the keel decurrent on receptacle with blisterlike cells; **corolla** 5-lobed, dishlike, fused only at the base; tube = a narrow ring ± 0.2 mm long, whitish to pale green; lobes obovate to roundish, 4–6 mm long, orange to salmon-colored with a reddish base, ciliate with scattered capitate hairs, the hairs black-purple to translucent purplish red or paler; **stamens** 5, opposite corolla lobes, fused at base into a short tube and to the corolla tube; filament tube ± 0.1 mm long, with whitish hairs having reddish heads, filament free portions 2–2.5 mm long, the lower 1/4–1/3 whitish with hairs as on tube, the upper portion purplish red bearing purplish red hairs; anthers versatile, dithecal, arched and narrowly heart-shaped, 0.6–1 mm long, bright yellow, longitudinally and inwardly dehiscent; pollen bright yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, spheric, 1 mm, ovary wall with 5 faint, reddish vertical lines, semitransparent with ovules visible through wall, 1-chambered with many ovules attached to center; style erect, 1.5–2 mm long, lavender to purplish red, slender; stigma narrowly capitate, greenish to yellowish green, papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, dehiscent around circumference (circumscissile), several–25(–45)-seeded, spheric, 2.5–4 mm, inconspicuously 5-valved, with seeds on a minutely bumpy central post (placenta). **Seed:** ± lens-shaped to 3-sided, 1.1–1.5 mm long, dark brown, papillate.
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