

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Aphanostephus ramosissimus var. *ramosissimus* – PLAINS LAZYDAISY [Asteraceae]

Aphanostephus ramosissimus var. *ramosissimus* DC., PLAINS LAZYDAISY. Annual, taprooted, not rosetted, several-stemmed at base, with spreading to ascending branches, in range to 18 cm tall; gynomonoeious; shoots with cauline leaves petiolate (lower primary shoots) and sessile, axes and foliage short-hirsute (most < 0.5 mm long) with spreading (deflexed backward) nonglandular hairs and with scattered, short glandular hairs having minute, colorless heads. **Stems:** ridged, to 2 mm diameter, with 1 or 3 ridges descending from each leaf, having a glossy, bulbous, pulvinuslike swelling at base of each branch and branchlet. **Leaves:** helically alternate, unlobed or on primary shoots weakly pinnately lobed to 3-lobed above midblade, petiolate (larger lobed leaves) and sessile, without stipules; petiole flattened top-to-bottom, flared at base, < 8 mm long, indistinct from blade; blade oblanceolate to oblong, to 40 mm long, lobes < 3 mm long, long-tapered at base (petiolate) or with a pair of basal leaves not or slightly clasping (sessile), entire or with tooth on margins, obtuse at tip, 1-veined with midrib slightly raised on upper surface and raised on lower surface, short-hirsute and with minute glandular hairs. **Inflorescence:** head, terminal, solitary or in 3-headed cymelike array, head radiate, 16–27 mm across, in range of ca. 25 pistillate ray flowers and ca. 200 bisexual disc flowers, disc 5–8 mm across, bracteate, green tissues short-hirsute and with short glandular hairs having minute, colorless heads; peduncle 6-ridged, < 20–45 mm long, green or appearing striped, compressed approaching head, hairs mostly deflexed, with 1–2 1-veined, oblong to lanceolate bracts along peduncle with 3 ridges descending from bract, 3–10 × 1 mm long, having raised midvein on lower surface, lacking bracts at top (calyculus); **involucre** saucerlike, 4–5 mm long, short-hirsute and glandular-hairy, of 25–40 phyllaries in 3–5 series, outer phyllaries ca. 8 in 2 series, lanceolate to elliptic, ca. 2.5 × 0.5 mm, green or some scarious tip or thin margins, middle and inner phyllaries, 3–4.2 × 0.8–1.6 mm, mostly scarious with decreasing green center, jagged on scarious margins, acute at tip, intermediate phyllaries green-raised on back; receptacle hemispheroid, 3.5–4 × 3.5–4 mm, sometimes hollow beneath receptacle, shallowly pitted with low rim around each disc flower ovary, glabrous. **Ray flower:** bilateral, < 2 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** short-crownlike, short-ciliate rim < 0.15 mm long; **corolla** unlobed or with 2–3 minute teeth at tip, never coiled; tube swollen at base and cylindric above, ca. 1 × 0.3 mm, greenish; limb oblanceolate, in range 5.5–7 × 1.3–2 mm, pure white; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, ± cylindric slightly curved, 1 × 0.4 mm, greenish, short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; **nectary disc** surrounding base of style < 0.1 mm long, colorless; style exerted, 2-branched, 1.6–1.9 mm long, colorless at base, the stigmatic branches 0.4–0.5 mm long, pale yellow. **Disc flower:** radial, 1 mm across (corolla), 3 mm long; **calyx (pappus)** short-crownlike, short-ciliate rim < 0.15 mm long; **corolla** 5-lobed; tube cylindric, < 1 × 0.3 mm, colorless, with several papillate hairs above midpoint; throat ± cylindric and low 10-ribbed, 0.7 × 0.4 mm, colorless (weak yellow) with 5 yellow veins to sinuses, lacking hairs; lobes at some point spreading, triangular, 0.4–0.5 mm long, golden yellow; **stamens** 5, attached at top of corolla tube; filaments slender, ca. 0.5 mm long, pale golden yellow; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, 1 mm long incl. triangular appendages, golden yellow, tips of appendages

exserted, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen golden yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, 4-sided wedge-shaped, 0.5 mm wide, white, short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; **nectary disc** minute, around base of style, colorless; style partially exserted from corolla throat and anthers, 2 mm long, 2-branched, colorless at base becoming yellowish at midpoint, the stigmatic branches divergent and ascending, 0.5 mm long, golden yellow. **Fruits:** cypselae (achenes), somewhat dimorphic, of ray flowers \pm cylindrical, ca. 0.8×0.4 mm, brownish, short-strigose, of disc flowers 4-sided wedge-shaped weakly ribbed, $1.1\text{--}1.2 \times 0.7$ mm, tannish, short-strigose; pappus = a minutely ciliate rim < 0.15 mm long, erect.

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