

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Camassia scilloides – WILD HYACINTH, ATLANTIC CAMAS [Hyacinthaceae/Liliaceae]

Camassia scilloides (Raf.) Cory, WILD HYACINTH, ATLANTIC CAMAS. Perennial herb, clonal, geophytic, bulb-bearing, fibrous-rooted, rosetted, scapose with 1 erect inflorescence per bulb, in range to 60 cm tall; shoot of large, individual bulb having 4–6 foliage (basal) leaves, leafy during flowering, completely glabrous; bulb ovoid, in range to 35 × 25 mm, outer cover (tunic) closed, papery, and brown, having parallel veins with \perp cross veins, fresh leaves of bulb white; adventitious roots of bulb from stem at base of bulb, bulblets not observed. **Stem (scape):** cylindric. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple and sheathing; sheath open (the earliest basal leaf closed to 50 mm above bulb), white, never extending above soil surface, persistent around bulb (resembling onion); blade flexible, free portion strap-shaped long-linear, in range to 520 mm long, lower portion white, upper green portion to 450 × 14 mm, basal leaves \geq peduncle, somewhat folded upward, entire, long-taped at tip, parallel-veined with the widest blades with 20+ fine veins, upper surface slightly glaucous. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal on scape, fully expanded to 150+ × 35–40 mm, mostly 30+-flowered, flowers helically alternate, with many flowers pollinating at once, bracteate, glabrous; peduncle (scape) cylindric, ca. 4 mm diameter, white (belowground) and green (aboveground), glabrous, having 1–3 appressed bracts (= bractlets lacking flowers) above midpoint to 45 mm long with triangular, winged to midpoint and linear above midpoint, the wing membranous, the linear portion < 1.5 mm wide, green, and inrolled upward; rachis green; bractlet subtending pedicel, appressed to pedicel and > midpoint of flower bud before anthesis, half-sheathing, 13–16 mm long, lower portion lanceolate and \pm colorless, upper portion linear with 3 green veins and narrow membranous margins, persistent in fruit still appressed to pedicel; pedicel spreading to ascending, cylindric, 10–12 × 1 mm, green, having 5 visible veins, arched-ascending in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 17–23 mm across; sweetly fragrant; **perianth (tepals)** 6 in 2 close whorls, widely spreading, cupped, in range 9–10 × 3–4.5 mm, outer tepals ovate and inner tepals elliptic-obovate and slightly wider, pale or light violet-blue to lavender with 3 parallel veins base-to-tip along center line becoming darker, 1.5 mm wide at base and lower portion clasping lower filament, with raised midrib on lower surface, somewhat minutely hooded at tip, persistent dry around fruit; **stamens** 6, fused at base to base of tepal; filaments ascending, tapered base-to-top somewhat compressed front-to-back, 5.5–8 mm long and 0.5–0.7 mm wide at base, light lavender but white at top; anthers versatile, dithecal, ca. 2.7 mm long, light yellow, with minute bump at op of each sac, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **nectary** not visible; **pistil** 1, with stigma at top of anthers in bud; ovary superior, ovoid low 6-lobed, ca. 3 × 2 mm, yellow-green, papillate in 3 principal furrows, 3-chambered, each chamber with ca. 10 ovules in 2 rows attached to center; style erect, cylindric, \pm 3 mm long, white at base and same color as filaments and tepals aging darker especially above midpoint; stigmas 3 at top of style, triangular, \pm 0.5 mm long, translucent. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 3 valves, mostly 10–15-seeded, broadly elliptic to broadly obovate in outline conspicuously 3-lobed, in range 10–13 × 7–10 mm, valves light brown, depressed at top, before dehiscing with 6 longitudinal furrows, glabrous; pedicel arched-ascending, 9–12 mm long. **Seed:** subspheroid somewhat 3-sided, mostly rounded with straight, longitudinal edge on inner

side, 3–3.7 × 2–2.6 mm, glossy black, with oblique micropyle and hilum at end of straight edge.

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