

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Cardamine parviflora – SMALLFLOWER BITTERCRESS, SAND BITTERCRESS [Brassicaceae]

Cardamine parviflora L. (incl. var. *arenicola*), SMALLFLOWER BITTERCRESS, SAND BITTERCRESS. Annual, taprooted, not rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, ascending to decumbent, in range to 10 cm tall; shoots with basal and cauline leaves, in range essentially glabrous, easily wilted. **Stems:** ±cylindric, to 1 mm diameter, often purple or tinged purplish to rose, smooth, without hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, odd-1-pinnately dissected of (1)3–5+ lobes, petiolate, without stipules; petiole ± hemicylindric. mostly 7–15+ mm long, with colorless, short raised edges; blade in range to 15 mm long, having deep, ± V-shaped sinuses, terminal lobe kidney-shaped to broadly ovate or semi-circular and often 3(5)-lobed, > lateral lobes often with a couple teeth, lateral lobes ovate to obovate often lacking teeth, to 4 mm long, entire or sparsely short-ciliate on margins (esp. on developing leaves), pinnately veined. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal, several (–12)-flowered, lacking bracts; peduncle stemlike; pedicel ascending, cylindric, at anthesis < 1 mm long increasing 2× in fruit, green. **Flower:** bisexual, ± radial, 2–3 mm across; **sepals** 4, suberect, slightly dimorphic, cupped-ovate, to 1.5 × 1 mm, outer pair < inner pair, green tinged reddish with narrow white margin above midpoint; **petals** 4, oblanceolate-spatulate, in range < 2–2.5 × 0.6–0.8 mm, white, midvein on lower side somewhat papillate and minutely bumpy of margin at tip; **nectaries** vestigial; **stamens** 6, free, somewhat dimorphic with outer 2 short than inner 4; filaments erect, in range 1.5–1.7 mm long, white; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 0.25–0.3 mm long, pale green, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen colorless; **pistil** 1, 1.7–1.8 mm long; ovary superior, ± cylindric slightly raised along septum, green, glabrous, 2-chambered, each chamber with to 20 ovules; style stout and cylindric, ca. 0.3 mm long increasing to 0.5 mm in fruit, green; stigma at same level as anthers, capitate, hemispheroid, 0.2–0.25 mm wide, white, papillate. **Fruit:** siliqua (silique), ascending, dehiscent, 2-valved, with septum flattened parallel to valves, 18–40-seeded with seeds in 1 row in each chamber, ca. 7 × 0.6 mm, valves elastically coiling upward from base. **Seed:** broadly elliptic in outline compressed side-to-side, ca. 0.9 mm long, pale brown.

A. C. Gibson