

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Cerastium glomeratum – STICKY MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED [Caryophyllaceae]

Cerastium glomeratum Thuill., STICKY MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED. Annual, taprooted, typically 1–several-stemmed at base, ascending to spreading, in range (5–)10–25 cm tall; shoots \pm pilose with erect multicellular hairs and some capitate glandular hairs (mostly in flowering canopy). **Stems:** cylindric, 1 mm diameter, green becoming flesh-colored or deep purplish red, internodes in range < 40 mm long, the shortest at plant base. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, sessile with pair connected by 2 low ledges across node, without stipules; blade oblanceolate or obovate to elliptic or ovate, in range $12\text{--}27 \times 3.5\text{--}12$ mm, dull, broadly to narrowly tapered at base, entire and ciliate on margins, acute to rounded or obtuse at tip, sometimes sheathing stem for 0.5–1 mm, appearing faintly parallel-veined at base with midrib raised on lower surface, pilose. **Inflorescence:** dichasial cyme, terminal or occasionally axillary, open or compact when young, $20\text{--}140 \times 30\text{--}110$ mm, equally 2-forked at each node, several–many-flowered, bracteate; bracts subtending each fork 2, leaflike but reduced upward (never scarious); bractlets subtending pedicels absent; pedicel typically 1–2.5 mm long, pilose and capitate-glandular. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 8–10 mm across; hypanthium inconspicuous; **sepals** 5, lanceolate, at anthesis $3.1\text{--}3.5 \times 0.8\text{--}1.1$ mm increasing to 4–5 mm long in fruit, green and colorless-scarious on exposed margins, acute at tip, with fine venation, glandular-hairy, pilose at tip with hairs $>$ (sometimes with a purple line or dot approaching tip); **petals** 5, 2-lobed oblanceolate, ± 4 mm long $>$ length of sepals, white; **stamens** 10, free; filaments erect, slender, 1.3–1.5 mm long, whitish translucent; anthers basifixed, minutely dithecal, < 0.2 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ovoid to oblong, ca. 1.2×0.8 mm, glabrous, light green, 1-chambered with ca. 25 ovules attached to central post; styles 5, ascending, 0.7 mm long, colorless, pubescent above midpoint (= stigmatic region). **Fruit:** capsule, dehiscent by 10 teethlike valves at tip, 15–25-seeded, cylindric and mostly straight, $6.5\text{--}7.5 \times 1.2\text{--}1.9$ mm, glabrous, whitish translucent but greenish at base; teeth acuminate, with outwardly folding margins. **Seed:** triangular-ovoid compressed side-to-side, ca. $0.5 \times 0.4 \times 0.2$ mm, light brown to pale reddish brown, glabrous, with short, hard projections or minutely warty.

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