

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Croptilon divaricatum – SLENDER SCRATCHDAISY [Asteraceae]

Croptilon divaricatum (Nutt.) Raf., SLENDER SCRATCHDAISY. Annual, taprooted, not rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, with spreading to ascending branch at each node, in range to 30–60 cm tall; gynomonoecious; shoots with only cauline leaves, mostly short-hirsute and in range not glandular. **Stems:** low-ridged, to 3 mm diameter, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, tough, short-hirsute. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple and sessile, without stipules; blade oblanceolate-linear to linear, in range 15–35 × 2.5–3.5 mm, often cupping axillary stem and half-sheathing at base, entire with toothlike enlarged hair base having some long hairs (especially near base) and with minute teeth on margins, acute with hard point at tip, 3-veined, at base with midrib pinnately veined having principal veins raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** head, canopy with many heads in ± open cymelike array, head radiate, 6–8 mm across, of 5–11 pistillate ray flowers and (9–)14–22 bisexual disc flowers, bracteate, short-hirsute on green tissues; bract subtending lateral branch sheathing and often clasping branchlet axis at base, linear, the lowest to 30+ × 3 mm decreasing upward, ciliate with enlarged bases of hairs base-to-tip mixed with minute teeth, principal veins raised on lower surface; branchlet axes widely spaced, with ridge descending from each bract. **Ray flower:** bilateral, 1.5–1.9 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of ca. 30 capillary bristles, unequal, 2–3 mm long, white (= corolla tube); **corolla** minutely 3-toothed, with limb aging downward coiled; tube cylindric, ca. 3 × 0.2 mm, white at base to yellowish approaching limb, with several short hairs on outer side approaching limb; limb elliptic, ca. 3.5 × 1.7 mm, light yellow, finely 4-veined; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, inversely conic, ca. 0.5 × 0.3 mm, colorless, densely covered with ascending straight short-hirsute hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style included, ca. 2.5 mm long, 2-branched, white below fork, the stigmatic branches ca. 0.5 mm long and yellowish. **Disc flower:** radial, bisexual, < 1 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of ca. 30 capillary bristles, subequal, 3.2–4.2 mm long, white; **corolla** 5-lobed, ± 3 mm long; tube cylindric, 1 × 0.3 mm, white, glabrous; throat narrowly funnel-shaped, 0.7 mm diameter at orifice, colorless with 5 orangish stripes; lobes triangular, ±0.3 mm long, light yellow; **stamens** 5, attached to top of corolla tube, included; filaments ca. 0.8 mm long orangish, glabrous; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, 1.5 mm long including appendages 0.3 mm long, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen orangish; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, inversely conic, ca. 0.5 × 0.3 mm, colorless, densely covered with ascending straight short-hirsute hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style included, ca. 4 mm long, 2-branched, orangish, the stigmatic branches ca. 0.8 mm long. **Fruit:** cypselae (achenes), narrowly top-shaped, 1.5–1.7 × 0.35 mm, brown, densely short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs; pappus bristles spreading, ca. 4 mm long, light brown.

A. C. Gibson