

## Vascular Plants of Williamson County

### *Dalea multiflora* – ROUND-HEADED PRAIRIE CLOVER [Fabaceae]

*Dalea multiflora* (Nutt.) Shinn., ROUND-HEADED PRAIRIE CLOVER. Perennial herb, many-stemmed at base, principal branch from base with ascending lateral branches from successive nodes and new shoots with unexpanded axillary shoots, in range to 35 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, gland-dotted, foliage somewhat fragrant when crushed, glabrous. **Stems:** somewhat angled, < 2 mm diameter, ridges striped crimson, warty with scattered raised glands. **Leaves:** helically alternate, in range odd-1-pinnately 3(5, rarely 7)-foliolate (3-foliolate pseudopalmate), petiolate with pulvinus, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to leaf base, linear to triangular, 0.3–0.9 mm long, red-purple with green base; petiole pulvinus cylindric, to 0.5 mm long, white and narrower than green petiole above, above pulvinus channeled, 2.5–6 mm long, conspicuously gland-dotted; rachis (if present) channeled and gland-dotted; leaflets if 3 at top of petiole, if 5 lower leaflets pairs and formed on upper side of rachis; petiolule pulvinus, 0.4–0.5 mm long, white; blades of leaflets narrowly oblong to linear widest just below tip, green to yellow-green, somewhat fleshy, folded upward from midrib, 1-veined, entire on margins, obtuse and ± prow-shaped at tip, lower surface conspicuously gland-dotted. **Inflorescence:** headlike spike, terminal, when flowers open 10–12 mm diameter (excluding exerted styles), ± hemispheroid, 20+-flowered in 8 files, bracteate, glabrous; peduncle erect, slender, cylindric, in range to 25 mm long, warty with raised glands, with 2 or more bracts along axis appearing like raised gland + a slender, stipulelike tip < 1 mm long; rachis with ledge below each flower; bractlet subtending flower acuminate-ovate, < 2 mm long (midpoint of calyx), at least the lower ones with 2 stipules, thickened at base, below midpoint sometimes fringed, stipules persistent and conspicuously fringed, but blade deciduous. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, ca. 5 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, ± 3.5 mm long; tube funnel-shaped, ca. 2 × 1.8 mm, cream-colored, 10-ribbed, upper side somewhat flattened, having 10 glands in a ring at top of tube (2 mm from base), glands aging reddish, glabrous; lobes unequal, 2 deltate and 3 triangular extending from 5 prominent ribs, green with membranous, short-ciliate margins, midvein thickened, with purple-red tips; **petals** 5, banner free, wings and keel petal fused to stamens alternating with free filaments, clawed, white; banner claw 2–2.5 mm long and somewhat flattened, limb inversely heart-shaped, 2–2.2 × 3 mm; 2 wings and 2 keel petal limbs truncate-ovate with claw ca. 1.5 mm long, limb 2.2–2.5 × 1.7–1.9 mm; **stamens** 5, monadelphous (5 fused as a sheet), sheet at top having 5 exerted filaments alternating with 4 exerted petals (2 wings + 2 keel petals, sometimes interpreted as staminodes); filament sheet open with ovary bulging out on upper side, 2 mm long, white, 9-ribbed; free filaments exerted, spreading, 3.5–5 mm long, white; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.7 mm long, beige with conspicuous reddish connective, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen beige; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, subspheroid, 1 × 0.8 mm, glossy green, with diagonal lines of elongate glands on each valves, having short hairs along suture, 1-chambered with 2 ovules attached to upper side; style 5.5–6 mm long, green at base and white above; stigma terminal, minute, 0.1–0.15 mm across, rose. **Fruit:** pod (legume), indehiscent, 1-seeded, asymmetrically obovoid and ± D-shaped in side view, ca. 3 × 1.5 × 1.5 mm, red, plump with fleshy wall, exerted < 1 mm from calyx. **Seed:** adherent to fruit wall, with white seed coat.

A. C. Gibson