

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Diaperia candida – SILVER RABBIT-TOBACCO [Asteraceae]

Diaperia candida (Torrey & A. Gray) Benth. & Hooker f. (= *Calymmandra candida* Torrey & A. Gray, SILVER RABBIT-TOBACCO. Annual, slender-taprooted, rosetted, 1(–several)-stemmed at base, often unbranched above base but some individuals with axillary branches, erect, in range to 15 cm tall; gynomonoeious; shoot with basal leaves and cauline leaves, densely white woolly, overall appearing silver gray and white, not glandular, not aromatic. **Stems:** cylindric, to 1 mm diameter, purplish somewhat visible through longitudinally oriented woolly hairs, internodes to 11 mm long, without ridges decurrent from blades, indumentum tangled. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole flattened upper-to-lower, to 7 mm long, indistinct from blade; blade oblanceolate to obovate, < 5–16 × 2–3 mm, silvery-gray, entire and sometimes wavy on margins, obtuse at tip, with midrib slightly raised on lower surface, densely covered with woolly hairs but upper surface less so. **Inflorescence:** heads, on axillary spur shoots, several in compact cluster subtended by bracts (capitular leaves), hidden by thick, tangled wool (lanuginose) until flowering heads become domed, central flowers not appearing as pits in the wool, in fruit corolla of numerous flowers elevated above wool, head disciform, spheroid 1.5–2.0 mm, with to 30 pistillate peripheral flowers and 3–5 bisexual central flowers, bracteate, densely white-woolly; capitular leaves = shorter cauline leaves, ovate to obovate mostly > heads curved inward (often 5+); **involucre** hidden in thick wool, phyllaries 4–6, subequal, membranous aging scarious, surved-ovate, ± 1.3 × 0.8 mm, colorless, entire, with some long, loosely intertwined and crooked woolly hairs arising on outer (lower) surface; receptacle subspheroid, having bractlets (paleae) subtending some peripheral flowers and inrolled (involute); paleae of peripheral flowers scarious, obtuse-triangular, 0.9–1.3 × 0.4 mm, brownish with darker midvein, having several woolly hairs on outer (lower) surface below midpoint and long-ciliate on margins above midpoint; paleae of central flowers 3/4-sheathing, fleshy at anthesis later drying and obtuse at top, 0.5 mm long, glabrous, persistent around fruit. **Pistillate flower:** radial, 0.2 mm across, with tips exerted from dense wool; **calyx (pappus)** absent; **corolla** minutely 4-toothed, tubular, 0.85–0.9 × 0.05 mm, tinged reddish and aging red, each tooth with stalked glands; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1, ± 1.2 mm long; ovary inferior, narrowly ellipsoid and straight, 0.25–0.3 × 0.2 mm, white, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style short-exserted, threadlike, 2-branched, the stigmatic branches ascending, ca. 0.1 mm long. **Central (bisexual) flower:** radial, 0.2 mm across, with upper portion of corolla exerted from dense wool; **calyx (pappus)** absent; **corolla** minutely 4-lobed, ca. 0.7 mm long; tube cylindric, 0.1 mm long; throat narrowly bell-shaped, ca. 0.5 × 0.15–0.2 mm, light strawberry-red; lobes acute, minute and unequal, reddish; **stamens** 4, fused to corolla tube; filaments short, white; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dorsifixed, ± 0.4 mm long, yellow, with short tails at base and sterile appendage at tip, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellowish; **pistil** 1, ± 1 mm long; ovary inferior, narrowly ellipsoid and straight, 0.25–0.3 × 0.2 mm, white, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style short-exserted, threadlike, 2-branched, the stigmatic branches ascending, ca. 0.1 mm long, purple-red. **Fruits:** cypsela without pappus, sausage-shaped to ellipsoid (peripheral flowers), 0.5–0.6 × 0.2–0.25 mm, ovoid (central flowers), 0.65–0.7 × 0.3 mm, initially white reddish at base aging brownish with dark base, with raised cells in vertical lines (papillate).

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