

## Vascular Plants of Williamson County

*Dichanthelium oligosanthes* var. *scribnerianum* – SCRIBNER'S PANICGRASS, SCRIBNER'S ROSETTEGRASS [Poaceae]

*Dichanthelium oligosanthes* (Schult.) Gould var. *scribnerianum* (Nash) Freckm. & Lelong, SCRIBNER'S PANICGRASS, SCRIBNER'S ROSETTEGRASS. Perennial herb, rhizomatous (caudexlike), fibrous-rooted, many-stemmed at base, cespitose, principal shoot ascending with ascending lateral branch at successive nodes, in range to 45 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, leaves dimorphic, basal leaves without blades or with diminutive blades, cauline leaves photosynthetic and mostly > sheath; adventitious roots not formed aboveground. **Stems (culms):** cylindric, to 2 mm diameter, tough, internodes to 40 mm long, with fine hairs to 2 mm long compressed by sheath; solid. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; prophyll present in axil of each branch appressed to stem, long-acuminate, to 25 mm long, narrowly closed only at base, central panel without veins flanked by to 5 parallel veins on each half; sheath open and overlapping at node, to 35 mm long, back initially not ridged when dried conspicuously ridged, outer margin long-ciliate and inner margin ciliate on approaching collar, of basal leaves short-pilose and of cauline leaves base of sheath puberulent, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule = a dense curtain of straight hairs ca. 1 mm long; collar ca. 1 mm long, whitish, ciliate on margins with enlarged bases; blade of basal leaves ovate, < 10 × 3 mm; blade of cauline leaves lanceolate, < 30–85 × 3.5–9 mm, flat, regularly minutely serrate-scabrous on margins (somewhat wavy), acute at tip, parallel-veined veins slightly raised on lower surface, glabrous but several hairs ± pustulate on margin close to collar. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal, open panicles, panicle ovoid, in range to 70 × 40 mm, spikelets < 10–28, nodes of lateral branchlets alternate, the branchlets spreading, to 30 mm long, having 1–3 branchlets and stalks of spikes per node, spikelet typically with 2 florets, lower floret sterile and reduced and upper floret bisexual, bracteate, lacking awns; peduncle of inflorescence to 240 mm long, of inflorescences on lateral branches much shorter and often with sheath of flag leaf concealing lower spikelets; axes lacking pulvinus, minutely scabrous, with tuft of puberulent hairs in fork, stalk of spikelet to 20 mm long, with spikelet terminal. **Spikelet:** obovoid, 3–3.2 × 1.8 mm, breaking below the glumes as 1 unit, never opening; **glumes** 2, unequal and dimorphic, lower glume deltate-ovate, ca. 0.85 mm long, encircling at base, widely acute at tip, upper glume obovate, ca. 2.5 mm long, green, encircling at base, acute at tip, 9-veined and ridged, not scabrous, in range glabrous; **lemma** of lower floret similar to upper glume, ca. 2.4 mm long, 7-veined and ridged, with short point at tip (umbonate), in range glabrous, lemma of upper floret acute-ovate, 2 mm long, fleshy (plump) and translucent, inconspicuously 2-veined, with margins incurved around palea (involute), glabrous and smooth, becoming hard (indurate) in fruit; **palea** of lower floret absent, of upper floret broadly ovate (never flattened), ± 1.8 mm long, translucent, 2-veined, with wide, margins inrolled around flower, short-truncate at tip, minutely dotted on back, glabrous, indurate in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, cleistogamous; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, folded, ca. 0.25 mm long, whitish, lacking bulbous base; **stamens** 3, free, included; filaments 0.35 mm long, colorless; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.35 mm long, purplish red, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen colorless; **pistil** 1, 1 mm long, included and having stigmas mostly above level of anthers; ovary superior, obovoid, ca. 0.4 × 0.25

mm, opaque and whitish, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, not fused at base, colorless, stigmatic above midpoint having inconspicuously papillate (not plumose).

**Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), firmly enclosed in hard (indurate) lemma and palea and spikelet dispersed as a unit, upper floret glossy, obovoid compressed on palea side,  $2 \times 1.5$  mm, glossy tan or glossy and surfaces smooth; achene ellipsoid, ca.  $1.7 \times 1-1.1$  mm, dull, smooth.

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