

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Dichanthelium pedicellatum – CORM-BASED PANICGRASS [Poaceae]

Dichanthelium pedicellatum (Vasey) Gould, CORM-BASED PANICGRASS. Perennial herb, from shallow, cormlike structure, fibrous-rooted and 1-stemmed from each corm, not rosetted, appearing cespitose, forked at each node, ascending, in range 30–60 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, short-pubescent; “corm” to 5 × 3 mm, with covering leaf sheaths, beneath sheath whitish, short-hairy, and with several axillary buds, the axillary shoots short-hairy. **Stems:** cylindric, < 1 mm diameter, tough, internodes to 40 mm long, short-hairy at nodes with scattered short hairs; solid. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; prophyll present in axil of each branch appressed to stem, open, membranous, linear to acuminate-triangular, to 27 mm long, translucent with 2 green veins, 2-keeled and short-ciliate along keels, short-hairy at tip; sheath open and overlapping at node, 9–30+ mm long, back initially rounded drying strongly ridged, margin short-ciliate base-to-top, puberulent sometimes with longer hairs having enlarged bases (pustulate) to glabrate aging glabrescent, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule = a dense curtain of straight hairs in range 0.25–0.5 mm long; collar ca. 0.5 mm long; blade acuminate-linear to linear-narrowly elliptic, typically 35–90+ × 1.3–5.5+ mm, flat, regularly minutely toothed on margins but not wavy, of collar and lower blade each margins with 2–15 pustulate long hairs, parallel-veined veins slightly raised on both surfaces, upper surface with evenly spaced short hairs (short-villous), lower surface glabrous. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal, open panicle, panicle ovoid, in range to 80 mm long, spikelets several–25+, nodes of lateral branchlets alternate, the branchlets spreading, to 35 mm long, having 1–2 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 slender, cylindric, to 200 × 0.4–0.5 mm, of inflorescences on lateral branches much shorter and often with sheath of flag leaf concealing lower spikelets; node with axillary pulvinus above branchlets, short-hairy, branchlet axes with a few lines of minute scabrous teeth, stalk of spikelet mostly 1.5–3 mm long, scabrous, with spikelet terminal. **Spikelet:** obovoid, 3–3.5 × 1.3–1.8 mm, breaking below the glumes as 1 ellipsoid unit ±2.5 mm long; **glumes** 2, unequal and dimorphic, lower glume triangular, 1.5–2.1 mm long, green with colorless margins, 1-veined, nearly encircling at base, glabrous or with several hairs near base; upper glume obovate, 2.5–2.8 mm long, greenish, encircling at base, acute at tip, 9-veined and ridged, not scabrous, short-pilose. **Lower floret lemma** similar to upper glume, 2.4–2.8 mm long, 7-veined or 9-veined and ridged, with short point at tip (umbonate), short-pilose; **palea** membranous, ovate, ± 1 mm long with folded margins. **Upper floret lemma** elliptic, ca. 2.5 mm long, translucent, somewhat leathery, inconspicuously 2-veined, with margins incurved around palea (involute), glabrous and smooth, becoming hard (indurate) in fruit; **palea** broadly ovate (never flattened), ± 2.2 mm long, translucent, inrolled around flower, indurate in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, chasmogamous; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, fan-shaped folded, 0.45–0.5 × 0.8 mm, whitish, lacking bulbous base; **stamens** 3, free, included; filaments 0.5 mm long, colorless; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.3–0.35 mm long, rose, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen colorless; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, obovoid to spheroid, ca. 0.35 mm long, translucent, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, separate at base, ca. 2 mm long, translucent at base to above midpoint, stigmatic, exerted upper

portion bottlebrushlike, 0.4–0.8 mm long, purple-red. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), firmly enclosed in hard (indurate) lemma and palea and spikelet dispersed as a unit, upper floret glossy, elliptic in outline compressed on palea side, 2.4–2.6 mm long, glossy tan or glossy and surfaces smooth, puberulent at tip; achene ellipsoid, dull, smooth.

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