

## Vascular Plants of Williamson County

*Dichondra carolinensis* – GRASS PONYFOOT [Convolvulaceae]

*Dichondra carolinensis* Michx., GRASS PONYFOOT. Perennial herb, mat-forming, stolon-bearing and creeping, fibrous-rooted, not rosetted, to 5 cm tall; shoots with leaves arising from stolons and occasional aboveground section of stem, green organs with 2-armed “strigose” hairs; adventitious roots nodal along stolon, often only 1 root per node. **Stems:** stolons horizontal just below soil surface, cylindric, 0.7 mm diameter, white, internodes to 28 mm long, glabrous; aboveground internodes green or purplish red, with 2-armed hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, long-petiolate, without stipules; petiole erect to suberect,  $< 30\text{--}46 \times 0.65\text{--}0.75$  mm, white belowground, reddish at soil level, channeled and green aboveground with 2-armed strigose hairs; blade horizontal, kidney-shaped,  $10\text{--}23 \times 10\text{--}30$  mm, strongly cordate at base, entire, rounded or slightly notched at tip, palmately veined with 3, 5, or 7 principal veins raised on lower surface, bases rounded, to 6 mm long, upper surface typically with scattered, 1-armed pilose hairs, lower surface 2-armed strigose; blade when developing folded (conduplicate). **Inflorescence:** 1(–2)-flowered cyme (solitary flower), axillary, bracteate; peduncle subtended by bract or bract and bractlet, awl-shaped, 0.9–1.1 mm long, white (belowground) or greenish (aboveground), sparsely short-hairy, or bractlet to 1 mm from base; peduncle + pedicel erect to suberect and straight,  $5\text{--}15 \times 0.45\text{--}0.5$  mm,  $\ll$  petiole, white belowground and green aboveground, 2-armed strigose, not hooked in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 2 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, to 4.5 mm long, 2-armed strigose on outer (lower) surface, with 1-armed on inner (upper) surface, and densely long-ciliate on margins; tube short bell-shaped; lobes obovate to spatulate-obovate, at anthesis  $3.5 \times 1.8\text{--}2.2$  mm increasing to 3.8–4 mm long and ascending to spreading in fruit, mostly 5-veined at base; **corolla** 5-lobed, pale green; tube  $\pm 1 \times 0.6\text{--}0.7$  mm; lobes  $\pm$  upright, broadly elliptic to broadly obovate and cupped, ca.  $2 \times 1.3\text{--}1.5$  mm; **stamens** 5, attached to corolla tube at sinuses; filaments ca. 0.7 mm long, pale green; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.4 mm long, white, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **nectary disc** surrounding base of ovary, 5-lobed, 0.4 mm long, 0.7 mm diameter, light green; **pistil** 1, ovary superior, 2-lobed, hidden by 1-armed hairs, 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 1 mm long, green, 2-branched, 0.4 mm below fork, stigmas terminal 0.25 mm diameter, green. **Fruit:** capsule, indehiscent, deeply 2-lobed (1-lobed), (1–)2-seeded, at maturity  $3 \times 5$  mm, lobes subspheroid to broadly obovoid (not ovoid), ca.  $2.7 \times 2.3$  mm, long-hairy (pilose), pericarp tan and papery. **Seed:** subspheroid to broadly obovoid, ca.  $1.8 \times 1.6 \times 1.6$  mm, white, with depressed hilum at narrow end.

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