

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Draba platycarpa – BROADPOD DRABA [Brassicaceae]

Draba platycarpa Torrey & A. Gray, BROADPOD DRABA. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, 1–4-stemmed at base, sometimes branched above midplant, central shoot ascending to erect, in range 14–38 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and 4–10 cauline leaves, foliage ± velveteen having unbranched hairs to 1 mm long mixed with shorter branched hairs having 2–4 widespreading to ascending arms arising from top of stalk. **Stems:** cylindric, to 1.5 mm diameter, hirsute with dense, radiating unbranched hairs and the under layer of stalked branched hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, short-petiolate and subsessile (basal leaves) to sessile (cauline leaves), without stipules; petiole < 3 mm long, indistinct from blade, with unbranched and branched hairs; blade of basal leaves oblanceolate to narrowly obovate, 15–40 × 4–13 mm, tapered at base, with 1–3 pairs of widely spaced lateral teeth, obtuse at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface, dull, with unbranched hairs and evenly scattered, mostly stalked, branched hairs on both surfaces; blade of cauline leaf lanceolate, 9–20 × 3–8 mm, tapered at base, entire to < 5 teeth, acute at tip. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal, 50+-flowered, flat-topped with open flowers overtopping buds, the last flowers to open on a long raceme without petals and nectar (± cleistogamous), lacking bracts, pubescent with mostly stalked branched hairs and fewer unbranched hairs; peduncle and rachis stemlike with fewer straight hairs; bractlet subtending pedicel absent; pedicel cylindric, at anthesis ascending, 2.5–3.5 mm long increasing ascending to widespreading and to 9 mm long in fruit, with mixed wavy unbranched hairs and stalked branched hairs, pedicels unevenly spaced in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 2 mm across; **sepals** 4, suberect, equal, ovate, 1.7–2 × 0.8 mm, green with narrow membranous margins and at tip, with scattered unbranched hairs especially above midpoint, deciduous; **petals** 4 (0 in cleistogamous flowers), clawed, suberect, fan-shaped, 2–2.5 × 1.2–1.5 mm, claw ca. 0.7 mm long, green, limb white or with greenish center, truncate to slightly notched or oblique at tip; **stamens** 6, free, dimorphic, with 2 outer short and 4 inner slightly longer; filaments gradually tapered to tip, of outer stamens ca. 1 mm long, or inner stamens ca. 1.5 mm long, pale green; anthers basifixed, dithecal, dimorphic, ca. 0.2 mm long (inner stamens) and 0.35 mm long (outer stamens), pale light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **nectaries** 4, to 0.25 mm wide, green, producing nectar (chasmogamous flowers); **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ellipsoid compressed parallel to septum, at anthesis 1.3–1.4 × 0.7 × 0.3–0.4 mm, green, appearing glabrous (papillatelike) later densely short-hairy with unbranched hairs, 2-chambered, each chamber with many ovules; style ± 0.2 mm long; stigma hemispheroid, pale green, papillate. **Fruit:** siliqua (silique), dehiscent by 2 valves parallel to septum, to 80-seeded, ± elliptic in outline, mostly 7–8 × 3.5–4 mm, flat, tan, densely short-hirsute with ascending unbranched hairs ca. 0.3 mm long; seeds in 2 rows on each side of septum; beak to 0.25 mm long. **Seed:** ovoid to ellipsoid-lenticular compressed side-to-side, ca. 0.7 × 0.35 mm, brown, conspicuously bladderlike, with a minute swelling at hilum.

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