

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Erioneuron pilosum var. *pilosum* – HAIRY TRIDENS, HAIRY WOOLLYGRASS [Poaceae]

Erioneuron pilosum (Buckl.) Nash var. *pilosum*, HAIRY TRIDENS, HAIRY WOOLLYGRASS. Perennial herb, fibrous-rooted, small bunchgrass, many-stemmed at base, cespitose, appearing scapose from basal tuft, with creeping shallow stems repeatedly forked, in range < 30 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves but each fertile shoot with only 1 cauline leaf at midplant, foliage pilose. **Stems (culms):** cylindrical, to 1.2 mm diameter (nodes), node of cauline leaf purple-red some having pilose hairs. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; sheath open, overlapping margins nearly to collar, margins short-ciliate within tuft membranous and colorless and of cauline leaf purplish, low-ridged but with a more conspicuous white ridge descending from midrib, lacking lobes (auricles) at top, with pilose hairs (basal leaves) or essentially glabrous (cauline leaf); collar margin conspicuously pilose having hairs 1+ mm long; ligule hairy, to 0.35 mm long, white; blade keeled and folded upward from keel, of young basal leaves tightly appressed, linear, to in range to 45 × 2.5 mm, of cauline leaves < 15 mm long, conspicuously white and minutely scabrous on margins, prowlike at tip, finely parallel-veined with minor veins raised on both surface, midrib white and raised on lower surface, pilose with more long hairs on lower surface, upper surface paler and when young having fine puberulent hairs. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, terminal on scapelike culm, having < 10 spikelets clustered at top, spikelets mostly 2 on lateral branchlets, with unequal stalks, spikelet in range with 4–12 fertile, bisexual florets, bracteate, conspicuously soft-hairy, short-awned; stalk of spikelet < 1–5 mm long, green to purplish, minutely scabrous along ridges and edges, glabrous. **Spikelet:** ovate in outline compressed side-to-side, in range mostly 6–11 × 2.5–3.5 mm, breaking above glumes and between florets; **glumes** 2, keeled, acute-ovate, < lemma, 1-veined, membranous aging scarious with green midvein, glabrous, lacking awns, lower glume unequally folded along keel, in range ca. 4.5 × 1.8 mm, mostly colorless or blushed purplish at base, upper glume equally folded along keel, mostly 5–5.4 × 2.3 mm, in range lower glume < upper glume, purplish, with short point at tip; callus with a tuft of pilose hairs to 1.5 mm long; **lemma** awned, ovate rounded on back, in range 5–5.5 mm long + awn, initially greenish with 3 widely spaced green veins, the awn in range 0.5–1.3(–2.5) mm long and red-purple, lateral veins 0.25 mm from margins, lateral veins short-ciliate (visible on intact spikelet), outer and inner surface lower portions with numerous pilose hairs; palea membranous and 2-veined, strongly folded and concave between keels and flexed, elliptic in outline ca. 3 × 1.5 mm, < lemma and decreasing upward within a spikelet, colorless with 2 green veins not reaching tip, densely short-hairy along keel, tip scarcely notched, with conspicuous pilose hairs on margin and surface on lower 1/3 portion. **Flower: perianth (lodicules)** 2, fused to base of palea, ± deltate and flaplike, 0.4–0.5 mm long, colorless; **stamens** 3, free; filaments threadlike, white; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ± 0.7 mm long, pale green, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen colorless; **pistil** 1, ca. 1.5 mm long; ovary superior, ovoid, ca. 0.5 × 0.2 mm, colorless, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, separated at top of ovary. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), lanceoloid, 1–1.5 × 0.3 mm, glossy translucent.

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