

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Gamochaeta pensylvanica – PENNSYLVANIA CUDWEED, PENNSYLVANIA EVERLASTING
[Asteraceae]

Gamochaeta pensylvanica (Willd.) Cabrera, PENNSYLVANIA CUDWEED, PENNSYLVANIA EVERLASTING. Annual, taprooted, rosetted at flowering, in range mostly 1-stemmed at base, in range mostly erect (decumbent) to 38 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and to 10 cauline leaves, foliage weakly bicolor having yellowish green tissue visible through fine, white-woolly hairs, tomentum slightly thicker on lower surfaces, lacking glandular hairs. **Stems:** cylindric, to 4 mm diameter, yellowish green, lacking decurrent ridges, cobwebby-woolly with long hairs along axis, tomentum denser with basal leaves and in inflorescences. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple and sessile with long-tapered base appearing like a winged petiole, without stipules; blade oblanceolate to spatulate (plant base into canopy), in range 25–80 × (4–)7–19 mm, long-tapered at base with “wings” at least 1 mm wide and somewhat expanded at base, entire, obtuse to rounded with small triangular point at tip, pinnately veined with midrib slightly sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, lower surface with thicker tomentum and also somewhat cobwebby along midrib and having several principal veins slightly raised, margins sometimes red-purple approaching tip. **Inflorescence:** heads, in canopy with condensed, cymelike clusters of 4–many heads (glomerules) terminal and on short axillary shoots, the shoots starting at shoot tip and developing progressively downward and appearing interrupted, head disciform, with many pistillate flowers and 3–4 central bisexual flowers, bracteate, white-woolly and lacking glandular hairs; bract subtending cluster of heads oblanceolate (obovate), to 16 × 3 mm, lower bracts > cluster; bract subtending head cupped-ovate, 3.5 × 2.5 mm, woolly on back, with nipple at tip; **involucre** cup-shaped, green on under side, of 21 phyllaries in several series, scarious, outer phyllaries 8, cupped acute-ovate, 2.5 × 1.5 mm, silvery and colorless with whitish midline having long woolly hairs on outer (lower) surface, inner phyllaries 13 in 2 series, ovate rounded to truncate at tips, ca. 2.5 × 0.4–0.9 mm, green with colorless margins; receptacle concave, without bractlet (paleae), glabrous. **Pistillate flower:** radial, 0.1 mm across (corolla), 2–2.2 mm long; **calyx (pappus)** of ca. 16–20 capillary bristles in whorl fused into a ring, bristles spreading, fine, 1.5–2 mm long, white; **corolla** minutely 4-toothed, slender-cylindric, ca. 1.8 × 0.1 mm, white with tips usually aging purple-red; **stamens** absent; **nectary disc** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, sausage-shaped, ca. 0.25 mm long, colorless, with minute papillate hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted, ca. 2 mm long, translucent, 2-branched, the stigmatic branches 0.1 mm long. **Bisexual flower:** radial, 0.25–0.3 mm across, 2–2.2 mm long; **calyx (pappus)** of ca. 16–20 capillary bristles in whorl fused into a ring, bristles spreading, fine, 1.5–2 mm long, white; **corolla** minutely 4-toothed, narrowly funnel-shaped, ca. 2 mm long, teethlike lobes spreading triangular, 0.1 mm long, colorless or aging pale rose; **stamens** 4, attached at top of corolla tube, not exerted; filaments fused in cylinder surrounding slender style, < 0.5 mm long, white; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 0.7 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **nectary disc** minute swelling around style base; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, sausage-shaped, ca. 0.25 mm long, colorless, with minute papillate hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted, ca. 2 mm long, translucent, 2-branched, the stigmatic branches 0.1 mm long. **Fruits:** cypselae

(achenes), within inversely top-shaped involucre; cypsela short sausage-shaped, 0.4×0.2 mm, tannish, lacking ribs and veins, with scattered, minute, papillalike hairs; pappus falling as a unit easily separated from cypsela.

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