**Vascular Plants of Williamson County**

**Juncus dichotomus** – FORKED RUSH [Juncaceae]

*Juncus dichotomus* Elliott, FORKED RUSH. Perennial herb, rhizomatous, fibrous-rooted, not rosetted, several(-many)-stemmed at base, branched only at base from rhizome, ascending to suberect, in range < 40 cm tall; shoots with bladeless leaves (cataphylls) followed by several basal leaves of which 2(−3) often appear to be cauline but originate at the rhizome, glabrous; rhizome concealed by old leaves, condensed and irregularly branched, erect and short-spreading, to 1.5 mm diameter; adventitious roots on rhizome only. **Stems:** cylindric, < 1 mm diameter, smooth; internodes spongy. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple with sheath; sheath open, rounded not ridged, with roundish, membranous lobes at top (auricles) 0.2–0.35 mm long overlapping and aging scarious; blade ascending, in range mostly channeled and < 120 × 0.5–0.8 mm, light green, channel often set in from edges, glabrous. **Inflorescence:** panicle, terminal, in range having to 5 unequal, ascending branchlets from base, flowers solitary, on the longer branchlets with 2+ solitary flowers, on the shorter branchlets with only 1 flower at tip, bracteate, glabrous; bract subtending inflorescence leaflike, sheath closed < 0.5 mm at node, to 2.5 mm long incl. auricles, blade to 50 mm long; bract subtending the next branchlet lacking sheath and blade decreasing upward; each branchlet with a short prophyll + a diminutive bract (leaf), prophyll of the lowest branchlet 2-keeled and 2-veined, < 2 mm long, membranous between keels, with 4 shallow teeth at tip, prophylls decreasing upward; stalk belong flower to 1 mm long; bractlets below flower 2, sheathing and cupped-ovate, acuminate-ovate, ca. 1.5 mm long (first bractlet) and ca. 1 mm long (second bractlet), persistent drying tannish. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 5 mm across (tepals spreading); **tepals** 6 in 2 whorls, widely spreading but tightly appressed in bud and after pollination, monomorphic, acuminate-lanceolate, at anthesis ca. 3 mm long increasing to 4–4.5 × to 1.5 mm in fruit, 3-veined, green with wide membranous margins, glabrous; **stamens** 6, free, erect; filaments linear and flat, 1.2–1.4 mm long, white; anthers basifixed, diethecal, at anthesis 0.7–0.8 mm long, pale yellow-green, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen colorless; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, obovoid conspicuously 3-lobed, at anthesis ca. 1.3 × 0.5 mm, glossy greenish, glabrous, 1-chambered (incompletely 3-chambered) with many ovules; style 3-branched, lower portion erect, ca. 0.2 mm long, the stigmatic branches in bud helically twisted and corkscrewlike, at anthesis spreading 1 mm with pink axis and colorless papillae. **Fruit:** capsule, dehiscent, 3-valved, many-seeded, ellipsoid-ovoid, 3–3.7 × 1.8 mm, < perianth, glossy pale brown weathering more dull, valves slightly gapped. **Seed:** ellipsoid or variously shaped, 0.3–0.4 mm long, brownish to amber colorless at tips, lacking tails.

A. C. Gibson