

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Juncus marginatus – GRASSLEAF RUSH, TWO-FLOWER RUSH [Juncaceae]

Juncus marginatus Rostkov., GRASSLEAF RUSH, TWO-FLOWER RUSH. Perennial herb, rhizomatous, fibrous-rooted, several-stemmed at base, cespitose, tufted, ascending to suberect, in range to 50 cm tall; shoots arising from a knotty rhizome, each shoot with to 4 basal leaves the lowest without blade and to 3 cauline leaves, glabrous; rhizome shallow, condensed, to 8 mm diameter, white with colorless cataphylls; adventitious roots on rhizome. **Stems:** compressed side-to-side (elliptic in \times -section), to 4 mm diameter, green and smooth, internodes increasing upward to 170 mm long approaching inflorescence. **Leaves:** alternate, simple with sheath; sheath open, rounded to somewhat folded, with lobes (auricles) at top, auricles in range ca. 0.5 mm long, colorless aging papery; blade slender and linear long-tapered to tip, $< 150\text{--}225 \times 2.5\text{--}5$ mm, the longest above midshoot, flattish but cupped slightly upward to flat approaching tip, conspicuously short-papillate on margins (not membranous), parallel-veined, crosswalls (septa) within blade absent. **Inflorescence:** cymelike panicle, terminal, in range to 110 mm long, many-flowered, with 2–6 flowers on short stalk at each fork, having a cluster of to 10 unequal ascending to suberect branches arising from top of culm, the longest, oldest cymelike branch with axis to first node straight and < 50 mm long, length of branch decreasing to the youngest, bracteate, glabrous; bract and prophyll subtending each branch and branchlet in cymelike arrays, bract subtending panicle leaflike with sheath to 16 mm long including auricles and blade acuminate at tip to 85×2.5 mm ($<$ panicle), the prophyll closed, to 10 mm long with sinus to 3 mm long and truncate at tip, the next to 5 mm long, in sequence sheath, blade, and prophyll decreasing upward for each primary branch and at each node along primary branch; bracts and bractlets subtending cluster of flower sessile, triangular, \pm keeled, to 2.5 mm long, membranous margins not to tip aging scarious. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 5 mm across (spreading tepals); **tepals** 6 in 2 whorls, triangular with awnlike point at tip (< 0.5 mm long), slightly dimorphic, with green central strip and wide membranous margins not to tip, outer tepals \pm keeled and ca. 2.5×0.8 mm and inner tepals flatter and ca. 3×1 mm, membranous margins overlapping, persistent and appressed in fruit; **stamens** 3, free, opposite outer tepals; filaments slender, in bud ca. 1 mm long and colorless in range elongating to 2.5 mm long, threadlike, and aging red; anthers basifixed, dithecal, in range 0.6–0.8 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellowish; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, broadly ellipsoid, ca. 1×0.8 mm, with 3 fine green lines and blushed pale purplish at top, 1-chambered with many ovules attached in 3 strips; style 3-branched, basal portion ca. 0.3 mm long, whitish, the stigmatic branches somewhat twisted but not corkscrewlike, ca. 0.8 mm long, white-papillate with axes aging purple-red and persistent. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 3 valves, many-seeded, obovoid to broadly ellipsoid obtuse at top, $2.3\text{--}2.8 \times 1.5\text{--}1.8$ mm, not exceeding tepals, glossy, tan but before drying red at top (drying brown). **Seed:** lanceoloid or somewhat fusiform, 0.4–0.5 mm long, lacking tail (appendage).

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