

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Krigia cespitosa – OPPOSITE-LEAVED DWARF DANDELION [Asteraceae]

Krigia cespitosa (Raf.) K. L. Chambers (forma *gracilis*), OPPOSITE-LEAVED DWARF DANDELION. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, several-stemmed at base, with ascending to suberect inflorescences, in range < 25 cm tall; shoots with mostly basal and some cauline leaves, basal leaves mostly withered and broken at flowering, vegetative tissues glabrous; latex milky. **Stems:** cylindric, to 2 mm diameter, tinged reddish, smooth with scattered glandular hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate (basal leaves) and opposite (cauline leaves), simple sometimes coarsely lobed (basal leaves), petiolate, without stipules; petiole of basal leaf 1/2 sheathing stem, thin and winged, indistinct from blade; oblong to narrowly oblong folded upward from midrib, to 100 mm long, winglike at stem to 4 mm wide, deeply lobed (basal leaves) to shallowly lobes and dentate on margins, acute at tip, pinnately veined with midrib strongly raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** heads, in cymelike array, head ligulate, to 26-flowered, bracteate; peduncle cylindric, having conspicuous, radiating, long glandular hairs with yellowish heads (to 0.8 mm long) especially approaching involucre; **involucre** bell-shaped, 2.5–3 mm diameter, phyllaries 5–8 in 1 series, fused at bases and overlapping, acuminate-ovate, 5–6 × 1.4–2.1 mm long, green with narrow colorless membranous margins, somewhat glaucous, rounded on back below midpoint, glabrous and lacking glandular hairs; receptacle hemispheroid, 2 mm across, lacking bractlets (paleae), glabrous. **Ligulate flower:** bilateral, ca. 2 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** absent (inconspicuous vestigial ring); **corolla** 5-lobed, 3.5–5 mm long, before anthesis inrolled as cylinder; tube narrowly funnel-shaped, 0.7 × 0.7 mm, colorless, with colorless papillate hairs; limb yellow, lobes (teeth) triangular, 0.5–0.6 × 0.35–0.4 mm; **stamens** 5, attached to top of corolla tube; filaments 0.7 mm long, whitish; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, ± 1 mm long, yellow longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, obovoid, 0.6–0.7 mm long, green, ± 15-ribbed, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style 2.5–2.8 mm long, yellow, minutely barbed above midpoint, 2-branched near tip. **Fruits:** cypselae (achenes), obovoid truncate at top, 1.5–1.8 × 0.8–0.9 mm, brown to reddish brown, with ± 15 lengthwise ribs and 5 dimples near base, the ribs regularly and finely cut horizontally and shallowly cut in furrows; pappus absent (inconspicuous vestigial ring).

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