

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Lepidium lasiocarpum subsp. *lasiocarpum* – HAIRY PODDED PEPPERGRASS, SHAGGY FRUIT PEPPERWEED, SAND PEPPERWEED [Brassicaceae]

Lepidium lasiocarpum Nutt. subsp. *lasiocarpum*, HAIRY PODDED PEPPERGRASS, SHAGGY FRUIT PEPPERWEED, SAND PEPPERWEED. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, several-stemmed at base, in range erect to suberect with ascending lateral branches on robust individuals, in range to 45+ cm tall; shoots with spreading basal leaves and ascending cauline leaves, conspicuously hirsute and short-hirsute (especially on axes); odorous (sulphur-smelling) when handled. **Stems:** cylindric, in range to 7 mm diameter, tough, internodes to 30 mm long, with projecting leaf bases along principal axis, with straight to curved hairs mixed and to 1 mm long. **Leaves:** helically alternate, pinnately dissected (basal and the lowest cauline leaves) and petiolate (to 130 mm long) to mostly unlobed and subsessile (most cauline leaves, without stipules; of pinnately dissected leaves petiole channeled, to 30 mm long, leaf axis channeled, lobes to 10, the terminal lobe acute-ovate to 40×25 mm and \gg lateral lobes, lobes mostly serrate, pinnately veined with midvein sunken on upper surface and slightly raised on lower surface, sparsely short-hairy; cauline leaves oblanceolate to linear-narrowly oblanceolate (upper canopy), $15\text{--}80 \times < 5\text{--}25$ mm, petiole indistinct from blade, tapered at base or with 2 short lobes, serrate or doubly-serrate especially above midblade, acute to obtuse at tip, pinnately veined. **Inflorescence:** raceme (panicle of racemes), terminal on each shoot, each raceme 40+-flowered, in fruit 11–12 mm diameter, \pm flat-topped, lacking bracts, short-hirsute on top of raceme (2 sepals); pedicel at anthesis ascending, 1–1.5 mm long spreading and increasing to 3 \times in fruit, somewhat fattened top-to-bottom and in fruit 0.4–0.5 mm wide and 0.2–0.3 mm thick, puberulent especially on lower side. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 1 mm across; **sepals** 4, elliptic to slightly obovate and cupped and especially the outer pair humplike, $0.7\text{--}1 \times 0.35\text{--}0.7$ mm (opposite broad surface of fruit) and $0.6\text{--}0.9 \times 0.25\text{--}0.7$ mm (clasping narrow edge of ovary), mostly green but white marginally or purplish above midpoint; **petals** 4 (absent), 2 on each broad side of ovary lateral to stamen, claw obscure, in range oblanceolate to narrowly obovate, to 1×0.3 mm, whitish; **nectaries** 4, between petals and stamens, peglike when fresh to toothlike after anthesis, in range to 0.25 mm long, green (yellowish green); **stamens** 2 or also 4 (same inflorescence), free, 2 opposite septum of the ovary and with 4 stamens 1–2 at edges; filaments ascending to suberect, in range 1–1.2 mm long, white; anthers exerted when cupped by sepals, dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.2–0.25 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, circular in outline and flattened, $0.45\text{--}0.5 \times 0.4\text{--}0.5$ mm, yellowish green, minutely notched at tip ca. 0.4 mm, compressed \perp to septum, 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; style with stigmas = notch, lower portion green, stigma discoid, 0.2 mm diameter, translucent, densely short-papillate. **Fruit:** siliqua (silicle), dehiscent by 2 valves, 2-seeded, \pm circular (orbiculate) with slightly inflated chambers, $3\text{--}3.5(\text{--}4) \times 2.8\text{--}3 \times 0.7\text{--}0.8$ mm, tannish, valves typically short-hairy along keeled edges base-to-notch, in range sparsely short-hirsute on valve faces below midpoint, slightly concave on 1 face and slightly convex on the other face, shallowly notched 0.3–0.5 mm, not beaked and stigma not exerted above notch; pedicel in fruit spreading, flattened but ca. 2 \times wider than thick, pubescent. **Seed:** compressed-ovoid with

folded embryo evident, 1.5–1.7 × 1–1.1 mm, orangey brown to yellowish brown, minutely pebbled; gelatinous when wetted.
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