

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Palafoxia rosea var. *macrolepis* – ROSY PALAFOXIA [Asteraceae]

Palafoxia rosea (Bush) Cory var. *macrolepis* (Rydb.) B. L. Turner & Morris, ROSY PALAFOXIA. Annual, taprooted, not rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, unbranched from base with ascending branches in canopy from successive nodes or with unexpanded axillary shoots, to 55 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, densely scabrous having upward-arching short hairs with enlarged bases, vegetative plants lacking stalked glands. **Stems:** cylindrical, to 4.5 mm diameter, tough, somewhat zigzagged; major axis having brown periderm with patches of short-strigose upward-pointing hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole narrowly channeled, to 6 mm long; blade linear, 20–60 × 2–6 mm, green aging purple, long-tapered at base, entire, acute at tip, 1(3)-veined at base with midrib sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** head, terminal, in open, cymelike array of < 12 heads, ± flat-topped, of head showy, discoid, to 12 mm across, with to 30 bisexual flowers, bracteate, scabrous; bract subtending array leaflike, to 22 × < 2 mm; bract subtending peduncle leaflike, linear, 5–10 × < 1 mm, purple, surfaces bumpy and with upward-pointing hairs; peduncle ascending, slender, ridged, 30–65 × < 1 mm diameter, ridges descending from phyllaries, with short arching hairs and radiating tack-shaped glandular hairs, at top bract subtending involucre < 5 × < 0.9 mm, with white callus tip; **involucre** ± cylindrical in fruit funnel-shaped, 7–9 mm long, phyllaries 8–13 in 1–2 series, outer phyllaries each subtending disc flower, oblanceolate to elliptic or somewhat keeled and with overlapped, membranous narrow margins, 6.5–9 × ca. 2 mm, green tinged purplish red above midpoint, margins light purplish pink, tip deltate to semicircular, 1.5 mm long, membranous and light purplish pink and margin short-ciliate, surface scabrous with short, upward-arched hairs and above midpoint with radiating stalked glandular hairs aging crimson; receptacle with a low, lacking bractlets (paleae) subtending flowers, green rim surrounding each ovary of the central flowers, hollow beneath receptacle. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 7 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** in range 8–10 in 2 series, free or some fused at base, ascending, obovate, 2.5–3 mm long without awn or occasionally 4–5 mm long with awn (aristate), colorless and scarious with brownish, thick midvein puberulent on back, jagged on margin above midpoint; **corolla** deeply 5-lobed, in range ca. 10 mm long; tube expanded around nectary and above cylindrical and slender, 4–4.3 × 0.3–0.35 mm, rose-red, with some short hairs and glandular hairs; throat broadly funnel-shaped, 1 × 1 mm, rose-red to midpoint and pink above midpoint; lobes spreading, oblanceolate to oblong, 3.5–4.5 × 0.6–0.8 mm, pink, margins with domed cells, lower surface puberulent at tip; **stamens** 5, fused at top of corolla tube; filaments slender, ca. 2.2 mm long, pale pink; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, exerted, 2.5–3.2 mm long including appendage, deep purple-red but appendage pink, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pink; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, wedge-shaped compressed and 4-sided with 2 ridges, 1.2 × 0.9 mm, whitish blushed reddish; **nectary disc** surrounding base of style, 5-sided, 0.25 mm long, pinkish, producing copious nectar; style partially exerted above anthers, ca. 11 mm long, pink, 2-branched, the stigmatic branches widely spreading, ca. 2.5 mm long, conspicuously papillate. **Fruits:** cypselae (achenes), 4-sided narrowly inverted pyramidal, 4–4.5 × 1 mm, purple, with 4 conspicuous angles, truncate

at top, short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs; pappus scales 8–10 in 2 series, persistent, free or some fused at base, scarious with thick midvein, unequal, outer scales obovate, 2.5–3 mm long or occasionally to 5 mm with short point (aristate), inner scales at least 1–2 mm long, jagged on margin, thickening brownish and puberulent on back.
A. C. Gibson