

**Vascular Plants of Williamson County**  
*Panicum anceps* – BEAKED PANICGRASS [Poaceae]

*Panicum anceps* Michx. (varieties and subspecies not recognized), BEAKED PANICGRASS. Perennial herb, conspicuously rhizomatous, fibrous-rooted, not rosetted, ascending to decumbent from tips of rhizomes, in range to 70 cm long; shoots with mostly basal leaves and to 2 cauline leaves; rhizomes mostly horizontal and spreading and 3–5 mm diameter to vertical to 7 mm diameter, solid, horizontal rhizomes with many cataphylls (scales) concealing axis, internodes 2.5–3 mm long having white, overlapping cataphylls, without cataphylls rhizomes having ledgeliike nodes, the cataphylls either sheath only often truncate to subtruncate at tip or with a short blade acute at tip (sometimes splitting), the blade base defined by ciliate hairs at collar; adventitious roots nodal. **Stems:** somewhat and compressed aboveground with conspicuous furrow along each internode, to 6 mm wide, glabrous; internode hollow. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; prophylls not observed; sheath open, somewhat compressed, with narrow membranous margins, mostly glabrous with sparse hairs close to margins; ligule truncate, membranous minutely jagged, < 0.25 mm long; collar poorly developed, having ciliate margins with hairs to 1.5 mm long; blade  $\pm$  flat and linear, in range <100–350  $\times$  4–8(–12) mm, minutely toothed on margins sparsely ciliate near collar, acute at tip, parallel-veined with slightly raised veins but midrib on upper side smooth and flat and raised and triangular on lower surface, not glaucous. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, often 500+, in terminal, paniclelike array, to 430 mm long, primary axis often with 15+ nodes of ascending to spreading, racemelike lateral primary branches, typically 1 primary branch per node, primary branches to 145 mm long mostly decreasing upward, having appressed secondary branches at each node with 1–several third-order branchlets at or just above base, branchlets to 15 mm long with to 11 stalked spikelets often alternate distichous (planed), spikelet at node stalked in pairs and tip of axis with 1 terminal spikelet, spikelet with 2 florets, the lower floret lacking flower, the upper floret bisexual, bracteate, lacking awns; primary axis angled with channel on 1 side 2 internodes above each axillary shoot, < 2 mm diameter, mostly glabrous with some nodes having short hairs at axils; bract subtending the lowest primary vestigial, wavy and short-ciliate on margin; primary branches widely spaced with internodes decreasing upward, with axillary pulvinus at base; axes of primary branches with axillary pulvinus, puberulent and having scabrous edges, third-order axis wavy and scabrous, the stalks of spikelets fourth-order, appressed, slender and angled, 1–2.5 mm long, scabrous. **Spikelet:** ovoid slightly curved (“falcate”), in range 3.5–3.8 mm long, with lemma and palea of fertile floret somewhat spreading at anthesis, breaking below glumes, sometimes with several short hairs at base of spikelet; **glumes** 2, unequal, glabrous; lower glume cupped-ovate, 1.2–1.5 mm, membranous and 3-veined or 5-veined, midvein raised with slightly extended whitish tip and minutely scabrous from below midpoint; upper glume cupped-ovate, ca. 3.4 mm long, membranous and 7-veined, veins green with central 3 raised, midvein scabrous approaching tip; **lower floret lemma** inrolled, resembling and slightly gapped from upper glume, 2.8–3 mm long, < upper glume, with 5 green veins not fused at tip; **palea** membranous, elliptic, ca. 1.5  $\times$  0.5 mm, with 2 green veins, short-ciliate along keels; **upper floret lemma** strongly cupped rounded-ovate, 1.8–2.1 mm long, finely and faintly 5-veined, glossy and smooth, clasping palea; **palea** elliptic, < lemma, smooth, glossy, faintly 2-veined, with ca. 5 minute, stiff hairs at tip. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth**

**(lodicules)** 2, triangular to obovate, 0.2–0.25 mm long, translucent; **stamens** 3, free; filament threadlike, 2+ mm long, colorless; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.7–0.8(–1) mm long, burgundy, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, obovoid, ca. 0.7 × 0.25 mm, burgundy, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, widely spaced on top of ovary, ca. 1.3 mm long, colorless at base with exserted bottlebrushlike stigmas, burgundy, exserted sideways above midpoint of floret. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis) enclosed in floret and spikelet, floret ellipsoid, in range 1.8–2 × 1 mm, pale straw-colored and glossy, with several minute, stiff hair at tip of upper lemma.

A. C. Gibson