

**Vascular Plants of Williamson County**  
*Parietaria floridana* – FLORIDA PELLITORY [Urticaceae]

*Parietaria floridana* Nutt., FLORIDA PELLITORY. Weak annual, fine-taprooted, not rosetted, many-stemmed at base, principal shoots in range ascending and < 15 cm tall; polygamo-monoecious; shoots with only cauline leaves, foliage appearing dense with overlapping blades, axes and often principal veins pale rose to reddish = fine streaks of red pigment, soft-hairy with short-pilose and short-villous hairs swollen at base and occasionally with individual hairs to 1 mm long, lacking stinging hairs. **Stems:** cylindrical, to 1.5 mm diameter, short-hairy with mostly arching hairs but some pilose hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole channeled, slender, to 6 × 0.2–0.25 mm, pale pink but base purple-red and minutely beaded, slightly constricted near base (abscission zone); blade broadly ovate or broadly elliptic to elliptic, somewhat deltate, or roundish, in range 2–13 × 1.5–6 mm, broadly tapered to rounded at base, entire, obtuse to rounded at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins ± slightly sunken on upper surface and somewhat raised and often reddish on lower surface, short-pilose, upper surface (backlighted) dotted with evenly spaced, minute, roundish structures within leaf (cells with cystoliths), lower surface with the lowest lateral vein not at base (sometimes appearing 3-veined ca. 0.5 mm from base). **Inflorescence:** leafy spikelike, of sessile, axillary mostly solitary bisexual flowers at the lowest node and at subsequent nodes several-flowered cymes adding some unisexual flowers, unisexual flowers functionally staminate and structurally pistillate in upper canopy, bracteate; bract subtending each axillary cluster = leaf, with blade larger in upper canopy than on lower plant; bracts subtending axillary clusters several (“involucre”), oblong to lanceolate-oblong, to 2.5 mm long, rounded at tip, hirsute-ciliate on margins, upper surface glabrous, lower (outer) surface in range with many shorter hooked hairs (uncinate); bractlets subtending flowers and clusters 2(–4), of the earliest bisexual flowers oriented on 1 side and = flower, narrowly elliptic to narrowly oblong, ascending, at anthesis ca. 1 × 0.25 mm, green, 1-veined, with hairs like on bracts. **Bisexual flower:** ± radial, ca. 2 mm across; **sepals** 4, appressed to ovary, cupped-ovate, ca. 1 × 0.7–0.8 mm, mostly colorless with green approaching minute, purple-red tip, outer (lower) surface with short-hirsute hairs, lacking hooked hairs; **petals** absent; **stamens** often 2 (on side with bractlets), cupped by sepals with filaments hooked in bud; filaments flattened, 0.7–1.2 mm long, pale green (in bud) maturing colorless, with transverse ridges on upper (inner) side; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.2–0.35 mm (sometimes unequal within flower), pale green maturing white, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ovoid, at anthesis 0.7 × 0.5 mm, glossy light green, smooth, with fine, curly hairs surrounding base of ovary, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; stigma capitate, exserted, ± sessile, 0.25 mm across + radiating short-hirsute hairs, colorless. **Staminate flower:** like bisexual flower with diminutive ovary; **stamens** 4, ascending, with filaments hooked in bud; filaments flattened, 1.1–1.5 mm long, pale green (in bud) maturing colorless, with transverse ridges on upper (inner) side; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.2–0.3 mm, whitish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white. **Pistillate flower:** radial, ca. 0.7 mm across; **sepals** 4, appressed to ovary, cupped-ovate, ca. 1 × 0.5 mm, mostly colorless with green approaching minute, purple-red tip, outer (lower) surface with short-hirsute hairs, lacking hooked hairs; **petals** absent; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ovoid, at anthesis 0.5

× 0.3 mm, glossy light green, smooth, with fine, curly hairs surrounding base of ovary, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; stigma capitate, exserted, ± sessile, 0.25 mm across + radiating short-hirsute hairs, colorless. **Fruit:** achene, ovoid slightly compressed, 0.5 × 0.3 mm (pistillate flower) and 0.8 × 0.5 mm (bisexual flower), glossy white to yellowish; dehiscent within perianth.

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