

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Paspalum pubiflorum – HAIRYSEED PASPALUM [Poaceae]

Paspalum pubiflorum Rupr., HAIRYSEED PASPALUM. Perennial herb, fibrous-rooted, not rosetted, several-stemmed at base, decumbent, in range to 35 cm tall; shoots with 1–2 basal leaves and several cauline leaves, trailing shoots to 70 cm long, foliage somewhat bluish green, blades glaucous and essentially glabrous; adventitious roots, arising at nodes of trailing stems. **Stems:** cylindric, < 4 mm diameter (node), internodes to 85 mm long, smooth, essentially glabrous except a ring of hirsute hairs at node touching sheath. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; prophyll closed 1+ mm at base, 2-keeled and strongly 2-folded, to 30 × 1.6 mm (folded), membranous and with light yellow-green stripes, keels flattened (not elevated), margins to 1.3 mm wide, mostly colorless, long-ciliate along keels base to tip + hairs to 3.5 mm long at base and lower margins; sheath open, ± folded, many-ridged on back, with narrow membranous margins, nearly glabrous but on lower surface with numerous hairs to 3.5 mm long at node and several submarginal long hairs, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule membranous, truncate, 1–3 mm long, toothed to jagged on margin, aging brownish to purplish, splitting downward, with a few long hairs with swollen bases (pustulate) behind ligule and along margin of collar; blade narrowly lanceolate to strap-shaped, in range 40–275 × 2–16 mm, the widest near base, minutely toothed on margins, parallel-veined with veins ± raised on both surfaces and midrib raised on lower surface, glabrous, bluish green glaucous. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal panicles with (2–)3–7 spikelike branches, panicle with spreading, lax branches, branches 1 per node, 1-sided having 2 and 4 rows of overlapping spikelets on lower side, in range 25–80 × 2.5–3 mm, branches subequal, spikelets alternating at base of branch in 2 rows with aborted second spikelet along central ridge and above in 4 rows with paired spikelets, spikelet with 2 florets with lower one sterile and upper one fertile, bracteate, lacking awns; peduncle cylindric, 80–120+ mm long; branches 10–20 mm apart along rachis; bract subtending branch as extension of wing, linear, to 2 mm long or absent; rachis channeled and hemi-cylindric, ± 1.6 mm diameter, glabrous; branch base long-pilose with hairs to 7 mm long, rachis winged and ribbonlike, 1.5–1.7 mm wide, minutely toothed on margin, upper surface (lacking spikelets) not sinusoidal but wavy up and down, except approaching tip, striped, lower surface with paired stalks of spikelets arising alternately along central ridge 2.8–3 mm apart; stalks of paired spikelets fused at point of attachment to rachis, flattened on upper side, minutely scabrous. **Spikelet:** compressed-obovate, breaking below glume; **glume** 1, lower glume absent, upper glume obovate rounded on back, in range ca. 3 × 2 mm, greenish white, with 3 veins converging at tip, with scattered short-pilose hairs to 0.3 mm long and minute hairs. **Lower floret lemma** ovate and flat on back, 0.2 mm < upper glume, 3-veined, with inrolled margins, glabrous; **palea** absent. **Upper floret lemma** ovate and rounded on back, ca. 2.5 × 1.7 mm, stiff (chartaceous), 3-veined, with inrolled margins, finely textured = rows of cells, glabrous, sometimes outer margin having a red-purple stripe; **palea** enclosed by margins of lemma, glabrous, the exposed surface slightly concave, chartaceous, the incurved margins membranous and especially wide to midpoint and enveloping flower, open at top. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, very fleshy, inversely conic to inversely pyramidal and 3-lobed at anthesis, 0.5–0.65 mm long, white; **stamens** 3, free; filaments threadlike, ± 4 mm long,

white; anthers fully exerted, dorsifixed, dithecal, 1–1.2 mm long, burgundy, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellowish white; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, compressed-ellipsoid, ± 0.5 mm long, pale green, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, translucent, ca. 1 mm long; stigmas exerted from lemma ca. $\frac{3}{4}$ from base, bottlebrushlike, 0.7–1 mm long, burgundy. **Fruits:** achene (caryopsis), tightly enclosed in hard (indurate) floret bracts, closed floret concave on 1 side and rounded on other side, ca. 2.5×1.7 mm, light straw-colored, concave on 1 side and rounded on other side, finely textured = cells in vertical rows; achene obovoid, ca. $1.8\text{--}2 \times 1.2$ mm, convex on 1 side (dorsally) and broadly grooved on side facing palea, yellow ochre with a small burgundy mark at top.

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