

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Persicaria punctata – DOTTED SMARTWEED [Polygonaceae]

Persicaria punctata (Elliott) Small, DOTTED SMARTWEED. Perennial herb (annual), rhizomatous, fibrous-rooted, several-stemmed at base, basal shoots arising from slender rhizome, with ascending branches above, decumbent with erect or ascending shoots, in range to 70 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, glabrescent, inconspicuously gland-dotted; adventitious roots at nodes. **Stems:** cylindric, to 6 mm diameter, distinctly swollen just above each node, typically tinged rose-red, in range glabrous and gland-dotted, not markedly bent at nodes. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, short-petiolate (sessile), with stipules; stipules (2) fused into cylinder and sheathing stem (ocrea), basally fused to margins of petioles and typically with stem between petiole margins, 8–15 mm long + bristlelike hairs arising from truncate tip, membranous and pinkish aging red-brown, with 8–9 parallel veins above midpoint, becoming brittle and fracturing, with slightly raised glandular dots and dark parallel veins, strigose with upward-pointing hairs, the bristlelike hairs 9–13, spaced > 0.5 mm apart, in range 1–3 mm long; petiole with wide base, broadly hemi-cylindric, above base 2–5 mm long; blade lanceolate to narrowly lanceolate, in range 25–115 × 8–25 mm, flat, broadly tapered to tapered at base, entire with appressed, upward-pointing hairs on margins, acuminate-acute at tip, pinnately veined with midrib conspicuously raised on lower surface, both surfaces with unraised glands appearing faint when backlighted, lower surface sparsely strigose, the hairs upward-pointing and aging red. **Inflorescence:** spikelike panicle of condensed cymes, terminal (axillary), ± open, solitary or paired with a shorter lateral inflorescence, narrowly cylindric, 30–120 × 6–8 mm, of clustered, 2–8-flowered cymes, appearing somewhat interrupted with obvious internodes between cymes, bracteate, glabrous; peduncle to 60 mm long; bractlet subtending pedicel membranous like ocrea, < 1.5 mm long, early-deciduous; pedicel erect to spreading, semicircular in \times -section, 1–3.5 mm long, straight, pinkish white, glabrous, persisting after flower abscises. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, scarcely open, at anthesis ca. 1.5 mm across, triangular-ovoid; **perianth (calyx)** 5–6-lobed in 2 whorls, 3 mm long, green with white (pinkish) margins on lobes, not keeled or winged, distinctly gland-dotted especially on green portion; tube cuplike, 1–1.5 mm long; lobes monomorphic, oval, with overlapping margins; **nectary** absent; **stamens** 6–8, fused to perianth tube attached opposite and ± alternately at sinuses; filaments unequal, flat and tapered, 0.9–1.2 mm long, colorless; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.5–0.7 mm long, white aging pink to red, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen translucent whitish; **pistil** 1, 0.6 mm long; ovary superior, (2–)3-lobed ovoid, light green, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style translucent, 2–3-branched at midpoint; stigmas capitate. **Fruit:** achene, (2–)3-sided with rounded edges, ovoid, 2.5–3 mm long, glossy black, smooth; enclosed by persistent perianth initially green or aging white.

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