

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Phemeranthus calycinus – ROCK-PINK [Montiaceae/Portulacaceae]

Phemeranthus calycinus (Engelm.) Kiger, ROCK-PINK. Perennial herb, with upright caudex, not rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, in range unbranched with single, terminal inflorescence, < 25 cm tall; shoots with only cauline, ascending, cylindrical leaves along nongreen stem, glabrous but not glaucous; caudex to 40 × 7 mm, unbranched or having a major branch, with some adventitious roots. **Stem:** cylindrical, in range aboveground < 60 × < 2 mm diameter, tan aging brown to reddish brown, with short internodes but not tufted, without persistent, withered leaves abscised cleanly from base upward. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, short-petiolate, without stipules; petiole flared at base and where longer flattened on upper side, nongreen (flesh-colored), < 1–3 mm long; blade cylindrical, in range (< 5–)10–45 × 1–1.5 mm, green and thinly fleshy, entire, conic with minute whitish point at tip, lacking visible venation. **Inflorescence:** cyme, terminal on long peduncle, several-flowered (< 10), bracteate, glabrous, with a pair of bracts subtending base (bract and bractlet) of cyme; peduncle suberect to ascending, cylindrical, slender, to 130 × 0.5 mm, white to cream-colored to above midpoint and somewhat reddish above; bracts at base of cyme not fused, initially widely spreading later appressed, at least 1/2-sheathing, awl-shaped, 3 mm long, aging faded rose, with a few weak teeth on margin, bracts at next fork fused across node, acuminate, ca. 2.5 mm long and decreasing to 2 mm long; pedicel to 10 mm long not increasing in fruit, initially mostly green, 0.4 mm diameter but glossy green and enlarged below flower 1.2–1.5 mm across. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, saucerlike, ca. 25 mm across; not fragrant; **sepals** (bracteoles of some authors) 2, opposite, appressed to corolla, subequal, obovate, ca. 5 × 4–4.2 mm, green with colorless membranous margins, overlapped at base, rounded or slightly notched at tip, at anthesis venation inconspicuous, drying thin, veiny, and papery appressed to developing fruit; **petals** 5, widely spreading for less than 3 hours from midafternoon, obovate, in range ca. 13 × 7.5–8 mm, rose-purple to magenta; **stamens** ca. 30–49 in 2–3 series, free; filaments ascending to erect, 4.7–6.5 × 0.15–0.2 mm, white, glabrous; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 1 mm long, bright yellow to light orange, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow or light orange; **nectary disc** inside filaments, scalloped, 0.2 mm long, white, producing thin nectar next to base of pistil; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, obovoid, ca. 1.5 × 1 mm, light green, glabrous, 1-chambered with 25+ ovules attached to central post (free-central); style exerted ca. 3 mm above anthers, 7.5–8 mm long, white, at top stigmatic and hemispheroid with 3 white, recurved, conspicuously papillate lobes. **Fruit:** capsule, 3-valved dehiscent top-to-base, 20+-seeded, obovoid 3-ridged and somewhat 3-sided with 1 face narrower, 4–5.5 × 4 mm, valves broadly elliptic; erect on pedicel to 12 mm long. **Seed:** somewhat D-shaped compressed side-to-side and appearing snail-like on sides (= strongly curved embryo around central storage tissue, perisperm), 1.1–1.2 × 0.9–1 × 0.5 mm, glossy black but with pale cover (pellicle), surface textured by raised cells (not smooth).

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