

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Phlox pilosa subsp. *riparia* – TEXAS PHLOX [Polemoniaceae]

Phlox pilosa L. subsp. *riparia* Wherry, TEXAS PHLOX. Perennial herb, 1–several-stemmed at base, having vertical shoots from belowground axis, in range 30 cm tall; shoots pilose on foliage and overall glandular short-hairy, pleasantly fragrant; belowground axis with alternate deltate scales, ± 2 mm. **Stems:** cylindric, to 2 mm diameter, tough, internodes to 25 mm long. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, subsessile with pair fused across node, without stipules; basal leaves scalelike and fused across node also subtending 2 lateral branches from node (3–4 basal nodes); of foliage leaves acuminate linear-lanceolate, 11–43 \times 3–8 mm, glandular short-hairy with pilose hairs on margins and on lower surface midrib, midrib sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** leafy cyme, terminal and later axillary, cyme 3–7-flowered, bracteate, glandular short-hairy; bracts subtending cymes alternate, leaflike, decreasing to bractlet; pedicel to 6 mm long, glandular hairs radiating \perp to axis. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 20 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, to 15 mm long; tube initially narrowly bell-shaped, 4–5.5 \times 2.5 mm, green 1.5 mm at base, above with alternating green and membranous panels; lobes ascending to erect, long-acuminate with awnlike tip, point 1–2 mm long, surfaces glandular short-hairy; **corolla** 5-lobed, trumpet-shaped (salverform), to 26 mm long, inner surfaces glabrous; tube swollen around ovary at base, whitish and glabrous; throat nearly straight and cylindric narrowly ridged, to 18 mm long, 2 mm diameter at orifice, tubular portion light purple and dishlike upper portion white; lobes widely spreading, \pm obovate, ca. 12 \times 9 mm, upper surface purple and lower surface light purple, shallowly crenate above midpoint, obtuse at tip; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla throat most of length and diverging at different levels, the lowest 5 mm from base of corolla, slender approaching anther, ca. 1 mm long, light purple; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ± 1.8 mm long, bright yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen bright yellow; **nectary disc** surrounding base of ovary, 5-lobed, ca. 0.2 mm long, green; **pistil** 1, at anthesis 4–4.5 mm long (at level of top of calyx tube); ovary superior, ovoid, ca. 2 \times 0.8 mm, green, glabrous, 3-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule attached to center; style green sometimes tinged purple, 3-branched, fork 1 mm from base, the branches stigmatic, ascending. **Fruit:** capsule, septicidal, 3-valved, 1–3-seeded, ovoid, 3.5–4 mm long, straw-colored. **Seed:** rhomboid, ca. 2.5 \times 1.3 mm, dark amber.

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