

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Physaria densiflora – DENSEFLOWER BLADDERPOD, LOW BLADDERPOD [Brassicaceae]

Physaria densiflora (A. Gray) O'Kane & Al-Shehbaz, DENSEFLOWER BLADDERPOD, LOW BLADDERPOD. Annual, fine-taprooted, rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, erect or decumbent, in range to 15 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and several cauline leaves, covered with appressed, sessile and subsessile scalelike hairs having mostly 5–7 rays (to 10 arms), with a U-shaped notch on one side, and minute bumps on upper surface (tuberculate). **Stems:** cylindrical, < 1 mm diameter, green to reddish, with appressed, scalelike hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, pinnately lobed and petiolate (basal leaves) unlobed and sessile (cauline leaves), without stipules; petiole ascending, hemi-cylindric, to 10 mm long; blade obovate in outline to elliptic or oblanceolate, 6–30 × 2–6 mm, tapered at base, shallowly lobed to entire, acute at tip, pinnately veined with midrib slightly sunken on upper surface and slightly raised on lower surface, scalelike hairs evenly spaced. **Inflorescence:** raceme or panicle having also a lateral raceme arising axillary from the node below the terminal raceme, terminal, several-flowered, with open flower overtopping buds, without bracts, green tissues covered with appressed, scalelike hairs; peduncle and rachis increasing during fruit development; pedicel at anthesis 4–5 mm long increasing 2× in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, ± radial, 7–8.5 mm across; **sepals** 4, lanceolate to elliptic, 2.8–3.8 × 1–1.2 mm, light yellow-green, inner pair with narrow membranous margins, covered with several-rayed appressed hairs; **petals** 4, lacking claw, obovate, 3.5–7 × 1.5–2.6 mm, bright yellow, pinnately veined, glabrous; **stamens** 6, free, mostly dimorphic, with 2 outer short and 4 of inner whorl longer; filaments 1.5–2.5 mm long (short stamens) and 1.8–4 mm long (long stamens), pale yellow; anthers dorsifixed (long stamens) and ± versatile (short stamens), dithecal, 1–1.2 mm long, yellow; pollen light yellow; **nectaries** at bases of stamens, minute, green; **pistil** 1, 3 mm long, not stalked; ovary superior, circular to elliptic in outline somewhat compressed side-to-side parallel to septum, ca. 1 × 1 × 0.7 mm, light green, glabrous, 2-chambered, each chamber with 4–8 ovules; style pale green; stigma capitate, at or above level of upper anthers. **Fruit:** siliqua (silicle) ± sessile, dehiscent by 2 valves, to 16-seeded, subspheroid but not inflated, ca. 4–5 mm, scarcely furrowed around septum; persistent style (beak) erect, 2.2–2.5 mm long. **Seed:** ellipsoid to 3-sided, 0.5–0.6 × 0.35–0.4 mm, orangish brown, with domed cells.

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