

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Physaria gordonii – POPWEED, GORDON'S BLADDERPOD, BEADPOD [Brassicaceae]

Physaria gordonii (A. Gray) O'Kane & Al-Shehbaz, POPWEED, GORDON'S BLADDERPOD, BEADPOD. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, erect (1-stemmed) to ascending or decumbent, in range < 30 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, green surface with appressed stellate hairs seastarlike with 4–7 arms arising from the center (not fused) and center domelike, the arms often 2-forked with minute projections (tuberculate). **Stems:** ± cylindric, to 1.5 mm diameter, tough and wiry, internodes < leaves, green. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate and subsessile, without stipules; petiole ± hemicylindric, 11–15 mm long (basal leaves) and = blade, decreasing upward, with scattered appressed stellate hairs; blade obovate to elliptic, (7–)11–24 × (2–)4–8.5 mm, tapered to long-tapered at base (not clasping), entire to low-dentate or having remote teeth on margins, acute at tip, pinnately veined with midrib sunken on upper surface and principal veins ± raised on lower surface, stellate hairs uniformly distributed. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal, 15+-flowered, = upper 1/2 of plant, without bracts, with appressed stellate hairs on exposed green tissues; peduncle stemlike, cylindric, to 15 mm long; rachis cylindric, in fruit < 120 mm long; pedicel cylindric, at anthesis 8–10 × 0.5 mm and not hooked aging 2× and sigmoid with hook upward just below fruit or remaining straight and not increasing much. **Flower:** bisexual, ± radial, (6–)10–12 mm across; buds often nodding; **sepals** 4, ascending, oblanceolate or oblong to narrowly elliptic, 4.5–5.5 × 1.1–1.4 mm, faintly 3-veined at base, minutely hoodlike at tip, narrowly membranous on margins (inner pair), with appressed stellate hairs outer (lower) surface and glabrous inner (upper) surface; **petals** 4, (3.3–)7–7.5 × (1–)4–4.4 mm, ± clawed (poorly defined), claw to 1 mm long, colorless at base, limb oblanceolate somewhat cupped upward, bright yellow, rounded at tip, pinnately veined, glabrous; **stamens** 6, free, dimorphic, with outer 2 short and inner 4 longer; filaments ascending, (2.6–)4–5 mm long (long stamens) and 1 mm shorter (short stamens) in each flower, yellow but white and somewhat swollen at base; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, (0.7)1.8–2.1 mm long, yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **nectaries** 4 in 2 pairs at bases of short stamens, green; **pistil** 1, subsessile with minute stalk (stipe) at anthesis < 0.15 mm long; ovary superior, ellipsoid, ca. 2 × 1 mm, glabrous, 2-chambered, each chamber with several ovules; style cylindric, ca. 4 mm long, greenish; stigma capitate, terminal, at level of the long stamens, spheroid, 0.4 mm, green. **Fruit:** siliqua (silicle), dehiscent by 2 valves parallel to septum, (0)1–10-seeded, subspheroid to spheroid, with several seeds ca. 5.5 × 4 mm or with 0 or 1 large seed ca. 3 × 3 mm, somewhat inflated, septum complete and slightly raised on surface, glabrous; pedicel distinctly sigmoid with bend upward beneath fruit or straight and spreading, 16–20 mm long for sigmoid pedicels and straight pedicels shorter; stipe beneath siliqua < 0.4 mm long. **Seed:** lens-shaped, 1.2–2 mm across, ca. 0.8 mm thick, brown to reddish, lacking wing, smooth or large seeds minutely textured (domed cells); cotyledons acumbent.

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