

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Pinaropappus roseum var. *mcvaughii* – SMALL ROCKLETTUCE, WHITE ROCKLETTUCE
[Asteraceae]

Pinaropappus roseum (Less.) Less. var. *mcvaughii* Pool, SMALL ROCKLETTUCE, WHITE ROCKLETTUCE. Perennial herb, taprooted, rosetted, in range 1-several-stemmed at base, rosetted, typically principal axes unbranched, with solitary inflorescences in range to 38 cm tall; shoots having to several–many basal leaves and several cauline leaves, entirely glabrous; latex milky; taproot often with swellings and beadlike. **Stems:** cylindric (scarcely ridged, to 2.5 mm diameter, tough, green and glaucous or tinged purple, sometimes showing a decurrent midvein from leaf. **Leaves:** helically alternate, pinnately toothed (lobed) with acute to acuminate, straight or curved, widely spaced lobes, short-petiolate (basal leaves) and sessile (cauline leaves), without stipules; petiole flared at base, flat, colorless at base, indistinct from blade; blade obovate or oblanceolate (basal leaves) to oblanceolate or elliptic-linear, 40–120 × 4–18 mm long (basal and lower cauline leaves), decreasing upward, long-tapered at base, lobes spaced by wide rounded sinuses and acute at tip, upper cauline leaves entire and acute to acuminate at tip, margins often red-purple, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** head, solitary and terminal on long peduncle, head ligulate, ca. 25 mm across, with ca. 60 bisexual flowers, bracteate, glabrous (hairs only on corollas); peduncle several-ridged, to 150 mm long, tough, with ridges descending from bracts especially of involucre, green and glaucous, having 1–2 green bracts (diminutive cauline leaves) along axis, the bracts widely spaced, linear, < 10 × 0.8 mm decreasing upward, at top having to 3 bracts appressed to involucre (= a weakly defined calyculus, alternatively interpreted as outer phyllaries), ovate to obovate, 2–5 × 1.2–2.2 mm, light green with white to pinkish margins and purple to brown with a short, fine point at tip; **involucre** in bud narrowly conic, at anthesis bell-shaped to midpoint with flaring inner phyllaries, ca. 17 × 5.5 mm (lower portion), phyllaries ca. 22 in 4 series, closely appressed, unequal, glabrous, 1-veined, of outer series indistinct from calyculus, ovate, ca. 5 × 3 mm to middle series ovate to oblong-ovate, 6–11 × 3 mm, light green with pink margins sometimes tinged purple and brown at acute tip, of the innermost series membranous and lanceolate, to 11 × 2.5 mm, green with colorless to pinkish margins and never brown at tip, after flower becoming narrowly conic but long bell-shaped in developing fruit; receptacle flat, with ovaries in very shallow pits, with conspicuous bractlets (paleae), at anthesis hollow beneath receptacle, glabrous and a persistent, short vascular strand to each ovary, palea subtending each outer and middle flower or appearing to subtend several flowers, membranous and acuminate-narrowly lanceolate, 12–14 × 1.2–2.5 mm, mostly colorless. **Ligulate flower:** bisexual, bilateral, 5–6 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** capillary bristles (not smooth), 50–70+ in 1 whorl, 3.8–8.3 mm long, white, fused to colorless ring at base, not feathery (plumose), persistent; **corolla** 5-lobed, of outer 20 flowers 16–18 mm long, grading to inner flowers of ca. 12 mm long; tube cylindric, 4–4.5 mm long, 0.4 mm diameter, white, of inner flowers sometimes with several short hairs; throat 1.5–2 mm long, to 0.7 mm diameter at orifice, white (outer flower) or light yellow (inner flowers) also on lower limb with short colorless hairs; limb 5-lobed (toothed), expanded portion strap-shaped, of outer flowers 2–3 mm wide and commonly rose-pink to light lavender, of middle and inner flower 1.5–2 mm wide and white, teeth

rounded, 0.2–0.8 mm long; **stamens** 5, arising at top of corolla tube; filaments ca. 1.5 mm long, white, glabrous; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, almost fully exerted from corolla throat, \pm 4 mm long + pale yellow, slender tails ca. 1 mm long, light yellow aging orangish with colorless short appendages at top, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1, 13–15 mm long; ovary inferior, cylindric-narrowly barrel-shaped, ca. 1 \times 0.5 mm, white, smooth, glabrous lacking glandular hairs, at anthesis with narrower beak ca. 0.2 mm long, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted from anthers, white, 0.15 mm diameter, 2-branched, below midpoint smooth, not swollen at base (**nectary disc** surround base of style not observed), the branches stigmatic, ca. 4 mm long, and exerted at least 3 mm above tips of anthers, branches + below fork densely short-papillate. **Fruits:** cypselae (achenes), cylindric, 4–5 \times 0.6 mm long, the widest near or slightly above midpoint, tan, smooth; beak smooth, ca. 1 mm long; pappus of 50–70 spreading-ascending capillary bristles in 1 whorl, short-beaked with unequal bristles united at base, 3.8–8.3 mm long, white aging tannish, not plumose.

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