**Vascular Plants of Williamson County**

*Polycarpon tetraphyllum* subsp. *tetraphyllum* – FOURLEAF MANYSEED, FOUR-LEAVED ALLSEED [Caryophyllaceae]

*Polycarpon tetraphyllum* (L.) L. subsp. *tetraphyllum*, FOURLEAF MANYSEED, FOUR-LEAVED ALLSEED. Annual, taprooted, several–many-stemmed at base, mat-forming without adventitious roots, decumbent to prostrate, 3–15 cm tall; shoots ± 2-dimensional ( plagiotropic), glabrous. **Stems:** 10–20-ridged, < 1.5 mm diameter, the ridges descending from leaf bases and beaded, green to rose-red, the beads colorless and consisting of cells with axially elongate papillae. **Leaves:** opposite but at many node appearing as a whorl of 4 leaves (an unexpanded axillary shoot at that node produces a pair of smaller leaves), simple, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2 per node, attached to stem, narrowly triangular to deltate-acuminate, 1.8–2.8 mm long, membranous becoming silvery scarious, often split from tip to base, persistent; petiole 5-ridged on lower side, 1–4 mm long, the ridges beaded like ridges on stem and along midrib; blade broadly elliptic or obovate to ovate or roundish, 2–12 × 1–7(–10) mm, broadly tapered at base, entire, obtuse to rounded at tip, pinnately veined with only midrib conspicuous, dull green, lower midrib with 1–5 rows of beaded-papillate cells. **Inflorescence:** dichasial cyme, terminal and axillary, typically dense, several– > 30-flowered (1-flowered), bracteate, glabrous; peduncle stemlike with beaded ridges; bract subtending lateral branch or branchlet stipulelike, lanceolate, membranous becoming scarious; bractlet subtending pedicel like bract; pedicel mostly 1–2.5(–5) mm long, with beaded ridges. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 1.5–2 mm across increasing in fruit; hypanthium beneath pistil saucer-shaped, ± 0.8 mm diameter, green, narrowly rimmed; **sepals** (4–)5, unequal, lanceolate to ovate, 1.8–2.5 mm long increasing to 3 mm in fruit, short-awned, mostly green aging reddish purple on herbaceous tissue, strongly keeled, the keel 0.3–0.5 mm wide and deep, margins whitish membranous and ± 0.3 mm wide at base narrowing to tip, continuous across tip and making sepal ± hoodlike, the awn subterminal, 0.3–0.7 mm long, continuous with keel, whitish to semi-translucent due to papillate-serrate cells; **petals** (4–)5, formed on hypanthium rim, ± elliptic to narrowly ovate or oblong, 0.7–1.1 × ± 0.4 mm, whitish, acute to truncate or short-notched at tip, wilting quickly; **stamens** 3, free, formed on hypanthium rim, included; filaments appressed to ovary, < 0.5 mm long, colorless or whitish; anthers basifixed, dithecal, heart-shaped, ± 0.2 mm long, yellow, longitudinally and inwardly dehiscent; pollen yellow; **pistil** 1, < 2 mm long, on a minute stalk (stipe); ovary superior, broadly ovoid, pale green, 1-chambered with many ovules attached to center post and base; style < 0.3 mm long, with 3 obscure branches; stigmas minute. **Fruit:** capsule, short-stalked, loculicidal, dehiscing by 3 twisting valves, typically 10–16-seeded, broadly ovoid, 1.7–2 × 1.1–1.2 mm, with seeds attached to placentae at base; hidden by persistent calyx. **Seed:** D-shaped, 0.6–0.7 × 0.4 mm, light tan, blisterlike.

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