

**Vascular Plants of Williamson County**  
*Portulaca pilosa* – CHISME [Portulacaceae]

*Portulaca pilosa* L., CHISME. Annual, fleshy-leaved, diffuse-rooted, several–many-stemmed at base, cushionlike, with spreading principal branches and in canopy shoots upturned and often forked with each branch having a terminal inflorescence, spreading and mostly decumbent (prostrate), 3–25 cm tall; shoots typically with fleshy cauline leaves, foliage glabrous. **Stems:** cylindric, < 2 mm diameter, light green aging with smooth, brownish periderm, having flat, elliptic leaf scars and persistent and conspicuous axillary tufts of coarse, long white hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, short-petiolate, without stipules; petiole hemicylindric, 0.8–1.3 × 0.7–0.9 mm, fleshy, whitish, at base with an abscission groove on lower side, white hairs in axil of petiole 5–7 mm long; blade linear and compressed somewhat top-to-bottom (elliptic in ×-section), < 5–10 × 1–1.5 × 0.9–1 mm, fleshy, mottled green, rounded and slightly wider at base than petiole, entire, blunt acute at tip, lacking obvious venation. **Inflorescence:** leafy condensed cyme, terminal, of 2–7 flowers rimmed by < 10 alternate leaves, appearing involucrelike and dish-shaped 4–5 mm across and surrounded by the radiating leaves around the rim, the inner surface of dish covered by a dense tuft of white hairs to 6 mm long, flowers sessile, bracteate, glabrous; bract + bractlets subtending flower 2 or 3, appressed to base of ovary, subequal, membranous, ± deltate, ca. 1 × 1.5 mm, persistent and scarious in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, when freshly open in morning in range 8–10 mm across and closing rapidly when stressed; **calyx** of 2 subequal and distichous “sepals” fused at base and to lower portion of ovary, outer sepal overlapping tip of shorter inner sepal, somewhat membranous, deltate, ca. 4 × 3 mm, translucent pale green, half-sheathing, not keeled, persistent and wrapped tightly around developing fruit thereby enclosing withered petals and dried filaments; **petals** 5, spreading, obovate, 5.5–6 × 2.5–2.7 mm, magenta but white at base, truncate to slightly notched with short point at tip; **stamens** 13–21 in several whorls, free; filaments 2–2.6 mm long, of the outer whorl slightly > inner stamens, magenta, with a tuft of papillate hairs at whitish base; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.6–0.7 mm long, bright yellow, the sacs unequal, the longer chambers touching at tip, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen bright yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary half-inferior, ovoid, exposed portion conic, 1 mm long, lime green, glabrous, 1-chambered with many ovules attached on vertical funiculi to a basal post; style 3 mm long, 4–6-branched at 2 mm from base, white at base to rose or magenta and hollow at fork, the branches ascending to spreading at same level as anthers, strap-shaped, ca. 1–1.2 mm long, magenta, magenta papillate-ciliate. **Fruit:** capsule (pyxis), with dehiscence around circumference (circumscissile) 1/3 from base, ca. 40-seeded, ovoid rounded on top, 2.1–2.4 × 1.6 mm, tan, seeds attached via conspicuous, vertical funiculi to central, basal placentae; basal portion cup-shaped and persistent among long white hairs on involucre; dried perianth twisted and adherent to exposed fruit, withered like a peaked cap. **Seed:** compressed snail-like with curved embryo, 0.4 × 0.4 × 0.3 mm, ± glossy black, finely warty (tuberculate), the bulging cells in rows around curved seed.

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