

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum – RED-TIP RABBIT-TOBACCO [Asteraceae]

Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum (L.) Hilliard, RED-TIP RABBIT-TOBACCO. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, several-stemmed at base, basal stems typically radiating from the lowermost nodes, in range decumbent to erect, 12–20(–55) cm tall; shoots woolly with long, soft, white hairs, glandular hairs widely scattered and inconspicuous, ± unscented. **Stems:** cylindric, to 3 mm diameter, with decurrent ridges for 1–2 mm from blades, the woolly hairs matted and longitudinally oriented. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade oblanceolate or spatulate (basal and lower cauline leaves) to linear, oblong-linear, or linear-lanceolate (upper cauline leaves), in range 15–40(–85) × 3–7(–15) mm, typically not clasping at base, entire and sometimes wavy on margins, margins partially inrolled (basal leaves) to fully inrolled under (revolute, cauline leaves), rounded (basal leaves) to obtuse or acuminate (cauline leaves) at tip to long-tapered sometimes with a scarious tip, pinnately veined with raised midrib on lower surface (obscured by wool), upper surface grayish green, loosely to densely woolly, lower surface densely white-woolly. **Inflorescence:** heads, in terminal dense, ± flat-topped to paniclelike arrays of hemispheric to spheric clusters, clusters (10–)15–20 mm across, of 5–35 heads, by first anthesis arrays projecting well beyond the uppermost cauline leaves, head disciform, 110–160-flowered, of mostly pistillate peripheral flowers with 4–8(–10) bisexual central flowers, bracteate, densely white-woolly; inflorescence axes densely white-woolly, especially approaching head cluster; bract subtending each lateral axis, of the lowest branchlet lanceolate and leaflike with a tannish, scarious tip, grading to bracts of the upper branchlets ovate and mostly scarious (not leaflike), 4–7 mm long, glabrous, cupped, at its triangular base green and woolly and above colorless to pale green or light brown; peduncle subtending head short increasing to 3 mm long in fruit; **involucre** ± ovoid to urn-shaped, in range 3–3.7 × (2.5–)2.8–3.3 mm, white becoming brownish white, phyllaries many in ± 4 series, appressed, the outermost phyllaries ovate to elliptic, 2.5–3.2(–4) × 1.8 mm, mostly colorless but with a central green streak at base, glabrous except long-woolly on green area, inner phyllaries oblong-elliptic to oblanceolate, 2.8–3 × 1.3 mm, below midpoint stiff and at anthesis green aging brown, 1-veined, pubescent, above midpoint scarious, phyllaries widely spreading in fruit; flowers > phyllaries; receptacle flat, without bractlets (paleae); with minute pedicels. **Peripheral flower:** pistillate, radial, 0.2 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of ± 12 capillary bristles in 1 whorl united at base, 1.7–2.1 mm long, typically > corolla, whitish translucent; **corolla** 3-lobed, 1.5–2.1 mm long; tube angular in ×-section; lobes acute, ± 0.1 mm long, dark rose-purple to reddish; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, long sausage-shaped, ± 0.6 × 0.2 mm, whitish, glabrous, minutely warty (papillate-hairy), 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style slightly exerted, **nectary** swollen and producing nectar at base, style 2-branched, the branches spreading and somewhat recurved, ± 0.3 mm long, tapered. **Center flower:** bisexual, radial, 0.2 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of ± 12 capillary bristles in 1 whorl united at base, 1.7–2.1 mm long, typically > corolla, whitish translucent; **corolla** 5-lobed; tube cylindric, 1.7–2.2 × < 0.5 mm; lobes acute, ± 0.25 mm long, light pink to orange-pink or reddish; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla tube, included; filaments ± 0.3 mm long; anthers fused into cylinder

surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, ± 1 mm long, yellowish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellowish, sticky; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, long sausage-shaped, $\pm 0.6 \times 0.2$ mm long, whitish, glabrous, minutely warty, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style included, swollen and producing nectar at base, 2-branched, the branches spreading and somewhat recurved, ± 0.3 mm long, truncate. **Fruits:** cypselae, monomorphic, sausage-shaped, $0.6\text{--}0.7 \times 0.25$ mm, brownish, minutely papillate; pappus of ± 12 united capillary bristles $1.7\text{--}2.1$ mm long, minutely barbed, typically separating from cypselae and falling in groups.
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