

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Pyrrhopappus carolinianus – CAROLINA FALSE DANDELION [Asteraceae]

Pyrrhopappus carolinianus (Walter) DC., CAROLINA FALSE DANDELION. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, acaulous and scapose with to 5 ascending to suberect inflorescences, in range to 50 cm tall; shoots with several–20(–40+) basal leaves at flowering and cauline leaves; latex milky. **Stems:** low-ridged, with several ridges descending from leaf, with dense tuft of white hairs where leaf attaches to stem; long internodes hollow. **Leaves:** helically alternate, deeply pinnately lobed, petiolate, without stipules; petiole crescent-shaped in \times -section to \pm flattened and flared at base, to 10 mm long below decurrent blade tissue; blade oblanceolate to obovate in outline, basal and lower cauline leaves to 300 \times 40 mm and upper cauline leaves to 400 mm long, lateral lobes not paired to somewhat paired, asymmetric oblong or triangular to obovate, mostly to 25 \times 8 mm, sinuses halfway to midrib, with sublobes and broad teeth mostly on leading margin, with reddish callus on lobe tip, of the cauline leaves with a pair of diverging, oblong to lanceolate lobes to 55 mm long, terminal lobe \pm elliptic and nearly entire on margins, lobes innately veined with midvein slightly sunken on upper surface and several principal veins raised on lower surface, \pm short-pilose with hairs initially radiating and straight. **Inflorescence:** heads, in open, cymelike arrays axillary to upper basal leaves, array having 1–2(–5) heads, head ligulate, ca. 20–44 mm across, of 55–100+ bisexual flowers, bracteate, initially pubescent aging glabrescent; bract subtending peduncle leaflike, pinnately lobed, oblanceolate, having narrower lobes than lower leaves; peduncle ridged, 150–450+ mm long, tough, with ridges descending from calyculus bracts, pubescent with \pm villous hairs to glabrate and having minute glandular hairs approaching head aging essentially glabrous, bracts at top of peduncle subtending involucre (calyculus) 13–19+ in 2–3 series, ascending, acuminate-lanceolate, 5–8 \times 1–1.3 mm, white to midpoint and green above midpoint often reddish to purplish at tip, somewhat keeled, glabrous; **involucre** initially \pm cylindric ca. 7 mm wide to cup-shaped, 15–25 mm long, of 16–24 phyllaries in (1–)2 series fused to midpoint, oblong-lanceolate with subterminal, purple to brown finlike projection (conspicuous in bud), to 17 \times 1.2–1.5 mm, light green with narrow membranous margins, papillate-hairy at tip; receptacle \pm convex, with shallow pit for each flower, lacking bractlets (paleae), glabrous. **Ligulate flower:** bilateral, 2–4 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** with outer series of curly hairs to 0.4 mm long, 2 inner series of 80–120 fine, silky bristles 7–9.5 mm long having minute barbs; **corolla** 5-toothed at tip; tube cylindric, 7–8 \times 0.5 mm, white, with colorless hairs on upper tube and lower limb; limb linear to strap-shaped, 9–21 mm long, bright yellow, teeth to 0.3 mm long, lower surface ciliate on margin below midpoint; **stamens** 5, attached at top of corolla tube; filaments 2–2.5 mm long, pale yellow-orange; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, 3.2–4 mm long, light yellow-orange with brownish red ribs, appendages diminutive, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, \pm obovoid, 1 \times 0.6–0.7 mm, white, glabrous and minutely scabrous; beak at top at anthesis \pm 0.5 mm long, pale green; style 1, exserted, ca. 17 mm long, whitish at base to light yellow-orange (exserted), 2-branched only at top, the exserted portion with short, upward-pointing barbs and stigmatic on branches. **Fruits:** cypselae (achenes), beaked, columnar often slightly wider above midpoint and tapered at top, in range ca. 4 \times 0.8–1 mm, dark brown to reddish brown, covered with horizontal rows

of short, stiff, appressed, brownish hairs; beak straight, slender, 8–10 mm long, with spreading, tawny pappus at top.

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