

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Pyrrhopappus pauciflorus – FALSE DANDELION [Asteraceae]

Pyrrhopappus pauciflorus (D. Don) DC., FALSE DANDELION. Annual, taprooted, rosetted at flowering, 1–several-stemmed at base, not acaulous, principal branches with inflorescence ascending, in range 15–35 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, lower stems hairy but leaves less but blades short-ciliate; latex white. **Stems:** low-ridged, to 4 mm diameter, with 5 ridges descending from leaf, ridges often red-purple, having coarse hairs especially along ridges. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple and petiolate (basal leaves) and pinnately lobed and sessile (cauline leaves), without stipules; petiole crescent-shaped in \times -section widely flared and overlapping at base, to 8 mm long, white, indistinct from blade, sparsely ciliate on margins; blade of basal leaf oblanceolate to obovate, 35–80 \times 15–30 mm, long-tapered at base, low-dentate to subentire on margins short-ciliate on margins, acute to obtuse at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface, with some nonglandular hairs on lower surface; blade of cauline leaf ovate to triangular in outline, to 50 mm long, with at least a pair of acute lobes below midblade, sinuses shallow to deep, with scattered hairs on both surfaces. **Inflorescence:** heads, 2–several on terminal cymelike array, 1–several arrays per plant, head ligulate, of 28–45 flowers, 30–37 mm across, bracteate; bract subtending axis of array = diminutive cauline leaf; bract subtending peduncle and widely saced along peduncle awl-shaped and half-sheathing, to 6 mm long, white at base and green above midpoint with purple-red tip; peduncle \pm cylindric, 20–45+ mm long, green, with sparse, very short nonglandular hairs and minutely glandular-hairy, at top with ca. 8–9 bracts in 2–3 series (calyculus), bracts \pm appressed to involucre, acuminate-lanceolate, 2.5–5 mm long, white only at base and green above base with purple-red tip, not keeled, glabrous; **involucre** of 13–16 phyllaries in 1–2 series fused to or somewhat above midpoint (conspicuous ridges on inner surface), fused portion cylindric 7–9 \times 4–6 mm with arching to widely spreading upper portions of phyllaries during full bloom beneath outer ligulate flowers, cylinder with woolly white hairs in furrows, upper portions narrowly triangular in outline, to 6 \times 0.6–1.3 mm, below midpoint green with membranous margins, above midpoint with a subterminal finlike projection often reddish to red-purple and tip red-puberulent on outer (lower) surface; receptacle low-convex, lacking bractlets (paleae), shallowly pitted, glabrous; hollow beneath receptacle. **Ligulate flower:** bilateral, 3–4 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** dimorphic, outer pappus a tuft of downward-pointing hairs to 0.4 mm long, inner pappus of many capillary bristles in ca. 2 series, in range 7–8 mm long, colorless; **corolla** 5-toothed; tube cylindric, 5.5–6 \times 0.5 mm, white, glabrous but with some colorless, shaggy hairs approaching throat (visible above involucre); limb elliptic to broadly oblanceolate, 12–16.5 \times 3–5.3 mm, mostly light yellow, on outer flowers lower surface often whitish and with reddish purple lines or patch to central 3 teeth, having colorless shaggy hairs on outer surface below level of anthers; **stamens** 5, fused to top of corolla tube; filaments ca. 2 mm long, pale orange; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, exerted, basifixed, dithecal, 3–3.5 mm long including short, rounded appendages 0.2 mm long, brown-red to purplish red; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, cylindric to narrowly barrel-shaped, ca. 1.3 \times 0.5 mm, white, ridges inconspicuous minutely scabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; column at top of ovary elevating pappus on disc, cylindric, at anthesis 0.5

mm long, green; **nectary disc** surrounding base of style, 0.3 mm long, whitish; style exerted from anthers, cylindric, 14–16 mm long, white at base to yellow where exerted, 2-branched, yellow portion with minute, upward-pointed hairs, the stigmatic branches spreading, 0.5 mm long. **Fruit:** cypselae (achenes), with silky pappus, long-beaked; fruit body ± fusiform, 4–5 × 0.75–1.1 mm, reddish brown, with low ridges and shallow furrows, with short, upward-pointing hairs; fruit beak in range 6–7 mm long, slender but wider where attached to fruit body; pappus of inner part spheroid display of many capillary bristles 7–8 mm long, tawny, with tuft of short hairs (outer pappus) at top of beak on disc; involucre reflexed using with splitting of cylinder downward but typically not to base.

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