

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Spermolepis inermis – SMOOTH SCALESEED [Apiaceae]

Spermolepis inermis (DC.) Mathias & Constance, SMOOTH SCALESEED. Annual, taprooted, short-lived rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, branched throughout, forked at most nodes in canopy, erect with ascending branches, in range to 50 mm long; shoots with basal and cauline leaves, foliage feathery, shoots glabrous, when crushed with a faint smell like coriander (*Coriandrum*). **Stems:** cylindrical, to 3 mm diameter, smooth, lower stem red-purple with darker veins, upper stems green with red-purple veins, internodes to 70 mm long. **Leaves:** helically alternate, deeply 3–4-pinnately dissected, < 20–100 mm long decreasing upward, petiolate, without stipules; petiole flared at base, to 45 mm long (basal and lower cauline leaves) or < 10 mm long (upper cauline leaves, the uppermost to 1.5 mm long), red-purple at base and above deeply channeled, ridged to 7-veined on lower side, with membranous wings to 8 mm long, of upper cauline leaves wing ca. 0.5 wide to touching axis of primary rachis, upper petiole axis green with rose-red ridges; blade of basal and lower cauline leaves ovate in outline, to 55 mm long, typically with opposite primary and secondary lateral “leaflets,” 3-parted at top of petiole with leaflets arising on upper side of rachis and rachillas, primary rachis and rachillas channeled, rachilla angled, ultimate segments linear, to 8 × 0.5–1 mm, light yellow-green. **Inflorescence:** compound umbel, arising as 1 axis per node, mostly of 5 umbellets and 2 shorter, 1-flowered axes, 15–28-flowered, typically to 15 mm long, umbellet mostly 5(–6)-flowered, bracteate, glabrous; peduncle slender, to 70 mm long; **involucre** absent; primary rays unequal and divergent, to 12 mm long; involucre of (1–)3 bractlets subtending the longest pedicels, fused at base, subequal, ascending, 0.7–1 mm long, light green; pedicel ascending, slender, at anthesis short increasing to 6.5 × 0.3 mm, the central pedicels much shorter (central flower sessile). **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ± 1.5 mm across; **sepals** absent; **petals** 5, spreading and lacking a tip curved inward, roundish, 0.4–0.5 × 0.4 mm, white, lacking midridge on upper (inner) surface; **stamens** 5, free, alternate with petals; filaments ascending hooked inward at top, tapered to tip, 0.3–0.35 mm long, white; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.15 mm long, cream-colored aging reddish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, 2-lobed with a 2-lobed platform (stylopodium, stylar tissue) on top, somewhat cup-shaped truncate at top, 0.7 × 0.5 × 0.35 mm, light yellow-green lacking ribs, warty (tuberculate), stylopodium light green, ovary 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 0.1 mm long, white. **Fruit:** schizocarp, of 2 dry, 1-seeded halves (mericarps), mericarps hemi-ovoid lacking obvious ribs on broad sides, flat on inner face but drying indented, 1.5–1.75 × 0.6–0.7 mm including stylopodium lobe at top, brown, the ribs most visible approaching tip, not corky.

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