

## Vascular Plants of Williamson County

*Thymophylla pentachaeta* var. *puberula* – PARRALENA [Asteraceae]

*Thymophylla pentachaeta* (DC.) Small var. *puberula* (Rydb.) Strother (if var. recognized), PARRALENA. Perennial herb, taprooted, not rosetted, several-stemmed at base, in range to 22 cm tall; gynomonecious; shoots with only cauline leaves, leaves finely dissected, foliage having orange, blisterlike glands, aromatic when crushed, foliage and stems puberulent.

**Stems:** ± cylindric, to 1.5 mm diameter, often red-purple, zigzagged, puberulent, lacking orange glands, lower stems covered by retained lower portions of leaves. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, deeply pinnately lobed with 3–7 linear lobes and lateral lobes ± paired and widely spaced, with sheathing bases often fused across node, without stipules; blade to 20 mm long, leaf axis winglike at base with pair of short lobes, at base upper surface short-pubescent and puberulent, other lateral lobes to 10 mm long above, terminal lobe to 12 mm long, lobes fine-pointed at tips, pinnately veined with midrib whitish and raised on upper and lower surface, lobes surfaces with orangish blister glands. **Inflorescence:** solitary head, terminal on long peduncle, head radiate, 11–13 mm across, having 12–14 ray flowers and to 60 bisexual disc flowers, bracteate (bracts having orange, blisterlike glands); peduncle slender cylindric, 30–75 × 0.6 mm, wiry, green or blushed red, with several alternate appressed bracts along axis awl-shaped, 0.8–1.4 mm long, bracts at top 0–5 (calyculus) subtending involucre, awl-shaped, ca. 1 mm long, with raised base, puberulent and short-ciliate on margins; **involucre** bell-shaped becoming hemispheric in fruit, 4–5 × 4 mm, phyllaries ca. 21 in 3 series, fused above midpoint, puberulent and short-ciliate on margins, outer phyllaries triangular, 0.5–0.6 mm wide, of inner series ± deltate, 1–1.2 mm, parallel-veined, inner phyllaries with wide membranous margins, mostly with 2 light orange oil glands on green (purplish) tissue, pairs of oil glands on fused involucre, puberulent; receptacle domed, having papillae surrounding each ovary of disc flower. **Ray flower:** pistillate, bilateral, 1.5–1.8 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** in range to 10 scales, fused at base into ring, 5–7 oblanceolate to narrowly obovate scales 0.7–1.2 mm long + 3 scales having needlelike point (aristate) ca. 2.5 mm long, scarious, jagged on margins, persistent; **corolla** unlobed and without teeth; tube cylindric, 1.5–1.7 × 0.3 mm, yellowish, faintly 5-veined, with several glandular hairs; limb when fully formed widely spreading, elliptic, 4–5 × 1.5–1.8 mm, golden yellow, rounded at tip, upper surface with domed cells, lower surface with 5 faint veins; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, long-tapered to point at base and somewhat angular, ca. 2.5 × 0.3 mm, finely 20-ribbed with short ascending hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted, ca. 2.3 mm long, 2-branched, below fork yellow, the branches stigmatic, spreading, 0.4–0.5 mm long. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, 1 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** in range 10–12 scales, fused at base into ring, 5–7 oblanceolate to narrowly obovate scales 0.7–1.3 mm long + 5 scales with (0–)3(–5) having only 1 needlelike point (aristate) 2–2.6 mm long, scarious, jagged on margins, persistent; **corolla** 5-lobed, tube + throat cylindric, ± 2.5 × 0.4–0.45 mm, colorless at base to yellowish then golden yellow above midpoint; lobes ascending, triangular, 0.4–0.6 mm long, golden yellow; **stamens** 5, attached to top of corolla tube; filaments threadlike, ± 0.5 mm long, colorless; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, ca. 0.7 mm long, yellow-orange, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow-orange; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, long-tapered to point at base and somewhat angular,

2.5 × 0.3 mm, white, 20-ribbed with ascending short hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style included, ca. 2.5 mm long, 2-branched, yellowish below fork, the branches stigmatic, 0.5 mm long, yellow-orange. **Fruits:** cypselae (achenes), angled with ca. 20 fine ribs gradually tapered to sharp base, 1.7–2.7 × 0.3 mm, black to deep purple (brown), with ascending short hairs along ribs; pappus scales in 2 series ascending, scarious, to 2.7 mm long, with brownish axis.

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