

Vascular Plants of Milam County

Thymophylla tenuiloba var. *tenuiloba* – BRISTLELEAF DOGWEED, BRISTLELEAF PRICKLYLEAF, DAHLBERG DAISY, GOLDEN FLEECE [Asteraceae]

Thymophylla tenuiloba (DC.) Small var. *tenuiloba* (incl. var. *wrightii*), BRISTLELEAF DOGWEED, BRISTLELEAF PRICKLYLEAF, DAHLBERG DAISY (cultivars), GOLDEN FLEECE (cultivars). Annual, taprooted, not rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, in range to 15 cm tall; gynomonecious or with pistillate only plants; shoots with only cauline leaves, leaves finely dissected, foliage having orange, blisterlike glands, slightly aromatic when crushed.

Stems: ± cylindrical, to 1 mm diameter, mostly green, zigzagged, internodes 10 mm long, weakly ridged with 1 sparsely scabrous ridge descending from each leaf, lacking orange glands, lower stems not covered by retained lower portions of leaves. **Leaves:** opposite decussate (the lowermost nodes) and fused across node and helically alternate to subopposite (most cauline nodes), deeply pinnately lobed with 3–5 linear lobes and lateral lobes paired (on opposite nodes) or not and widely spaced, with sheathing bases fused across node (opposite pairs only), without stipules; blade to 24 mm long, leaf axis winglike at base and narrowly channeled above, to 10 mm long, lobes cylindric, the lowest pair near base often short lobes, the terminal lobe to 12 mm long and < lateral lobes, lobes mostly minutely scabrous along 2 edges, lobes fine-pointed at colorless tips, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface and often minutely scabrous, lobe surfaces with sparse, orangish blister glands. **Inflorescence:** solitary head, terminal on long peduncle, head radiate, 10–11 mm across, having 8–13 ray flowers (greater in cultivars), some individuals with 50+ bisexual disc flowers (possibly different individuals with pistillate disc flowers and 0 bisexual disc flowers but not observed), bracteate (bracts having orange, blisterlike glands); peduncle slender cylindric, 25–70 × ± 0.35 mm, wiry, green, with several alternate appressed bracts along axis (sometimes near midpoint), awl-shaped, to 2 mm long, base decurrent as sparsely scabrous ridge along peduncle, thicker portion of base reddish with 2 orange blister glands and minute projections, bracts at top 0–5 (calyculus) subtending involucre, awl-shaped and appressed, to 2 mm long, with raised base having a pair of orange blister glands and minute projections on margins; **involucre** funnel-shaped and mildly ribbed becoming wider in fruit, 4.5–5 × 2.5 mm, phyllaries 8–13 (1 per ray flower) fused most of length, involucre tube glabrous with many light orange blister glands approaching top, the lobes in 2 series, broadly ovate ca. 1 mm long spreading from midpoint and conspicuously ciliate on pale green margins base-to-tip, with 1–2 blister glands below midpoint; receptacle domed. **Ray flower:** pistillate, bilateral, ca. 1.5 mm across (corolla limb); **calyx (pappus)** in range to 10–12 scales, fused at base into ring, scales 2.5–3 mm long, each scale with 3–5 needlelike points (aristate) arising below midpoint, scarious, jagged on margins, persistent; **corolla** ± unlobed and without well-defined teeth; tube cylindric, ca. 1.8 × 0.15 mm, yellowish, faintly 5-veined, with several glandular hairs; limb when fully formed widely spreading, ± elliptic-obovate, ca. 3.5 × 1.4 mm, orange-yellow (golden), rounded or with 2 shallow sinuses at tip, upper surface with domed cells, lower surface with 3–5 faint veins; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, narrowly wedge-shaped, ca. 2 × 0.35 mm, whitish, with appressed short-hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted, 2.5 mm long, 2-branched, below fork yellow, the branches stigmatic, fully exerted, orange-yellow, spreading, ca. 1 mm long. **Disc flower:**

bisexual (pistillate only not observed), radial, 1 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** in range 10–12 scales, fused at base into ring, lower portion ca. 0.8 mm long, upper portion = 3–5 unequal, capillarylike points 1–2 mm long (aristate), scarious, jagged on margins, persistent; **corolla** 5-lobed, lacking hairs; tube cylindric, ca. 0.8 mm long, yellowish; throat cylindric slightly wider at orifice, veins light orange-yellow; lobes deltate, 0.2–0.25 mm long, light orange-yellow; **stamens** 5, attached to top of corolla tube; filaments threadlike, \pm 0.5 mm long, colorless; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, ca. 0.8 mm long, light yellow-orange, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow-orange; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, narrowly wedge-shaped, ca. 1.8×0.3 mm, whitish, with ascending short hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style eventually exerted, ca. 3 mm long, 2-branched, yellowish below fork, the branches stigmatic, 0.5 mm long, light yellow-orange. **Fruits:** cypselae (achenes), 5-angled and 4-sided, gradually tapered to callous base, ca. 2.2×0.35 mm, black (disc flowers) to mid-brown (ray flowers), short-strigose along angles with upward-pointing hairs; pappus scales ascending, to 2.5 mm long, tawny.

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