

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Torilis nodosa – KNOTTED HEDGE PARSLEY, SHORT SOCK-DESTROYER [Apiaceae]

Torilis nodosa (L.) Gaertn., KNOTTED HEDGE PARSLEY, SHORT SOCK-DESTROYER. Annual, taprooted, 1–several-stemmed at base, often branching at most nodes, spreading or ascending (erect), in range 7–30+ cm tall; shoots short-hairy, when crushed lightly aromatic ± like carrot (*Daucus*). **Stems:** cylindric (not ridged), tough, green-stripped and yellow-stripped aging with red-purple stripes, sparsely short-strigose with mostly downward-pointing hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, 2–3-pinnately compound or dissected with paired lateral primary leaflets and alternate secondary lobes or secondary leaflets, petiolate, without stipules; petiole channeled, short–40 mm long, lower portion with membranous wings to the lowest pair of primary leaflets, base > 2/3 around node, short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs; blade ovate or oblong to lanceolate in outline, 25–125 mm long, having to 5 pairs of lateral primary leaflets arising from upper side of rachis; rachis channeled, rachis segments long becoming reduced above, blades of primary leaflets ovate to lanceolate, deeply lobed; rachilla channeled; ultimate segments acute-lanceolate to narrowly triangular, to 5 × 1–1.5 mm wide, pinnately veined with principal veins raised on lower surface, short-hirsute with straight, upward-pointing hairs (not appressed). **Inflorescence:** compound umbel, condensed, lateral and opposite leaf, of 2 umbellets, each umbellet 5–7-flowered, bracteate, short-strigose; peduncle ridged, to 35 mm long, < leaf, 1–1.5 mm diameter, stiff sparsely short-stigose; **involucre** absent; primary rays short and stiff; involucre of bractlets subtending pedicels, bractlets linear, short increasing to 3–5 mm long in fruit; pedicels of umbellet unequal, to 15 mm long but 1 or 2 flowers with very short pedicel. **Flower:** bisexual, ± radial, ca. 1.5 mm across; **sepals** 5, inconspicuous, ascending, awl-shaped, 0.2–0.3 mm long, green with colorless point at tip, papillate, persistent but hidden by bristles on fruit; **petals** 5, spreading, ± monomorphic, appearing obovate in outline but having an incurved acuminate tip > midpoint, 0.7–0.8 × 0.35–0.45 mm, outer petal slightly wider, white, with midridge on upper (inner) surface, lower surface with several short hairs; **stamens** 5, free, ascending to spreading; filaments ca. 0.3 mm long, white; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.25 mm long, white, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, hidden by ascending, grayish white bristles mostly on outer half, inner half often with stubby projections (tuberculate) where bristles would have formed, 2-lobed with discoid platform on top (stylopodium), 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 2, conic, 0.1 mm long, pale green. **Fruits:** schizocarp, of 2 dry, 1-seeded halves (mericarps), before splitting ovate compressed side-to-side, 2–3 mm long, ribs either densely prickly (mericarp on outer side of umbellet) or with tubercles (mericarp on interior of umbellet), the bristles in vertical rows and ascending, 1–2 mm long, with minute hooks on shaft and barbed at tip, having a single row of short white hairs along each groove of mericarp.

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