

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Veronica anagallis-aquatica – WATER SPEEDWELL [Plantaginaceae/Scrophulariaceae]

Veronica anagallis-aquatica L., WATER SPEEDWELL. Aquatic perennial herb, rhizomatous, fibrous-rooted at nodes of submersed stems, 1–several-stemmed at base, often with paired branches at each node, decumbent to erect, 10–60+ cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, glabrous. **Stems:** cylindrical to ± 4-sided on basal internodes, mostly 4–8 mm in diameter, green turning purplish rose especially on lower stems; pith wide and ± spongy, becoming hollow within the widest stems. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, sessile (short-petiolate for first leaves of a new basal shoot), without stipules; blade elliptic to ovate or lanceolate, 25–55 × 10–15 mm, shallowly serrate to subentire on margins, acute at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** panicle with paired axillary racemes at each node, terminal and axillary, raceme many-flowered, to 150 mm long, bracteate, glabrous or essentially so; bract subtending raceme leaflike; bractlet subtending pedicel linear-lanceolate to narrowly elliptic, 3–12 mm long, green, entire; pedicel alternate to subopposite or opposite, spreading to ascending, slender, 4–8 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, 6.3–7.5 mm across; receptacle ± 0.5 mm tall; **calyx** deeply 4-lobed; tube < 0.3 mm long; lobes ± equal, lanceolate to elliptic, in range 2.5–3.2 × 1.2–1.5 mm increasing to 5 mm long in fruit, green; **corolla** 4-lobed; tube 0.5–0.8 mm long, yellow, internally white-pilose; lobes unequal, the 3 larger lobes ± rhombic, 2.5–3 × 2.5–3.5 mm, the lower lobe ovate to rhombic, 2.5–2.8 × 2–2.4 mm, pale lavender to pale purple or blue-violet, with strong purple to strong violet veins; **stamens** 2, fused to base of corolla tube; filaments narrowly club-shaped, 2–3.5 mm long, light yellow and glabrous at base to pale lavender to pale violet and short-papillate approaching tip; anthers versatile, dithecal, 1–1.5 mm long, pale to light violet, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, 2-lobed, ± 1.2 mm long, green, strongly compressed ⊥ septum, glabrous, 2-chambered, each chamber with many ovules; style expanding to tip, 2.6–3 mm long, lavender to light purplish pink; stigma papillate, white, often touching anthers. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal and septicidal, dehiscent by 2 valves, many-seeded (± 75–85 seeds), ± cloven foot-shaped, 3.5–4 × 3–3.3 mm. **Seed:** elliptic to ovate or oblong in outline, 0.5–0.6 mm long, orange-brown or almond-colored, flat on hilum side and convex on other side, irregularly textured.

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