

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Zephyranthes chlorosolen – BRAZOS RAIN-LILY, CEBOLLETA [Amaryllidaceae]

Zephyranthes chlorosolen (Herb.) D. Dietr. (syn. *Cooperia drummondii*), BRAZOS RAIN-LILY, CEBOLLETA. Perennial herb, geophytic, bulb-bearing, fibrous-rooted, rosetted, scapose with 1 ascending inflorescence per bulb, in range 18–35 cm tall (aboveground); shoots with only basal leaves from bulb, leaves to 5, present at or after anthesis, dull green and inconspicuously glaucous, glabrous, not odorous when crushed; bulb to 10 cm deep, ovoid, to 30 × 25 mm, covered with dark brown papery old leaf sheaths and above the bulb have a persistent, brown cylinder to ground level of old leaf tissue (neck of tunic), cylinder < 4 mm diameter, mother bulb forming a cluster of bulblets; adventitious roots from base of bulb. **Stem (peduncle):** cylindrical, 3.5–5 mm diameter, light green from base upward, white belowground, hollow below flower node. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple and sheathing (including belowground portion); sheath closed to ground level (to 60 mm above top of bulb), membranous; blade linear, in range to 210 × 1.5–3(–5) mm, broadly U-shaped in \times -section to nearly hemi-cylindric, entire, parallel-veined, midrib absent, scarcely glaucous. **Inflorescence:** flower solitary, terminal on peduncle (scape), in bud flower erect, essentially sessile (lacking pedicel above bractlet), trumpet-shaped, bracteate, glabrous; peduncle to 250 mm long aboveground; bractlet subtending pedicel (spathe) in range to 44 mm long, closed to 32 mm, membranous, upper portion splitting equally or unequally from tip downward into 2 acuminate lobes but lower sheath not split during flowering, colorless or pale pink near base, low-ridged, aging papery showing parallel veins; pedicel absent. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 32–40 mm across, in range to 165 mm long, sweetly fragrant (nocturnal); hypanthium above ovary cylindrical (weakly ridged) becoming angled approaching top (= perianth tube), 75–145+ × 2.5 mm expanding slightly at top, whitish with pinkish tinge or pale green at base, thick-walled (to 1 mm), often filled with thin nectar; **tepals** 6 in 2 whorls, widely spreading, \pm monomorphic, pure white or lower surface of outer whorl with pinkish veins aging rose-purple when flower closes, parallel-veined, of outer whorl elliptic-obovate, 21–26 × 8–11 mm, with green or rose point at tip, of inner whorl elliptic, 21–25 × 7.5–10.3 mm, mostly white at tip; **stamens** 6, attached at top of hypanthium at bases of tepals, excluded; filaments erect, equal, narrowly tongue-shaped, ca. 3 × 1 mm, white, blunt to rounded at top, glabrous, anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, in range 7–10 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally and inwardly dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **nectary** on top of ovary; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, weakly 3-lobed, at anthesis 6–8 × 3 mm, 3-chambered, each chamber with 15–20 ovules in 2 vertical stacks attached to center; style short-exserted from hypanthium orifice at bases of erect anthers, 75–110+ × 0.4–0.55 mm, white, at top flaring and saucer-shaped, 3-lobed, ca. 1.5 mm long, 1.5–2 mm across, lobes ovate, ca. 1.2 × 1 mm, stigmatic at tips. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 3 valves but only splitting across top and valves not spreading, to 50-seeded, before dehiscent conspicuously 3-lobed, ca. 12 × 15 mm, with flattened seeds in 2 rows per chamber. **Seed:** flattened obovate, 7–8.1 × 4–5 × < 1 mm, glossy black, faces rough.

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