

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Anagallis minima – CHAFFWEED, FALSE PIMPERNEL [Myrsinaceae/Primulaceae]

Anagallis minima (L.) E. H. L. Krause, CHAFFWEED, FALSE PIMPERNEL. Diminutive annual, ephemeral, weakly taprooted, 1(–2)-stemmed at base, not rosetted, sparsely branched, decumbent to spreading or ascending, to 7 cm long; shoots with several nodes of basal leaves and several-many nodes of cauline (= bractlets), between vegetative and fruit-bearing portions may be 1–2 nodes with an aborted flower, glabrous. **Stems:** ± cylindric, to 0.35 mm diameter, internodes to 7 mm long with a faint pair of wall lines descending from leaf, mostly pale green. **Leaves:** opposite decussate (2–4) lower nodes and helically alternate above, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole cupped around pedicel and angled on lower side, < 1 mm long, pale green; blade (= mostly bractlets) obovate (ovate), 3–5 × 1.5–3 mm, green but with several elongate, rose-red cells along or next to margin, tapered at base, entire, acute at tip, venation inconspicuous. **Inflorescence:** flowers solitary, axillary, short-stalked, glabrous; pedicel ascending, cylindric, < 0.5 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 1 mm across; **calyx** 4–5-lobed, light green, lobes divided almost to base, initially erect aging ascending, narrowly lanceolate, subequal, at anthesis ca. 1.5 mm long increasing slightly and often somewhat unequal in fruit 1.7–2.3 × 0.4 mm incl. fine point at tip, in flower or fruit often with elongate red cells at margins, inner surface of each lobe (opposite corolla tube) with 10+ minute glandular hairs; **corolla** 4-lobed, ca. 1.3 mm long, colorless; tube barrel-shaped (bulging by ovary) originally somewhat 4-sided; lobes erect, acute-ovate, ca. 0.7 × 0.35 mm, veinless; **stamens** 4, fused at top of corolla tube at each lobe (opposite); filaments ca. 0.35 mm long; anthers at level of anthers, dorsifixed, dithecal, included, 0.25 mm long, pale light yellow, longitudinally and inwardly dehiscent; pollen pale light yellow; **nectary** absent; **pistil** 1, 1.2–1.3 mm long; ovary superior, spheric, ± 0.5 mm, pale green, 1-chambered with ca. 40 ovules attached to a central post (free-central placentation); style erect, cylindric, 0.1 mm diameter, stigmatic tip truncate. **Fruit:** capsule, dehiscent around circumference (circumscissile), 35–40-seeded (every mature flower forming a many-seeded fruit = selfer, likely nearly cleistogamous), spheric, ± 1.5 mm, wall colorless, upper half readily abscising with persistent style, lower half with central post bearing tightly arranged seeds with bases of seeds facing outward; lower fruit persistent at axil surrounded by calyx. **Seed:** basically 3-sided (tentlike) having an ovate to circular base and 2 sides meeting at a ridge line with the hilum at center of line, 0.35–0.4 × 0.3 mm, brown (dark red-brown), dull, highly textured uniformly pitted on base, papillate around base and over ridge and less so on lateral faces.

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