

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
***Chaetopappa ericoides* – ROSE-HEATH [Asteraceae]**

Chaetopappa ericoides (Torrey) G. L. Nesom, ROSE-HEATH. Perennial herb, taprooted, not rosetted, several-stemmed at base, abundantly branched in canopy, ascending, in range to 15 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves mostly absent at flowering and cauline leaves, foliage uniformly slender superficially appearing inrolled (ericoid, involute) but instead folded upward from midrib, at many nodes with unexpanded axillary shoot with several leaves (fasciculate), pubescent mostly short-strigose to short hirsute-hispid hairs, in range population not appearing glandular-hairy (“eglandular”). **Stems:** slender basally to 2 mm diameter, having 5 darker stripes dark green to reddish with 3 stripes (ridges) descending from each leaf, short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs, faces having minute, inconspicuous, orangish glandular hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple and sessile, without stipules; blade linear somewhat wider above midpoint, cauline leaves 4–12 × 0.5–1 mm, basal leaves to 17 × 2 mm, scarcely flared and not clasping or lobed at base, entire, acute to obtuse at tip (not spinescent), with 1 principal vein raised on lower surface, ± short-strigose or hairs arching upward, on wider basal leaves having 2 faint grooves on upper surface and inconspicuous glandular hairs. **Inflorescence:** head, terminal on slender stalk on tips of branchlets, not densely clustered, heads radiate, 10–12 mm across, with 25–40 spreading, pistillate ray flowers and to 50 mostly functionally staminate disc flowers, disc ca. 5 mm across, bracteate, green tissue short-hairy; peduncle slender, erect, stemlike, with widely spaced, helically alternate leaflike bracts, the bracts mostly 2–4 mm long, mostly short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs; **involucre:** ± hemispheroid to bell-shaped, in range 3–5 × 5 mm, of 30–40+ phyllaries in ca. 4–5 series, unequal, outer phyllaries lanceolate, 1–1.5 × 0.3 mm, intermediate phyllaries acute linear-ob lanceolate, ca. 4 × 0.6 mm, the innermost phyllaries acuminate oblanceolate-linear, ca. 4 × 0.3 mm, most phyllaries with raised green midvein and stiff colorless margins and tips, green tissue ± short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs, persistent; receptacle low-convex, lacking bractlets (paleae), each not in pit with minute stalk and a short callus persistent beneath each ovary, glabrous, the callus with short hairs at top, in fruit convex receptacle with faint ridges between flowers and deflexed, scarious phyllaries. **Ray flower:** bilateral, < 1 mm across, ca. 7 mm long; **calyx (pappus)** of ca. 30 capillary bristles + mixed with shorter scales in 1 ring, bristles to 15 mostly 2–2.3 mm long with minute, backward-pointing barbs (retorse), scale mostly slender and smooth < 0.5 mm long, colorless to pinkish, persistent; **corolla** unlobed; tube cylindric, 1.1–1.25 × 0.25 mm, colorless; limb narrowly oblanceolate, 4–5.5 × 0.6–0.9 mm, white, not notched at tip, lacking hairs; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, narrowly wedge-shaped to slightly compressed, ca. 0.7 × 0.2–0.25 mm, opaque, sparsely short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style ± 1.5 mm long, colorless, 2-branched at midpoint, the stigmatic branches partially exserted at end of corolla tube. **Disc flower:** radial, 1 mm across, ca. 3 mm long; **calyx (pappus)** of ca. 30 capillary bristles + mixed with shorter scales (setiform) in 1 ring, bristles to 15 mostly 2–2.3 mm long with minute, backward-pointing barbs (retorse), scale mostly slender and smooth < 0.5 mm long, colorless to pinkish, persistent; **corolla** 5-lobed, ca. 2.5 mm long; tube cylindric, < 1 mm long, colorless; throat funnel-shaped and somewhat 5-sided, colorless with 5 yellow veins to sinuses; lobes at anthesis spreading,

deltate, 0.35–0.4 mm, light yellow; **stamens** 5, attached at top of corolla tube, included; filaments white to yellowish, < 1 mm long; anthers fused into a cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, 1 mm long including appendages at top, longitudinally and inwardly dehiscent; pollen light yellow to light orange-yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, narrowly wedge-shaped to slightly compressed, ca. $0.7 \times 0.2\text{--}0.25$ mm, opaque, sparsely short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style ± 1 mm long (sterile) or ca. 1.5 mm long (outermost disc flower fertile), colorless, 2-branched at midpoint.

Fruits: cypselae (achenes), sausage-shaped with persistent callus at base, cypsela in range ca. 1.2 mm long, pale brown, sparsely short-strigose; pappus spreading, of ca. 30 bristles + scales 0.4–2.3 mm long, whitish.

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