

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Krigia wrightii – WRIGHT'S DWARFDANDELION [Asteraceae]

Krigia wrightii (A. Gray) K. L. Chambers ex K. J. Kim, WRIGHT'S DWARFDANDELION.

Annual, fine-taprooted, not rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, with ascending branches having inflorescences, in range 7–15 cm tall; shoots with basal leaf and several cauline leaves (bracts), foliage sparse, easily wilted, glabrous; latex milky. **Stems:** cylindric, slender. **Leaves:** helically alternate (lower leaves) to opposite or subopposite (bracts) but unequal at each node (anisophyllous), simple, petiolate and sheathing, without stipules; petiole half-sheathing, crescent-shaped in \times -section with membranous wings for sheath, < 20 mm long, indistinct from blade; blade lanceolate to oblanceolate, to 30×6 mm, long-tapered at base, entire, acute to obtuse at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** head, terminal and axillary in open cymelike array, each head arising from fork of ascending branches, head ca. 4 mm across, of ± 13 bisexual, ligulate flowers, bracteate, with conspicuous, radiating stalked glandular hairs on peduncle and sometimes on involucre; bract subtending peduncle (cauline leaf) sessile and ovate; peduncle to 60×0.5 mm, yellow-green and glaucous, radiating glandular hairs to 0.4 mm long with swollen bases, the densest hairs approaching involucre and persistent, lacking bracts subtending involucre (calyculus); **involucre** at anthesis \pm bell-shaped, ca. 4.5×2 mm, wider at base and ovoid in fruit, phyllaries 5 in 1 series fused < 1 mm, overlapping, ovate, ca. 4×1 –2 mm, yellow-green and glaucous, outer 2 phyllaries without membranous margins, overlapped phyllaries with 1 or 2 wide membranous margins sometimes aging pink, certain phyllaries drying with well-defined keel below midpoint; receptacle domed with radiating arms and sunken where the outermost flowers are produced, without bractlet (paleae), glabrous. **Ligulate flower:** bilateral, ca. 1 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of ca. 5 scarious and jagged scales in 1 series, erect to ascending, 0.1–0.4 mm long, brownish, persistent; **corolla** unlobed (minutely toothed), in range 3.2–3.5 mm long; tube 0.9–1 \times 0.15 mm, colorless to yellowish; throat funnel-shaped, to 0.4 mm long, light yellow, with short glandular hairs; limb before anthesis inrolled as cylinder, spreading, elliptic, ca. 2×1 mm, < phyllary, light yellow; **stamens** 5, fused to top of corolla tube; filaments ca. 0.7 mm long, whitish; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, ± 1.2 mm including yellowish threadlike tails, light orange-yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light orange-yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, obovoid, 0.45 – 0.5×0.35 – 0.4 mm, green, minutely 15-ribbed, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style slightly exerted above anthers, ca. 3 mm long, orange-yellow minutely barbed, 2-branched near tip, the branches spreading, 0.4 mm long, and stigmatic. Fruit: cypselae (achenes) barrel-shaped, 1 – 1.4×0.5 – 0.6 mm, brown, 15-ribbed having 5 2-forked principal ribs branched near base alternating with 5 minor ribs; pappus scales scarious, 0.1–0.4 mm long.

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