

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Polyprenum procumbens – JUNIPERLEAF [Scrophulariaceae/Buddlejaceae]

Polyprenum procumbens L., JUNIPERLEAF. Perennial herb, taprooted, not rosetted, many-stemmed at base, branched at each node, in range < 30 mm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, at each node forming 2 axillary shoots but 1 growing immediately and other delayed, producing a fork at each node in canopy, essentially glabrous. **Stems:** 6-ridged, to 1 mm diameter at base of shoots, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, internodes mostly 13–20 mm long, with minute bumps along ridge. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, short-petiolate fused across node, without stipules; petiole indistinct; blade linear, < 9–16 × 0.8–1 mm, entire and minutely toothed to short-hairy on margins, acute at tip, 1-veined slightly raised on lower surface, lower surface with minute teeth along midrib. **Inflorescence:** leafy cyme = canopy with sessile terminal flower then 2 overtopping axillary shoots with 1 internode and node, a terminal flower, bracteate, glabrous; peduncle = internode; bractlets 2, opposite and \perp to leaves at node, initially equal, leaflike, ascending, linear, 2–4.5 mm long = flower, 1-veined, subsequently unequal, acute with minute point at tip. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 3–3.5 mm across; receptacle inverted pyramidal 4-sided and conspicuously 4-ribbed, 0.7–0.8 mm long, green; **calyx** 4-lobed; tube short, membranous; lobes ovate and keeled, 1.4–2.5 × 0.8–1.2 mm increasing to 2 mm long in fruit, green rib with overlapping, wide membranous margins, with minute teeth on green margins and along rib and minute point at tip; **corolla** 4-lobed, white; tube + throat barrel-shaped, ca. 1.3 × 1 mm, outer surface glabrous, inner surface with a ring of straight white hairs leaning inward concealing corolla orifice, the hairs 0.35–0.4 mm long; lobes widely spreading, tonguelike, 1.4–1.5 × 0.9–1 mm; **stamens** 4, attached at midpoint of corolla tube + throat alternate with corolla lobes, included below hairs of corolla; filaments ascending, cylindric, 0.25–0.4 mm long; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.4–0.5 mm long, \pm pink to tannish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen tannish; **pistil** 1, 0.8–1 mm long; ovary superior, mitre-shaped 4-sided, pale green to green, faintly 2-lobed, 2-chambered, each chamber with many ovules; style short, green; stigma terminal, 0.2–0.25 mm long, pale green, papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, 2-lobed, many-seeded, obovoid slightly compressed \perp septum, ca. 2 × 1.5 mm, with short beak in shallow notch at top. **Seed:** ovoid, \pm 0.3 mm long, inconspicuously bumpy.

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