

*Crypsis schoenoides* (L.) Lam., SWAMP PRICKLE GRASS. Annual, fibrous-rooted, several-many-stemmed at base, prostrate and matted or decumbent to ascending, principal shoots typically not branched above base, in range to 40 cm tall, to 90+ cm across; shoots with 5–10 cauline leaves, green throughout (not pink or purple), terminating in a dense inflorescence; adventitious roots only at bases of shoots, not at other nodes. **Stems (culms):** cylindric (flattened or grooved opposite axillary branch),  $\pm$  1 mm diameter, tough, smooth, bending conspicuously at most nodes, internodes < 100 mm long and typically > leaf sheath length, upper internodes when exposed often striped green and either white or pink; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; sheath open, shallowly ridged, membranous and often inconspicuously short-ciliate on margins near ligule or along whitish collar, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule = fringe of silky hairs to 1 mm long; blade linear and long-tapered, in range 15–105  $\times$  1.5–7 mm, the widest close to base, flat becoming inrolled when water-stressed, remotely toothed on margins, conspicuously parallel-veined especially on lower surface, upper surface inconspicuously puberulent along veins and sometime sparsely short-pilose below midpoint, lower surface glabrous to sparsely pilose near base (but not collar), never abscising from sheath. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal, dense, spikelike panicles, panicle either terminal or on a long axis in axil of upper leaf, narrowly ovoid to narrowly ellipsoid, in range 15–55  $\times$  4–9 mm, remaining partly enclosed by spathe-like sheath of 1 or 2 subtending leaves during flowering and often in fruit, spikelet with 1 floret, bracteate, lacking awns; peduncle in fruit, if exposed, very short; bract = flag leaf sheath + blade, sheath broad and somewhat inflated, blade > panicle, glabrous; lateral branches condensed, each with several spikelets along an axis 0.5–1.5 mm long, axes glabrous. **Spikelet:** strongly compressed-lanceolate to compressed-oblongate (depending on spreading of glumes), 3–3.5 mm long, tardily breaking below glumes; **glumes** 2, unequal, strongly keeled and unevenly folded, lanceolate, in range lower glume 2.4–3 mm long and upper glume 2.6–3.4 mm long, membranous with a pair of green stripes along keel, ascending short-hairy to scabrous along keel, margin glabrous; **lemma** keeled and similar to upper glume, in range 2.8–3.4 mm long, upper glume < lemma, minutely scabrous on exposed portion of keel; **palea** 2.5–2.8 mm long, lemma > palea, membranous, inconspicuously 2-veined, shallowly notched or also with short point at tip, glabrous. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** absent; **stamens** 3, free; filaments threadlike, ca. 4.5 mm long, exerted 1 mm from tip of lemma, translucent; anthers basifixed, dithecal, in range 0.9–1 mm long, whitish or sometimes pink, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, compressed-ellipsoid, 0.5 mm long, greenish translucent, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, exerted 1–1.5 mm, included part threadlike, exerted part stigmatic and spreading, short-branched, colorless. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), compressed oblong-obovoid, ca. 1.3 mm long, tawny,  $\pm$  translucent and reddish at base. Late June–mid-November.

Naturalized. Annual found, during certain summers, in dense populations on drying creek beds or pond margins in SMM. *Crypsis schoenoides* typically has trailing, decumbent shoots that are not branched. The panicle-like array, which tends to be ovoid and several times longer than wide, in flower and fruit is sheathed at the base by an enlarged sheath of

the flag leaf. This local pricklegrass is not easily distinguished from the two other species in the United States.

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