

Crypsis vaginiflora (Forssk.) Opiz, MODEST PRICKLE GRASS. Annual, fibrous-rooted, several-many-stemmed at base, repeatedly branched throughout, prostrate and generally matlike (ascending to erect), to 30 cm tall, to 50 cm across; shoots with many nodes per axis and 10–25 inflorescences per shoot, mostly green but pale green at base of leaf sheath (rarely tinged with pink or purple); adventitious roots only at the lowest nodes. Stems (culms): cylindric to \pm hemi-cylindric above node where flat to grooved side faces axillary branch, < 2 mm diameter, tough, bending conspicuously at most nodes, internodes 3–24 mm long and typically > leaf sheath length, ridged; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; prophyll conspicuous for each axillary shoot, membranous, 2-veined and narrowly oblong, 2.5–8 mm long excluding 2 awns (vein extensions), keeled along veins, finely short-ciliate on margins and along keels, longer ciliate (to 1 mm) at rounded to obtuse tip between greenish awns, the awns 1.5–3 mm long and scabrous with short, ascending hairs; leaf sheath open or closed < 0.5 mm, loose around internode, oblong to \pm broadly ovate, $3.5\text{--}7.5 \times 1\text{--}1.5$ mm (sheathing only stem) and 2.5–4 mm wide and spatelike subtending inflorescence, ridged with 13–25 veins, narrowly membranous on margins, finely ciliate on margins becoming densely ciliate and more conspicuous approaching ligule, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule a fringe of silky hairs 0.8–1.2 mm long; collar pale yellow to pale green; blade narrowly lanceolate to narrowly lanceolate-triangular, in range $3\text{--}40+ \times 1\text{--}3.7$ mm, the widest at or just above base, flat becoming inrolled when water-stressed, remotely scabrous with minute ascending hairs on margins, acuminate at tip, parallel-veined with veins more conspicuous on lower surface, lower surface sparsely short-pilose, upper surface moderately short-pilose, early abscising from sheath. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in dense, spikelike panicles, terminal or axillary in axil of an upper leaf on a long, erect axis, panicle ovoid, in range $30\text{--}45 \times 3\text{--}6$ mm, remaining partly enclosed by spatelike leaf sheaths of the 2 subtending leaves, lateral branches condensed, each with several spikelets along an axis to 1.5 mm long, spikelets sessile to subsessile, with 1 floret, bracteate, lacking awns; peduncle in fruit, if exposed, very short. **Spikelet:** lanceolate to oblanceolate strongly compressed side-to-side, 2.5–2.8 mm long, breaking below the glumes; **glumes** 2, subequal to equal, lanceolate and strongly keeled, in range lower glume $2.4\text{--}2.7 \times 0.3$ mm, folded lengthwise or flat at base and folded and keeled above midpoint, keel and margin above midpoint pilose, upper glume $2.6\text{--}2.7 \times 0.7\text{--}0.8$ mm, compressed and keeled base-to-tip, membranous but with green keel, margin glabrous or hairy own at tip, keel with ascending short hairs to scabrous; **lemma** folded lengthwise and narrowly keeled, in range 2.2–2.6 mm long, 0.55 mm wide folded, minutely scabrous on exposed portion of keel; **palea** membranous, folded, $2.1\text{--}2.3 \times 0.4\text{--}0.55$ mm (folded), obscurely 2-veined near median and inwardly pleated between veins, glabrous. **Flower:** bisexual; **stamens** 3, free; filaments threadlike, 3–3.5 mm long, white; anthers exerted above lemma, basifixed, dithecal, oblong, in range 0.3–0.6 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, compressed-obovate to compressed-elliptic, $0.9\text{--}1.1 \times 0.4$ mm, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, 1.7–2.5 mm long, 2-branched, the stigmatic branches exerted 0.5 mm from lemma. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), obovoid, $1.3\text{--}1.8 \times 0.6\text{--}0.9$ mm.

Naturalized. Annual found on margins of drying ponds and lakes, collected once at Lake Eleanor (SSM) but not observed recently. *Crypsis vaginiflora* grows in the same habitat as

C. schoenoides but is a much more highly branched plant with pilose hairs on sheath and collar. In *C. vaginiflora*, the leaf blades are smaller but also the blades abscise readily, leaving a persistent sheath. Exposed, thereby, are the prophylls, which curiously have a pair of awns on each prophyll (scabrous vein extensions).

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