

Digitaria ciliaris (Retz.) Koeler var. *ciliaris*, SOUTHERN CRAB GRASS. Annual, fibrous-rooted, several-stemmed at base, branched at lower nodes, spreading and decumbent, to 70 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, pubescent and pilose or sometimes sparsely pilose; adventitious roots at nodes. **Stems (culms):** cylindric but D-shaped to elliptic in \times -section at base of lateral branch (superficially appearing flattened with sheath enveloping both branches), < 4.5 mm diameter, light green becoming tannish or purplish red, internodes 10–73 mm long increasing from base to tip, slightly bent at nodes, pilose on lower stems and glabrous on upper stems; hollow. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; sheath open, 20–50 mm long (of flag leaf 65–120 mm long), commonly > internode, sometimes purplish above node or below blade, angled along midrib, compressed side-to-side, membranous on both margins, glabrous or sparsely and finely puberulent above node and sometimes with several papillate-based long hairs below collar, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule membranous and broadly convex, 0.3–1.3 mm long, semi-translucent and whitish to pale green, continuous with sheath margins, entire or irregularly jagged on curved margin, glabrous or finely pilose above node, sometimes with some long pilose hairs (mostly 3–4 mm long) on sides; blade narrowly lanceolate, 23–93 \times 3.5–9.5 mm, (flag leaf 16–65 \times 3–6 mm), entire and sometimes wavy on veined margins, narrowly acuminate at tip, veins transparent and scabrous eventually purplish red, glabrous (with several papillate-based hairs), glaucous. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal, \pm umbel-like (subdigitate) panicles with 3–7 branches (terminal flowering axis + 2–6 lateral branches) along rachis, the branches (12–)25–120 \times 0.5–1 mm, 1-sided with 2 stalked spikelets per node on lower side, spikelet of 2 florets but only upper one fertile, bracteate; peduncle 100–330 mm long, with pulvinus at top; rachis 1 mm long (1-branched) or 4.5–25 mm long (with 3–6 lateral branches), with densely pubescent nodes, with pulvinus in axil of each lateral branch, the pulvinus bulbous, yellowish green becoming purplish red; branches with raised whitish midvein and green winged margins, \pm wavy on margins; stalks at each node unequal, 0.4–0.8 mm and 1.6–2.2 mm long, free from midrib. **Spikelet:** ovate, compressed top-to-bottom, breaking below glumes; **glumes** 2, lower glume appressed, ovate to triangular and semi-encircling, 0.3–0.4 mm long, opaque or translucent centrally, membranous on margins, veinless or sometimes appearing 2-veined or 3-veined with light green streaks; upper glume oblong to lanceolate, 1.7–3 \times 0.7–0.8 mm, 3-veined, pale green with dark green veins, appearing windowlike (fenestrate), marginally with long and finely pilose-ciliate hairs spreading and separate at base and ascending and in contact with ends of neighboring hairs, pilose-ciliate between veins; **lemmas** 2, of sterile lower floret lanceolate, 2.7 \times 1 mm, 5-veined or 7-veined, light green with dark green veins, ciliate like upper glume, glabrous on back or pilose-ciliate between submarginal veins; of fertile upper floret lanceolate, 2.6–2.8 \times 0.75–0.9 mm, light grayish green, glabrous, with colorless margins wrapped around palea and fruit, becoming very hard, finely striped; **palea** of upper floret lanceolate, 2 \times 0.9 mm, light grayish green, not keeled, partially enveloping fruit, faintly 2-veined, finely striped. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, trapezoid to rectangular, 0.2–0.3 \times 0.2–0.25 mm, truncate with 2 or 3 rounded teeth; **stamens** 3, free; filaments 2–3 mm long, white; anther exerted at tip of lemma, versatile, dithecal, 0.8–1.25 mm long, brownish yellow with purplish red spots, arrow-shaped at base, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellowish; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, lanceoloid, 0.5–0.8 \times 0.25 mm, translucent yellowish green, 2-forked at top, 1-

chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, exerted at tip of lemma, 2–2.8 mm long, from thick base threadlike on basal 2/3, bottlebrushlike, arching, and purplish red from 0.6–0.9 mm to tip. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), enclosed within spikelet bracts, lanceoloid, 2–2.2 × 0.8–0.9 mm, creamy white to pale grayish green, opaque, flat on palea side and low convex on lemma side; upper glume conspicuously ciliate, lemma and palea grayish green. Mid-July–late September.

Naturalized. Annual occurring at scattered locations where plants grow in moist soil during summer drought. *Digitaria ciliaris* is very similar to *D. sanguinalis* (L.) Scop. and probably has been misidentified as such in parts of southern California, although both species for certain are present in the area..

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