

*Galium parisiense* L., WALL BEDSTRAW. Annual, wispy, slender-taprooted, several-stemmed at base, branching limited to lower 1–3 nodes, ascending or erect to spreading, 6–35 cm tall; shoots with threadlike, wiry stems, scabrous with stiff, broad-based, compressed, short hairs. **Stems:** conspicuously 4-sided (square in  $\times$ -section) and 4-ridged, < 1.5 mm diameter, with ridges descending from leaf midribs, tough, green, internodes 15–55 mm long, scabrous along ridges with backward-pointing (retrorse) prickle-hairs; sometimes hollow. **Leaves:** whorled, typically 6 per node, simple,  $\pm$  sessile, with stipules; stipules 2 indistinguishable from blades in whorl (here treated as leaves); blade often reflexed except when young, narrowly lanceolate to narrowly oblanceolate, 3.5–9 mm long, entire, acute at tip, with midrib raised on lower surface, having upward-pointing, broad-based hairs on margins and along midrib on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** compound cyme, terminal as well as paired and axillary at all branchless nodes, open, bracteate, with prickle-hairs as on shoot; axes stemlike but much thinner; bracts subtending branchlets 4 or 2 decreasing to 0 per node, leaflike, lanceolate, 1–3 mm long; bractlet subtending pedicel absent (bractlike); pedicel slender, < 1 mm long increasing to 2 mm long in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial,  $\pm$  1 mm across; often seen closed; **perianth (corolla)** 4-lobed, of 1 whorl, cymbal-shaped (rotate); tube  $\pm$  0.15 mm long, greenish; lobes erect, ovate, < 0.5 mm long, greenish on outer (lower) surface, yellowish green on inner (upper) surface, but commonly purplish red at tip or entirely papillate on inner surface; **stamens** 4, fused to base of corolla alternate with lobes; filaments and anthers minute; pollen yellowish; **nectary** 2-lobed,  $\pm$  flush with top of corolla tube, green or reddish along tip, each lobe crescent-shaped, papillate; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, 2-lobed, lobes subspheric-oblong, green, with hooked bristles (bristles absent), 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 2, very short; stigmas capitate, greenish yellow, papillate. **Fruit:** schizocarp, 2-chambered forming 2 dry, 1-seeded nutlets (mericarps) with fruit wall  $\pm$  fused to seed coat; mericarps ellipsoid, ca. 1 mm long, brownish, with short, whitish, hooked bristles (rarely absent),  $\pm$  flat and glabrous on common face. Mid-April–mid-June.

Naturalized. Inconspicuous European annual bedstraw first collected in 1998 by Carl Wishner, and now found in several locations, e.g., growing on heavy clay in grassland in full sun (SMM). *Galium parisiense* was probably recently introduced with other formerly unrecorded weeds via horses. *Galium parisiense* is scabrous, due to the teethlike hairs on the shoots, but this herb is much more slender and more wiry than the common annual *G. aparine*, with which it now co-occurs. Wall bedstraw has a tiny flower often appears closed, but on which the perianth may spread but closes within a minute when picked; it is a selfer, having complete reproductive success and hooks on the small nutlets, so in range this species is expected to become a widespread weed.

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