

***Juncus textilis*** Buch., BASKET RUSH. Perennial herb, rhizomatous, with photosynthetic stems, fibrous-rooted, many-stemmed at base, shoots typically unbranched, regularly and closely spaced in a straight along a straight rhizome, erect to arching, 100–200 cm tall; shoots with 3–4 leaves lacking blades (cataphylls), dark green, glabrous; rhizomes horizontal and creeping, 60–85 mm belowground, 7–15 mm diameter, very tough, covered with stiff scales, the scales appressed-ovate, 10–35 mm long, glossy dark and light brown, acute at tip and often split to appear 2-lobed. **Stems:** cylindric, to 2–5 mm diameter at base, tough, finely striped with alternating narrow dark green and broader pale green strips (bearing stomates), with sheathing, nonphotosynthetic cataphyll sheaths at base; outer layers with strong fibers, core cottony and white. **Leaves:** helically alternate, sessile with sheath; sheath open, 40–200 mm long, the shortest at shoot base, fibrous, parallel-veined with scarious margins, lacking lobes (auricles) at top; blade apparently present on only the uppermost leaf, reduced to a small tail-like tip, < 4 mm long, dull light brown.

**Inflorescence:** panicle, terminal but appearing lateral, lax and open, to 160 mm long, with several–many, ± ascending branchlets, branchlets cymelike with many but solitary flowers (not clustered in heads), bracteate, glabrous; bracts alternate, sheathing, bracts subtending panicle 2, the larger bract appearing like a continuation of the stem, vertical, cylindric and fully closed, with inflorescence arising through a lens-shaped gap at base, > or >> inflorescence, to 370 mm long, tapered to a point, the smaller bract awl-like to triangular, 3.5–6 mm long, green centrally but aging tannish brown, scarious and incurved on margins; main axes of panicle arising near base, extremely variable in length and number, often several-branched above; bracts subtending each branchlet 2, distichous, appressed to axis, 1.5–5 mm long, shorter on upper branchlets, scarious, the outer bract 1-veined, acute to acuminate or short-pointed at tip, the inner bract (prophyll) 2-veined, truncate or rounded to notched at tip; bractlets subtending short pedicel 2, distichous, translucent aging scarious, lower (outer) bractlet broadly triangular, ca. 2 mm long, fully developed before upper (inner) one so appearing alternate along an axis, inner bractlet ca 1.5 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 1.5 mm across, nonshowy, closed; **tepals** 6, in 2 similar whorls, erect, outer tepals acuminate-lanceolate, at anthesis 3.5–4.3 × 0.6–0.8 mm increasing to ± 5 mm long in fruit, green aging brown, with inrolled membranous margins, inner tepals ± sepal length, 1–1.3 mm wide, acute at tip, transversely arched, with membranous margins wider than margins of outer tepals, 1-veined, persistent; **stamens** 6, free, included; filaments in range 0.3–0.5 mm long, translucent pale green; anthers basifixed, dithecal, linear, 1–1.4 mm long, glossy greenish yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellowish; **pistil** 1, in bud ca. 2.5 mm long; ovary superior, rounded 3-sided or 3-lobed, 0.7–1 mm long, greenish, 1-chambered with many ovules in 6 rows on wall; style 3-branched, basal portion 0.7–1 mm long, sharply 3-sided, reddish; the stigmatic branches initially corkscrewlike with 3–4 coils, to ± 2.5 mm long when uncoiled, brownish or strawberry red. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, 3-valved, many-seeded, ± narrowly ovoid, ca. 4 × 1.5 mm, dark brown, ± rounded at tip, when immature having 3 purple lines above midpoint where valves split. **Seed:** ± ellipsoid, 0.5–0.8 mm long, dark amber, lacking an appendage. Early June–mid-July.

Native. Perennial herb occasionally found in southern oak woodland in canyon bottoms, often in shade. *Juncus textilis* has creeping rhizomes forming a series of erect green stems

having sheaths but no leaf blades (cataphylls), and it resembles in this regard certain sedges, which have thicker but spongy stems.

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