

*Pterostegia drymarioides* Fisch. & C. A. Meyer, WOODLAND THREADSTEM, FAIRY MIST, GRANNY'S HAIRNET. Annual, trailing, slender-taprooted, several-stemmed at base, sprawling to prostrate forming a loose, low mat or climbing on low vegetation; monoecious (rarely polygamous); shoots delicate and slender-stemmed with widely spaced small leaves, short-pilose. **Stems:** ± cylindric, < 0.5 mm diameter, ± tough, not swollen at nodes, sometimes inconspicuously 5-ridged. **Leaves:** opposite, deeply 2-lobed (unlobed), petiolate, without stipules (no ocrea); petiole broadly channeled and flattish, 0.5–6 mm long; blade fan-shaped with deep sinus to broadly elliptic or roundish, 3–6(–15) mm long typically wider than long, tapered to roundish at base, lobes often notched at tip, pinnately veined with midrib slightly raised on lower surface, sparsely short-pilose, sometimes aging brownish with purplish, netted minor veins. **Inflorescence:** cymelike cluster of unisexual flowers (rarely bisexual flower), axillary, several-flowered with 1 pistillate flower at base and several staminate flowers, flowers sessile, staminate and bisexual flower lacking bracts, pistillate flower bracteate; **involucre** of bract enclosing pistillate flower, with 2-lobed or notched wings, translucent with prominent netlike venation. **Staminate flower:** radial, ca. 1 mm across; **perianth** 5–6-lobed, star-shaped and often fully flattened; lobes acuminate, greenish to pink or rose; **stamens** 5–6 in 1 whorl, filaments ± 0.4 mm long, pinkish; anthers dorsifixed (medifixed), conspicuously dithecal, ± 0.3 mm long, yellowish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellowish; **pistil** vestigial, sterile. **Pistillate flower:** radial; **perianth (tepals)** 6 in 2 whorls, free, greenish, lanceolate, outer tepals wider than inner tepals, < half the length of the ovary and appressed; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ovoid, ± 1.5 mm long, green, sharply 3-angled, glabrous; styles 3, extremely short and hairlike. **Bisexual flower:** radial, 2 mm across; **perianth** 6-lobed, star-shaped and often fully flattened; lobes acuminate, greenish to pink or rose; tube cup-shaped, short; lobes (tepals) equal, triangular, 0.7–0.8 mm long, pale yellowish green with colorless to pinkish or rose-purple margins, lower surface short-pilose; **nectary disc** on edge of perianth tube, low and ringlike, 0.4 mm across, 6-lobed, purplish, producing copious nectar filling cup; **stamens** 9, fused to perianth, outer 6 in whorl opposite nectary lobes and perianth sinuses, spreading, inner 3 in whorl opposite nectary sinuses and inner tepals; filaments ± 0.4 mm, pinkish; anthers dorsifixed (medifixed), conspicuously dithecal, ± 0.3 mm long, yellowish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellowish; **pistil** 1, in cup-shaped perianth tube, green, 3-sided; styles 3, pinkish, ascending to curled around each other; stigma terminal, minute. **Fruit:** achene, 3-sided ovoid, 1.2–1.5 mm long, blackish, hidden within veiny, brown involucre (pistillate flower) or naked (bisexual flower); involucre of 2 bracts, with comblike wings along upper edge, brown, veiny. Late December–late June.

Native. Trailing annual occurring throughout the range, germinating and becoming established during the rainy season in comparatively moist local conditions and in partial shade, i.e., in grassy openings of shrubland on north-facing slopes. *Pterostegia drymarioides* is an herb that uses herbs or shrubs around it for support, and it has small, opposite, 2-lobed leaves that cannot be confused with any other species in range. Although only described in the literature as having unisexual flowers, bisexual flowers have been found in several populations within range, in very wet years and only on very robust individuals. Bisexual flowers of *P. drymarioides* have nine stamens with fertile pollen,

nectaries that secrete nectar, and ovules that is capable of being fertilized. The typical achene is concealed by an involucre consisting of two veiny, comblike wings.

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