

Urospermum picroides (L.) F. W. Schmidt, PRICKLY GOLDENFLEECE. Annual, taprooted, weakly rosetted, typically 1-stemmed at base, branched in canopy, ascending to erect, in range to 75 cm tall; shoots leafy with mostly cauline leaves, stiff-hairy and sparsely fine-hairy in patches, the coarse hairs bristlelike to minute-spinelike, often hooked or claw-shaped, the fine hairs curly to wavy; latex white, copious. **Stems:** weakly ridged, to 4 mm diameter, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, green becoming reddish at plant base and purplish along veins; pith white. **Leaves:** helically alternate, unlobed to pinnately lobed or irregularly cut, petiolate (basal leaves) and sessile and often with clasping basal lobes (auriculate cauline leaves), without stipules; petiole winged, indistinct from blade; blade obovate to obovate-oblong or lanceolate, 30–100+ × 15–55 mm decreasing upward, the lobes few and typically with wide sinuses midway to midrib, dentate on rasplike margins having marginal teeth with conic points, obtuse to acute at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins raised on lower surface, lower surface with bristles along veins. **Inflorescence:** heads, terminal and solitary or in several-flowered cymelike arrays, on long peduncle, head ligulate, ca. 50 mm across, > 50-flowered, bracteate; bract subtending peduncle ± leaflike but with 2 spreading lobes only at base, lanceolate to linear above lobes, < 30 mm long; peduncle with ca. 13 low ridges, 50–155 mm long, slightly flaring approaching involucre and hollow, bracts subtending involucre (calyculus) absent, glabrous or appearing so but often with some short, threadlike hairs; **involucre** bell-shaped, at anthesis to 12 mm wide becoming wider at base in fruit, phyllaries typically 8 in 1 series fused at base, involucre tube cup-shaped, 1.5–2.5 mm long (portion above receptacle), stiff-hairy and tube with sparse threadlike hairs, phyllaries heteromorphic, free portion narrowly triangular to lanceolate, 10–13 × 3.3–5 mm, flat, symmetric to asymmetric, with 1 or both margins (when concealed) broadly winged and scarious or both margins exposed and unwinged, the thicker herbaceous zone green with purplish edge, acute at tip, tube with phyllaries fully reflexed in fruit with margins inrolled; receptacle inversely conic, at anthesis upper surface concave becoming convex in fruit, without bractlets (paleae), pitted, densely short-hirsute, hollow below receptacle. **Ligulate flower:** bisexual, bilateral, ± 1 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of 19–21 feathery (plumose) bristles in 1 whorl, fused at base, subequal, 8.5–12 mm long, white, soft; **corolla** minutely 5-toothed, 11–12 mm long; tube cylindric, 5.5–7 × 0.2 mm, light yellow to colorless; throat ca. 2 mm long, slightly wider than tube, yellowish or greenish yellow, densely sericeous with fine hairs to 1 mm long; limb ± rectangular, 4–6 × 0.6–2 mm, bright yellow and sometimes of outer flowers striped reddish on lower surface, teeth often purplish red; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla at top of tube, barely exerted; filaments ca. 0.25 mm long; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, 1.8–2.5 mm long, orange-yellow to yellow, with narrow tails on each sac at base and acute appendages at tips, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow to yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, wedge-shaped and compressed side-to-side, 1.5–2.5 × 0.4 mm, whitish, smooth or with small projections; beak at anthesis 1–1.5 mm long, compressed side-to-side like ovary and flared at base, 0.6–0.7 mm wide, greenish; style exerted, 10–11 mm long, 2-branched, the branches ca. 1.7 mm long, short papillate-hairy. **Fruits:** cypselsae, with plumose pappus, beaked, ± dimorphic (differing in ornamentation), brownish; fruit body oblanceoloid compressed side-to-side, 3.5–4 × 1–1.4 mm, at base shortly and narrowly winged on 1 side, 2-ridged with small conic teeth on the opposing side; ornamented form with a rib on each margin

and 3-ribbed on each face, marginal ribs becoming transversely wrinkled approaching tip, sometimes with short, conic teeth on sides near tip, each facial rib with a vertical file of 6–9 projections erect to slightly reflexed, channeled on upper side (gougelike), 0.35 mm long, the projections and between ribs pubescent; the smoother form without conspicuous ribs and projections, glabrous, with or without inconspicuous wrinkles or tubercles on 1 margin but smooth on other; beak 8–11(–15) mm long, appearing jointed but persistent, swollen at base, bent above base or slightly sigmoidal over total length, the beak base ovate, inflated, hollow, wrinkled to warty (on ornamented fruit) or smooth, the terminal portion slender, finely scabrous with upward-pointing teeth; pappus soft-plumose, ascending, bristle axes subequal, 8.5–12 mm long, fused in basal ring 0.1–0.15 mm long, abscising from beak as 1 unit, silvery-white, with delicate lateral hairs to ca. 2 mm long. Mid-May–late July.

Naturalized. Annual first observed in range in 2006 in the western part of the range at SMMNRA Circle X Ranch, probably carried in by horses, and showing the potential of becoming invasive, because currently spreading along trails and waterside. *Urospermum picroides* is a member of the tribe Cichorieae of Asteraceae, hence it possesses ligulate flowers and white latex. This species has leafy stems, yellow flowers, and ornamented fruits with long beaks and soft-plumose bristles.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson