

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Wolffia columbiana – COLUMBIA WOLFFIA, COMMON WATER-MEAL

Wolffia columbiana H. Karsten, COLUMBIA WOLFFIA, COMMON WATER-MEAL. Short-lived aquatic herb, clonal via fragmentation forming dense, floating colonies, lacking roots, not rosetted, unit = a mother frond and mostly with daughter frond in line (alternate distichous) arising from basal pouch, the daughter frond breaking free to become new mother frond; frond = minute stem (basal portion) + leaf, highly modified, terminal pouch defined by circular rim and containing a deep-seated shoot tip to produce a daughter frond (exceedingly rarely an inflorescence), buoyant at water surface but mostly submersed, surface wettable, glabrous. **Stem (stipe):** connecting daughter frond from pouch at base of mother frond, inconspicuous. **Frond:** scarcely above water, at maturity spheric to subspheroid, in range as individual frond $0.35\text{--}1 \times 0.35\text{--}0.9$ mm, green senescing colorless, rounded at tip, after daughter frond released initially depressed at that end with narrow rim, exposed surface minutely textured (epidermal cell outlines), lacking papillae or central point. **Inflorescence:** not observed in range.

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