

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Wolffia brasiliensis – POINTED WOLFFIA, DOTTED WOLFFIA

Wolffia brasiliensis Wedd., POINTED WOLFFIA, DOTTED WOLFFIA. Short-lived aquatic herb, clonal via fragmentation forming floating colonies, lacking roots, not rosetted, unit = a mother frond and mostly with daughter frond in line (alternate distichous) arising from a basal pouch, the daughter frond breaking free to become new mother frond; frond = minute stem (basal portion) + leaf, highly modified, terminal pouch depressed inside and lacking a circular rim, containing a deep-seated shoot tip to produce a daughter frond (exceedingly rarely an inflorescence), buoyant at water surface with green upper portion emergent, exposed surface non-wettable, glabrous. **Stem (stipe):** connecting daughter frond from pouch at base of mother frond, inconspicuous. **Frond:** with green exposed portion and thicker, colorless lower portion = round-bottomed flotation device, exposed surface ovate-tortoise carapacelike to limpetlike in outline rounded to obtuse at tip, appearing somewhat truncate at base (transparent pouch) and exposed surface having a distinct, mountainlike point (closer to base), in range as individual frond $0.5\text{--}0.8 \times 0.6\text{--}1.25 \times 0.5\text{--}0.8$ mm, exposed surface light green and minutely textured (epidermal cell outlines and stomates). **Inflorescence:** not observed in range.

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