

Wolffia columbiana

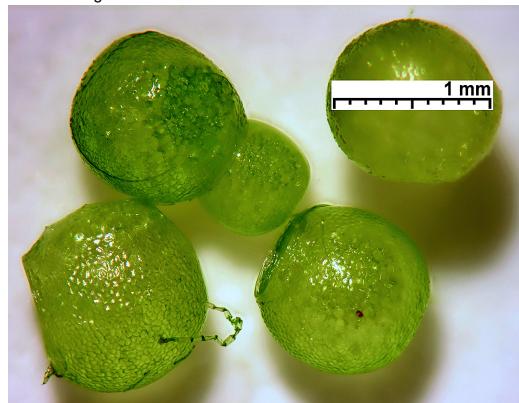
Lemnaceae

Columbia watermeal

Scott Sundberg



David H. Wagner



Columbia watermeal plants growing with larger duckweeds.



Scott Sundberg

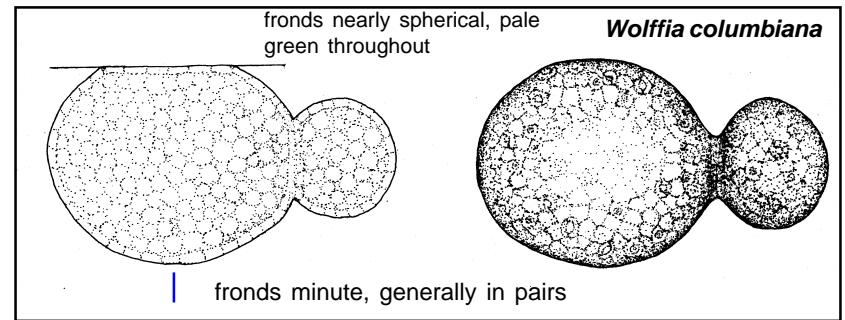
best survey times
J|F|M|A|M|J|J|A|S|O|N|D



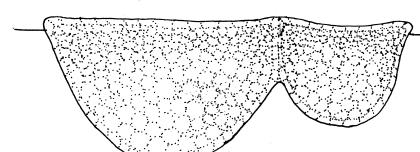
fronds nearly spherical, pale green throughout

Wolffia columbiana

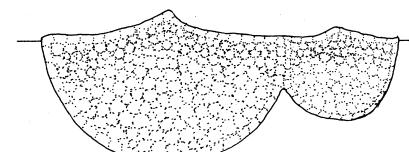
fronds minute, generally in pairs



W. borealis
(also rare)



W. brasiliensis
(not listed as rare)



1 mm

This is one of the world's smallest flowering plants.

Minuscule, floating aquatic plants consisting of "fronds," these generally in pairs; roots absent. **Fronds** nearly spherical; widest part below the surface of the water, 0.5-1.4 mm long, 0.4-1.2 mm wide, 1-1.3 times as long as wide, 1-1.3 times as deep as wide; with 1-10(30) stomata, pale green and translucent on the surface. **Flowers** rarely seen, hermaphroditic, minute.

Lookalikes

W. borealis
(northern water meal)

differs from featured plant by

fronds boat-shaped, flattened on much of upper surface, 0.3-1 times as deep as wide, cells in upper part dark green

W. brasiliensis
(Brazilian water meal)

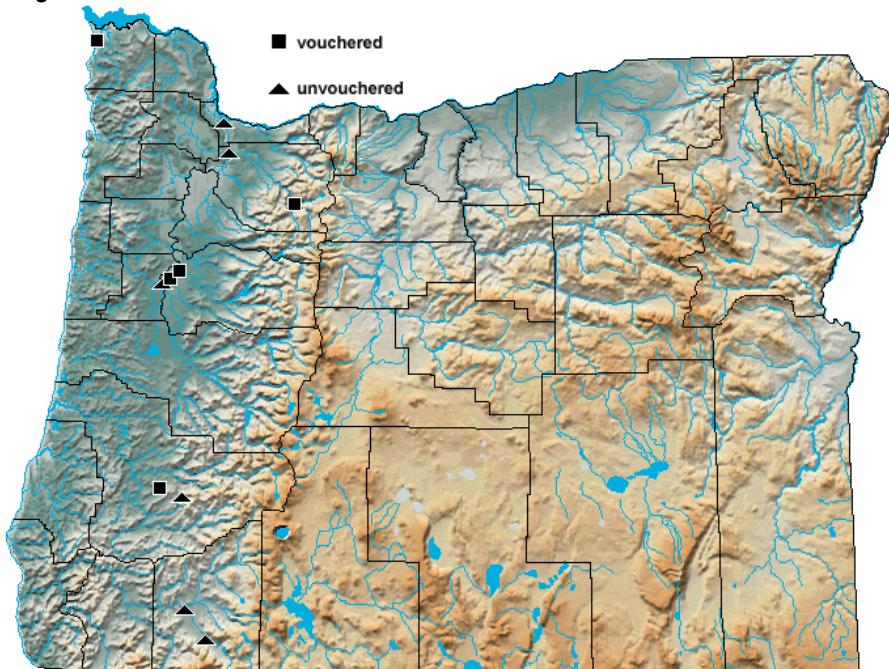
fronds boat-shaped, with bump (papilla) on otherwise nearly flat upper surface, 0.3-1 times as deep as wide, cells in upper part dark green

Wolffia columbiana H. Karst.

Columbia watermeal

PLANTS symbol: WOCO

August 2019 status ORBIC: List 2



Distribution: West of the Cascade Mountains; California; temperate to subtropical areas of North America (especially on the East Coast) and South America.

Habitat: Freshwater ponds and slow flowing ditches and streams in which water is rich in organic material. Occurs in natural ponds as well as in log and sewage treatment ponds.

Elevation: 0—500 m

Best survey time (plants floating and larger populations present): June–December

Associated species:

Lemna spp. (duckweeds)

Spirodela polyrrhiza (greater duckweed)



life size (really!)



Oregon Flora

<https://oregonflora.org>

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