



## *Wolffia australiana*

### Common Name(s):

water-meal

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Indigenous. North, South and Chatham Islands. Found throughout the Southern Hemisphere but exact distribution not clear

### Habitat:

Coastal to lower montane (up to 400 m a.s.l.) in still, fertile, water in sunny situations. Often found in association with *Lemna minor* L., *Landoltia punctata* (G.Mey.) Les et D.J.Crawford, *Azolla filiculoides* Lam., *Ricciocarpos natans* (L.) Corda and *Riccia fluitans* L. Easily overlooked.

### Features\*:

Bright green, minute aquatic summer-green herb without roots. Platelets 0.3-1 mm long, bearing one vegetative bud per platelet, ellipsoidal, dorsal surface weakly convex, the central green part merging into a colourless rounded shoulder; submerged portion much larger than that above water, pale, loosely cellular, more or less semi-circular in side view but laterally compressed. Inflorescence in a cavity opening on upper platelet surface; bearing one male and one female flower united without spathe. Ovule 1. Fruit spherical. Seed smooth with prominent operculum.

### Flowering:

November - February

### Fruiting:

December - April

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1997).

### References and further reading:

Petterson, J., Rolfe, J. 2008. *Wolffia australiana* - mealweed. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin*, 51: 64-65

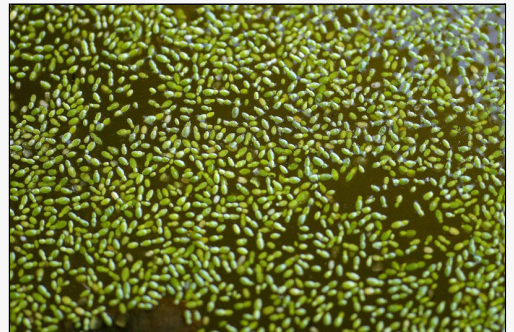
Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=2284](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2284)



**Caption:** *Wolffia australiana*  
**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth



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