2. *Lemna minor* L. (lesser duckweed, common duckweed)

Pl. 97 a–d; Map 383

Plants of single fronds or with 2 or 3 fronds connected by small stalks that soon wither, not producing turions. Roots 1–6(–10) cm long, the sheath at the base not winged, the tip blunt when fresh, often appearing pointed when dry. Fronds 2–8 mm long, often with reddish margins, spots, or areas, flattened, narrowly ovate to nearly orbicular, the bases rounded, the margins entire. Papules usually 2–5 per frond, all relatively small. Veins 3(–5) per frond, sometimes difficult to see, the midvein extending nearly the entire distance from the attachment point of the roots to the tip. Fruits 0.8–1.0 mm long, the seed with 10–16 ribs. $2n=20, 40, 50, 63, 126$.

Relatively common nearly throughout Missouri (Canada, U.S., Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, New Zealand). Floating on shallow, stagnant water of ponds, lakes, sloughs, ditches, swamps, and marshes, often forming mats; also in still backwaters and margins of spring branches, streams, and rivers, sometimes stranded on mud by receding waterline. This is the most common species of *Lemnaceae* in the state.