

Montia fontana L., WATER BLINKS. Annual, delicate, fibrous-rooted at nodes, several-stemmed at each node, mat-forming, prostrate with decumbent shoots, in range < 5 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, glabrous. **Stems:** cylindric, < 0.7 mm diameter, nongreen and often pinkish. **Leaves:** opposite decussate but with some nodes having either 1 or 3 leaves, simple, sessile and each pair (whorl) fused across node, without stipules; blade oblanceolate to spatulate, in range 2–5 × < 2 mm, somewhat fleshy, flaring at base (appearing to be a petiole), entire, blunt-acute and reddish at tip, veins inconspicuous. **Inflorescence:** raceme (racemelike cyme), axillary, 1–8-flowered, not 1-sided, bracteate, glabrous; peduncle absent (the lowest flower emerging from a leaf axil); bractlet subtending pedicel ± sheathing, fan-shaped, to 1.4 mm long, colorless, with narrow tip or sometimes 3-lobed; pedicel at anthesis ascending, 1–2 mm long, and green increasing 2×, recurved, and reddish in fruit (= fruits nodding). **Flower:** bisexual, ± radial, budlike (sometimes not opening, cleistogamous), in range ellipsoid, 1 × 0.6 mm, with tips of petals barely visible where exerted from calyx; **sepals** 2, opposite, subequal, outer sepal partially enclosing inner sepal, fan-shaped, 0.7–0.8 × 1.1 mm long, green, somewhat truncate at tip, persistent; **petals** 3, barely fused at bases, subequal, obovate, in range ± 0.9 × 0.4–0.5 mm, colorless (whitish), rounded at tip, fragile; **stamens** 3, fused in ring and alternate with petal bases; filaments erect, ca. 0.3 mm long, colorless; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, crescent-shaped. 0.15 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, 3-lobed and broadly obovoid, 0.25–0.3 mm long, green, 1-chambered with 3 ovules attached at base; style ca. 0.2 mm long, colorless, 3-branched at midpoint; stigmas = branches, minutely papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, dehiscent from tip downward by 3 valves, 3-seeded, ± spheric, ca. 1 mm, with margins rolling inward and forcibly expelling seeds. **Seed:** compressed-ellipsoid, in range 0.7–0.8 mm long, glossy black, densely minutely bumpy, with the micropylar notch containing a gray elaiosome. Late February–late March.

Native. A tiny annual first collected in 2008 at Tri Peaks (SMM) in a shallow basin on volcanic bedrock with moss by Tarja Sagar, and later at a small seep above Westlake Village. *Montia fontana* has minute flowers with parts so tiny that good magnification is required to interpret them. In range, the flowers studied to date have been cleistogamous, i.e., they do not open and are therefore self pollinated, and fruit set is therefore 100%; however, chasmogamous flowers have recently been photographed in range. This is a species widely distributed in the Northern Hemisphere, likely trapped in mud on feet of waterfowl, and presence of a fleshy elaiosome usually indicates that locally the seeds might also be dispersed by ants.

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