

Phyla nodiflora (L.) Greene, GARDEN LIPPIA. Perennial herb, clonal, rhizomatous, fibrous-rooting, with trailing stems rooting at buried nodes, prostrate to procumbent, typically 2.5–20 cm tall; shoots \pm appressed-hairy with 2-armed (T-shaped) hairs, glandular hairs absent, not aromatic. **Stems:** \pm cylindrical to 4-sided (very young), to 3 mm diameter, tough, flexible, inconspicuously striped, internodes of prostrate stems typically 10–35 mm long, often with buds of adventitious roots on lower side. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, short-petiolate with pairs connected by low ledges across node, without stipules; petiole $<$ 2.5 mm long, \pm indistinct from blade, appressed-hairy; blade oblanceolate to elliptic, (5–)10–20(–30) \times 3–12 mm (early season leaves often very small), bright green, broadly tapered to long-tapered at base, serrate on margins typically with $<$ 5 teeth per side above midpoint, acute to obtuse or rounded at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface, appressed-hairy, the 2-armed hairs evenly spaced in tiny depressions. **Inflorescence:** headlike spike, axillary on long peduncle, 1 per node alternating side-to-side at successive nodes, many-flowered, initially spheric becoming cylindrical, 5–20 \times 4.5–8 mm, flowers aligned in 8–9 vertical rows and tightly whorled, each whorl with 4 flowers, densely bracteate; peduncle ascending, cylindrical, 4–45(–90) mm long, not flaring just below spike, hollow, appressed-hairy with arms of hairs vertically aligned; bractlets overlapping, basal bractlets opposite decussate, appressed, rhombic to \pm inversely trowel-shaped, \pm 2.5 mm long, light green at base and lavender to light purple above midpoint, appressed-hairy on exposed surface with arms spreading parallel with long axis of bractlet, long-tapered to broadly tapered at base, with membranous margins and sometimes minutely toothed near tip, broadly acuminate at tip, becoming cupped over fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, 2–2.5 \times 3–3.5 mm wide, 3–5 mm long; **calyx** 2-lipped, strongly compressed front-to-back with lips lateral, 1.5–2.3 mm long, \pm keeled, mostly pale green but with lavender on lip tips, puberulent to \pm villous with unbranched and some hooked hairs, the hairs long along keel, the hairs on lips often lavender; tube without ribs or conspicuous veins; lips acute, $<$ 1/2 calyx, the split between lips deeper on outer than inner side; **corolla** 2-lipped, 4-lobed, to 2.7 mm long, dark lavender aging light lavender, persistent, with spreading, unequal lips; tube narrowly funnel-shaped, 1.8–2.2 mm long (\pm = calyx), slightly constricted at orifice, on the outside with appressed hairs on throat below lower lip, internally mostly glabrous except for several erect and some glandular hairs at level of the lowest stamens, with a bright yellow spot on lower throat; upper lip roundish to transversely oblong, ca. 1 \times 1–1.5 mm wide, lavender; lower lip 3-lobed, ca. 2 \times 1.2–2 mm, central lobe transversely kidney-shaped to oblong, 1 \times 1.7 mm, lavender, lateral lobes roundish, \pm 1 mm wide, pale lavender; **stamens** 4, all fertile, pairs fused at 2 levels, 2 stamens arising at middle of corolla tube and 2 stamens arising on upper corolla tube, subsessile, included; filaments $<$ length of anthers; anthers basifixed, dithecal, ca. 0.3 mm long, light yellow, sacs oblique, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1, bottle-shaped, \pm 1.2 mm long, pale green, glabrous; ovary superior, ovoid, ca. 0.5 mm long, not lobed, \pm translucent, yellow green, or pale green, 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; style \pm 2-lobed; stigmas capitate, light green. **Fruit:** schizocarp, of 2 1-seeded nutlets (mericarps), $<$ persistent calyx; mericarps ovoid to obovoid somewhat compressed front-to-back (\perp suture), 1.6–2 \times 1.1–1.3 \times 0.8–0.9 mm, splitting \perp to wide

face to yield mericarps, tannish, slightly rimmed on margins of flat inner face. Late May–late October.

Naturalized. Trailing perennial herb that roots at nodes, in range planted or established in lawns and thereafter later persists and spreads vegetatively. *Phyla nodiflora* is mostly encountered on banks next to pond or lake margins. Its flowers are slightly more showy than *P. lanceolata*, but on a spike the vast majority, if not all, pistils abort without forming fruits. If recognized, our plants would be called *P. nodiflora* var. *nodiflora*.

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