

Treatment revised to treat accommodate *Engellaria*, recently (2021) segregated from *Stellaria*.

**References:** Iamonico, D. 2021. *Engellaria* (Caryophyllaceae), a new North American genus segregated from *Stellaria*. Acta Botanica Mexicana 128: e1846. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21829/abm128.2021.1846>.

**How to Cite:** B.S. Legler, D.E. Giblin. 2025. Pp. 338–340. In Hitchcock, C. L. and A. Cronquist. 2018. Flora of the Pacific Northwest: An illustrated manual, 2nd edition. Edited by D. E. Giblin, B. S. Legler, P. F. Zika, and R. G. Olmstead. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 882 pp.

**CARYOPHYLLACEAE Pink Family**

Fls mostly cymose and ped, complete or apert, or pls ♂♀ or ♂, ♀; sepals distinct to connate, (4)5; petals (4)5, occ absent, often deeply lobed to laciniate or fringed, sometimes with well-defined claw and bl and then occ with appendages on adaxial side at juncture of the two, claw sometimes prolonged upward into aurs; stamens mostly = or 2 × sepals, sometimes fewer, inserted under ovary and often ± fused with petals at base, or sometimes inserted at the edge of a small perig disc; pistil 2–5-carpellary; ovary mostly 1-celled, with free-central or basal placentation, but sometimes imperfectly 3–5-celled, often borne on a short stalk; styles 1–5, mostly distinct; fr gen caps opening by valves or teeth, but sometimes 1-seeded and indehiscent; ann to per herbs (a few suffrutescent), mostly with swollen nodes and opp (alt or whorled), simple, entire, exstip or scarious-stip lvs.



**1a** Nodes each with 2 scarious stip, these gen lanceolate to ovate (in *Loeflingia* stip fused to lf margin much of their length with the free tips filamentous)

**2a** Lvs alt (rarely subopp); styles 3; fr 1-seeded, indehiscent **Corrigiola**

**2b** Lvs opp or apparently whorled; styles 1–5; fr deshiscent or indehiscent



**3a** Lvs obovate, ovate, or elliptic, 3–12 mm  
**4a** Fr a several-seeded caps, dehiscing by 3 valves; ours an ann with stip 1.8–2.8 mm, fls in terminal cymes, and keeled sepals **Polycarpon**

**4b** Fr a 1-seeded utricle or caps; ours prostrate anns with stip 0.5–1.5 mm and fls in small axillary cymes

**5a** Sepals green, not spongy-thickened, mucronulate, 0.5–1.5 mm; fr an indehiscent utricle **Herniaria**



**5b** Sepals white, spongy-thickened, awned, 1–2.5 mm; fr a caps, splitting longitudinally; uncommon Eurasian intro; coll as an old waif from Portland, OR, and recently as a weed on VI **Illecebrum verticillatum** L.

**3b** Lvs linear to subulate; caps valves 3 or 5 and recurved in dehiscence, or caps indehiscent

**6a** Stip fused to lf margin much of their length, the free tips filamentous; sepals very unequal, resembling the lvs, setaceous, gen recurved, often with 2 filamentous lateral spurs; petals absent; dichotomously br ann **Loeflingia**

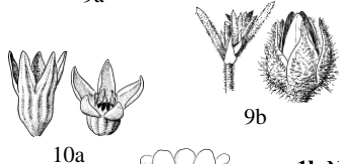
**6b** Stip triangular to ovate, not fused to lf margin; sepals = or unequal, variously shaped, without lateral spurs; petals absent or present; pls ann or per



**7a** Calyx lobes ± hooded and awned at the tip; stamens borne at the edge of a perig disc surrounding the ovary and often adnate to the calyx; petals absent or rudimentary; style 1, cleft above; fr 1-seeded, indehiscent

**8a** Sepals very unequal, 3 outer ones largest and nearly enclosing the inner 2, the awn nearly = the body, spinose **Cardionema**

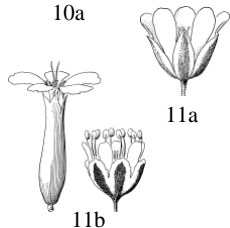
**8b** Sepals more nearly =, the awn < the body, not spinose **Paronychia**



**7b** Calyx lobes neither hooded nor awned at the tip; stamens hypog; petals gen present; styles 3 or 5; fr several-seeded, dehiscant

**9a** Styles and caps valves 5; lvs apparently whorled but really in 2 clusters at each node **Spergula**

**9b** Styles and caps valves 3; lvs opp or fascicled **Spergularia**



**1b** Nodes without stip

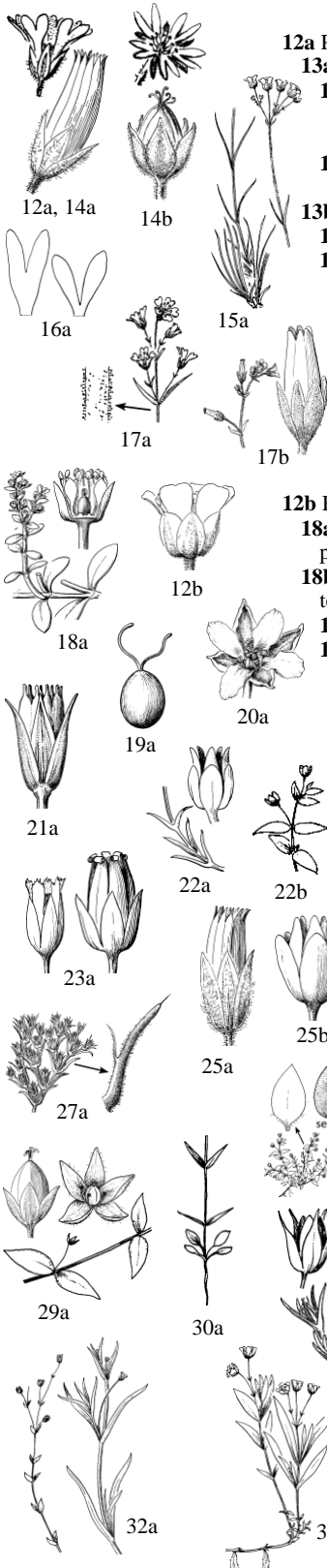
**10a** Fr 1-seeded, indehiscent, stamens borne at the edge of a camp hypan surrounding ovary; petals absent; styles 2; pls ann **Scleranthus**

**10b** Fr several-seeded, dehiscant; stamens mostly hypog; petals present or absent; styles 2–5; pls ann to per

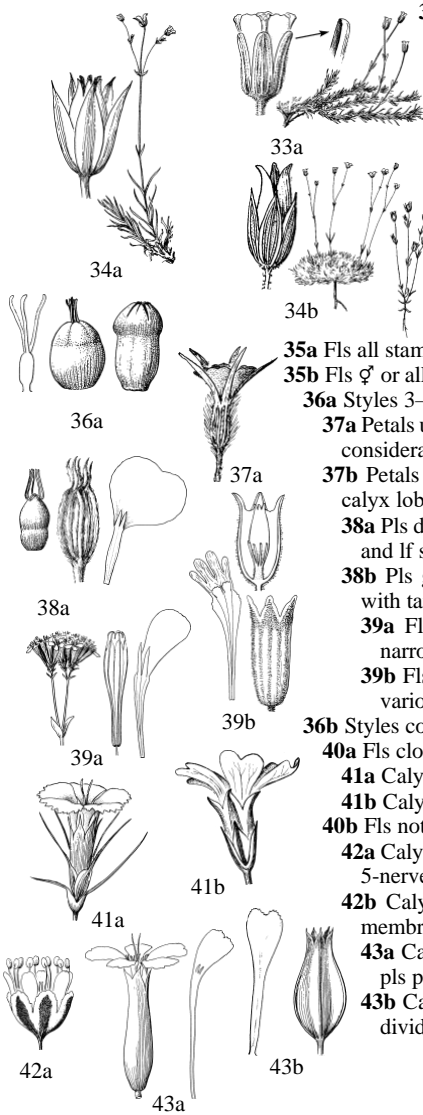
**11a** Sepals almost or fully distinct **Group 1**

**11b** Sepals ± connate, gen for > 1/2 their length **Group 2, lead 34a**

**Group 1**



- 12a** Petals bilobed or notched, sometimes nearly to base
- 13a** Styles 5; caps dehiscent by 5 or 10 valves or teeth
- 14a** Caps dehiscent by 10 gen revolute-margined teeth, narrowly cylindrical or conic, gen curved near the tip, delicately membranous, (1–)2–3 × as long as the sepals; petals bilobed mostly < 1/2 their length **Cerastium**
- 14b** Caps dehiscent by 5 valves, ovoid to globose, straight, only slightly > the sepals; petals bilobed nearly to their base **Myosoton**
- 15b** Styles 3(4); caps dehiscent by 3 or 6(8) valves or teeth
- 15a** Lvs congested near base of st, filiform **Eremogone**
- 15b** Lvs gen cauline, linear or wider, with a flat bl
- 16a** Petals bilobed at least half their length, often nearly to base; valves of caps 3 or 6, erect and straight; pls glab or eglandular-pubescent above (glandular-pubescent only in *S. americana*) **Stellaria**
- 16b** Petals bilobed < 1/2 their length; valves of caps 6, erect to recurved; pls minutely glandular-pubescent above
- 17a** Pls rhizomatous per; caps < or ca = sepals; seeds 1–3; lvs (1.5–)2–12 cm **Pseudostellaria**
- 17b** Pls taprooted ann; caps ca 2 × as long as sepals; seeds ∅; lvs 1–3 cm **Dichodon**
- 12b** Petals entire to erose (rarely ± shallowly retuse), or absent
- 18a** Pls per, glab, fleshy, occurring only along seacoast; fls single in lf axils; disc prominent; seeds smooth, 2–4 mm **Honckenya**
- 18b** Pls of varied habit, per or ann, seldom along seacoast; fls mostly cymose or terminal, rarely with disc; seeds smooth, rugose, or papillate
- 19a** Styles 2; caps dehiscent by 2 straight valves, globose **Lepyrodiclis**
- 19b** Styles 3, 4, or 5; caps dehiscent by > 2 valves, gen ovoid to cylindrical
- 20a** Sepals 4; petals 4 or absent; styles 4
- 21a** Caps ± cylindrical, dehiscent by 8 teeth **Moenchia**
- 21b** Caps ovoid to globose, dehiscent by 4(8) erect valves
- 22a** Valves of caps opp the sepals; lvs subulate to linear, connate at base to form a scarious cup **Sagina**
- 22b** Valves of caps alt with the sepals; lvs broadly linear, lanceolate, ovate, or elliptic, sessile or rarely slightly connate **Stellaria**
- 20b** Sepals 5; petals 5 or absent; styles gen 3 or 5
- 23a** Petals ± erose; caps dehiscent by 6(8–10) recurved teeth; fls ± umbellate, subtended by an invol of bracts; pls often glaucous **Holosteum**
- 23b** Petals entire to shallowly retuse, or absent
- 24a** Styles 5; valves of caps 5 or 10
- 25a** Caps narrowly cylindrical or conic, gen curved near the tip, dehiscent by 10 gen revolute-margined teeth **Cerastium**
- 25b** Caps ovoid, straight, dehiscent by 5 erect valves **Sagina**
- 24b** Styles 3; valves of caps gen 3 or 6
- 26a** Petals absent
- 27a** Pls glandular-pubescent throughout; dichotomously br ann with recurved, subulate, gen spinescent lvs **Loeflingia**
- 27b** Pls glab to non-glandular pubescent; ann or per, lvs various
- 28a** St lvs lanceolate to elliptic or ovate, 1–8 mm wide
- 29a** Caps ovoid to ellipsoid, 1.5–2 × as long as wide; sepals gen 5, acute, broadly scarious, strongly 3-nerved **Stellaria**
- 29b** Caps ± globose, ca as long as wide; sepals 4(5), ± obtuse, hardly scarious, obscurely nerved **Engellaria**
- 28b** St lvs linear to subulate, 0.5–1.5(–2) mm wide
- 30a** Caps valves 6; basal lvs spatulate; pls ann (*S. nitens*) **Stellaria**
- 30b** Caps valves 3; lvs all linear to subulate; pls ann or per **Sabulina**
- 26b** Petals present
- 31a** Lvs narrowly oblong to ovate or obovate, or occ linear-lanceolate, (1.5–)2–15 mm wide, ± equally distributed along st
- 32a** Seed appendage lacking; pls either per with linear-lanceolate lvs or ann with ovate to oblong lvs; lvs 1.5–5 mm wide **Arenaria**
- 32b** Seed appendage present, to 0.7 mm, elliptic, white, spongy; pls rhizomatous per with lvs narrowly oblong to ovate or obovate and 2–15 mm wide **Moehringia**



**31b** Lvs linear to subulate, < 1.5 mm wide, often basally disposed  
**33a** Ovary sutures and fr valves 6; pls per, often > 10 cm; lvs gen > 1 cm and often congested near base of st (except in *E. franklinii*)

**Eremogone**

**33b** Ovary sutures and fr valves 3; pls per or ann, gen < 10 cm; lvs often < 1 cm, variously distributed along st

**34a** Sepal apices hooded, obtuse, margins incurved; pls glandular-pubescent, per

**Cherleria**

**34b** Sepal apices not hooded, acute to acuminate or spinescent (rarely obtuse but then flat), margins not incurved; pls glab or glandular-pubescent, ann or per

**Sabulina**

**Group 2**

**35a** Fls all staminate

**Silene**

**35b** Fls ♀ or all pistillate

**36a** Styles 3–5; caps dehiscent by 3–5 valves or 6–10 teeth

**37a** Petals unappendaged, unlobed, purplish-red; calyx lobes linear-lanceolate, > the considerably hardened calyx tube; ovary not stalked

**Agrostemma**

**37b** Petals mostly appendaged, lobed or unlobed, white to pink, red, or purplish; calyx lobes ≤ the tube; ovary gen stalked within the calyx

**38a** Pls densely silky-tomentose with tangled eglandular hairs nearly obscuring st and lf surfaces; styles (4)5; pls ♀-fld; petals deep red

**Lychnis**

**38b** Pls glab to pubescent, often glandular above, not densely silky-tomentose with tangled eglandular hairs; styles 3, 4, or 5; pls ♀-fld or ♂, ♀

**39a** Fls in congested capitate cymes or clusters, gen rich pink; calyx glab, narrowly clavate; styles 3; ovary stalk 7–8 mm

**Atocion**

**39b** Fls in open cymes or solitary, variously colored; calyx glab or pubescent, variously shaped; styles 3, 4, or 5; ovary stalk 1–6 mm

**Silene**

**36b** Styles commonly 2 (rarely 3); caps dehiscent by 4 valves

**40a** Fls closely subtended or enclosed by 2–several pairs of appressed bracts

**41a** Calyx 15–40-nerved; bracts green, not scarious

**Dianthus**

**41b** Calyx 5–15-nerved; bracts red to brown, scarious

**Petrorhagia**

**40b** Fls not closely subtended by appressed bracts

**42a** Calyx 1–5 mm, forming a camp cup, strongly membranous below the sinuses, 5-nerved

**Gypsophila**

**42b** Calyx at least 10 mm, forming a cylindric to ovoid tube, not particularly membranous below the sinuses, 10–20-nerved

**43a** Calyx terete; petals appendaged at juncture of claw and bl; peds 1–6 mm; pls per

**Saponaria**

**43b** Calyx strongly 5-angled or winged; petals neither appendaged nor clearly divided into claw and bl; peds > (5–)10 mm; pls ann

**Vaccaria**