

Treatment revised to treat *Stellaria obtusa* as *Engellaria obtusa*; *Stellaria borealis* subsp. *sitchana* is elevated to the rank of species as *S. sitchana* Steud.

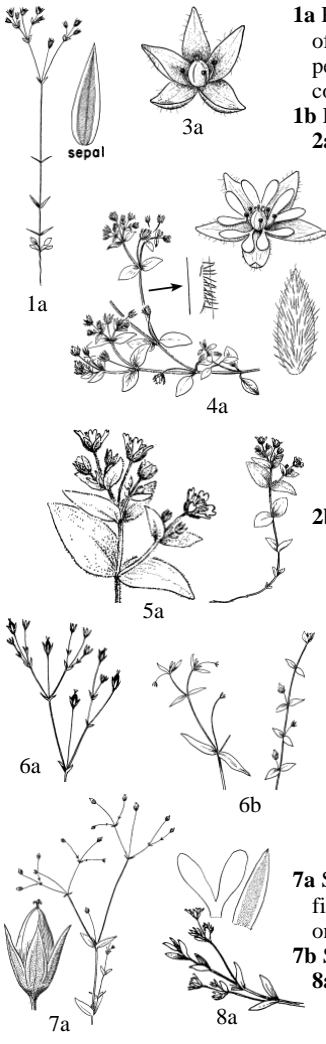
References: Iamonico, D. 2021. *Engellaria* (Caryophyllaceae), a new North American genus segregated from *Stellaria*. Acta Botanica Mexicana 128: e1846. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21829/abm128.2021.1846>.

Sharples, M.T. 2019. Taxonomic observations within *Stellaria* (Caryophyllaceae): insights from ecology, geography, morphology, and phylogeny suggest widespread parallelism in starworts and erode previous infrageneric classifications. Systematic Botany 44: 877–886.

How to Cite: B.S. Legler, D.E. Giblin. 2025. 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.

Stellaria L. Starwort; Stitchwort; Chickweed

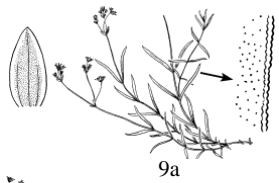
Fls ♀, hypog, rather small, axillary to cymose; sepals (4)5, distinct; petals (4)5 or absent, white, deeply to shallowly bilobed, sometimes greatly reduced; stamens mostly 10, occ 1–5 or 8; styles gen 3(–5); caps ± ovoid, 1-celled, tardily dehiscent by gen twice as many teeth as styles, ∞-seeded; ann or per, gen ± rhizomatous herbs, often with 4-angled st and sessile or short-petiolate, linear to ovate lvs. (L *stella*, star, referring to fl shape). (*Alsine*, *Stellularia*).



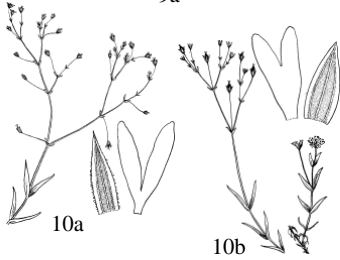
- 1a** Pls delicate ann with thread-like taproot and erect, slender st; lvs crowded near base of st, the basal lvs spatulate, st lvs lanceolate; infl bracts scarious; sepals acuminate; petals < sepals or absent; dry to moist open areas, often where sandy or gravelly; common, s BC to Baja Cal, e to ID, w MT, and UT; shining c. **1 S. nitens** Nutt.
- 1b** Pls ann or per; st ± equally lfy, basal lvs absent or similar in shape to st lvs
- 2a** Sts, petioles, and peds pubescent in lines; lvs ovate to elliptic, lower ones distinctly petiolate; pls ann or winter ann from a slender taproot
- 3a** Sepals 2–3 mm in fl (to 4 mm in fr); stamens 1–3; petals gen absent; seeds 0.5–0.9 mm diam, yellow to light red-brown; pls often yellow-green; lvs 3–15 mm; disturbed soil and roadsides; European intro; occ w Cas, sw BC and nw WA; lesser c. **2 S. pallida** (Dumort.) Crép.
- 3b** Sepals 3–6 mm in fl (gen > 6 mm in fr); stamens 3–5 or 8–10; petals gen present; seeds 0.9–1.7 mm diam, dark red-brown; pls green; lvs 5–40 mm
- 4a** Sepals 3–4.5 mm in fl; stamens 3–5(8); seeds 0.9–1.3 mm diam, tubercles rounded, wider than tall; for edge, fields, roadsides, wastelots, and other disturbed, open areas; widespread and common European intro; AK s, both sides Cas, to CA, e to Atl; common c. **3 S. media** (L.) Vill
- 4b** Sepals 5–6 mm in fl; stamens 8–10; seeds 1.1–1.7 mm diam, tubercles conic, taller than wide; European intro; recently coll in Island Co, WA, to be expected elsewhere w Cas; greater c. **4 S. neglecta** Weihe
- 2b** Sts, petioles, and peds glab to ± uniformly pubescent; lvs various, often sessile; pls per, often rhizomatous or rooting at lower nodes
- 5a** Pls copiously glandular-pubescent; seeds ca 2.5 mm diam; sepals 3–5 mm; petals > sepals; peds erect in fl, becoming strongly reflexed in fr; lvs ovate, widest at or above middle; st mostly < 1.5 dm; higher mts, mostly on talus; sw Alta to sc MT; Am sta. **5 S. americana** (Porter ex B.L. Rob.) Standl
- 5b** Pls glab to nonglandular-pubescent; seeds 0.3–1 mm diam
- 6a** Infl bracts mostly scarious; fls in terminal or axillary cymes (rarely solitary in If axils in *S. alsine*, but then scarious bracts gen present) **Group 1**, lead 7a
- 6b** Infl bracts lfy, sometimes reduced upwards but then green throughout or with scarious margins lacking or inconspicuous; fls in terminal cymes or solitary in axils of st lvs **Group 2**, lead 11a

Group 1

- 7a** Styles ca 0.25 mm; petals absent; cymes sub-umbellate; sts and peds very slender to filiform; moist mont meadowl and for; AK s to CA, mostly e Cas, and in RMS to NM, only occ in WA and OR; Siberia; umbellate sta. **6 S. umbellata** Turcz.
- 7b** Styles 1–3 mm; petals present; cymes dichotomously br; sts not notably filiform
- 8a** Cymes 1–5-fld, in axils of mid and distal st lvs; petals gen < sepals; caps 2.5–3.5 mm, green; seeds 0.3–0.4 mm, papillate-rugose; lvs mostly elliptic to oblanceolate; occ in lawns; European intro; w Cas; bog sti. **7 S. alsine** Grimm



9a



10a



10b

8b Cymes few-∞-fld, terminating the st; petals gen \geq sepals; caps 3–7 mm; seeds 0.5–1 mm

9a Lf margins and st edges finely papillate ($> 10\times$); lvs linear to narrowly elliptic, widest near middle; sepals 2–4 mm; styles ca 1 mm; infls lateral; mont stream banks and meadows; AK to Newf, s through WA and OR to CA, and in ID and MT to NM and SC; Eurasia; long-lvd sta. **8 S. longifolia** Muhl. ex Willd.

9b Lf margins and st edges smooth; lvs lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, widest at base; sepals 3–7 mm; styles 1.5–3 mm; infls terminal

10a Sepals narrowly triangular to lanceolate, margins \pm straight; styles ca 3 mm; caps green to straw-colored; seeds ca 1 mm, prominently rugose in concentric rings; infl gen ∞ -fld, brs spreading to ascending; mostly in lawns; European intro; w Cas, occ e to w MT; lesser sta. or sti. **9 S. graminea** L.

10b Sepals lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, margins convex; styles 1–2 mm; caps purplish-black; seeds 0.6–0.9 mm, smooth to lightly rugose; infl gen few-fld, brs erect to ascending; stream banks to mont rocky slopes; AK s to CA, e to NY, Newf, Greenl; Eurasia; longstalk sta. (*S. l.* var. *altocaulis*, *S. monantha*, *S. m.* var. *a.*); ours subsp. **longipes** **10 S. longipes** Goldie

Group 2

11a Petals $>$ or nearly = sepals; styles 1–2 mm

12a Lvs narrowly lanceolate to ovate, 0.5–4 cm, widest at base, sharply acute, often stiff and glaucous; caps purplish-black; sts gen erect to ascending (see lead 10b)

10 S. longipes Goldie

12b Lvs elliptic to ovate (lanceolate), 0.4–1.5 cm, widest at or near middle, obtuse to broadly acute, \pm succulent, not glaucous; caps straw-colored; sts decumbent to straggling, often mat-forming

13a Sepals 3–3.5 mm at anthesis, ultimately $>$ caps; peds becoming \pm curved; styles ca 2 mm; lvs thin, gen not drying brownish; pls of moist mont areas; circumboreal, s in RM to CO, in our area in MT and ID; thicklvd sta.

11 S. crassifolia Ehrh.

13b Sepals 4–5 mm at anthesis, ultimately = caps; peds gen straight; styles 1–1.5 mm; lvs fleshy, drying brownish; in our area along coast, gen in salt marshes; circumpolar, s to BC and occ in WA and OR; low or spreading sta.

12 S. humifusa Rottb.

11b Petals clearly $<$ sepals or absent; styles 0.3–2 mm

14a Fls solitary in axils of mid and distal st lvs, never terminating st; sts gen prostrate; lvs broadly elliptic to ovate, occ short-petiolate; petals gen absent

15a Caps 3.5–6 mm, ovoid to ellipsoid, 1.5–2 \times as long as wide; sepals gen 5, acute, broadly scarious, strongly 3-nerved; styles ca 1 mm; lvs gen glab, minutely crisp-margined; moist places, low to foothills or lower mts; AK to CA, Cas to coast, e to Alta, ID, and MT; crisped sta. (*A. c.*, *S. borealis* var. *c.*)

13 S. crispa Cham. & Schltld.

15b Caps 2.3–3.5 mm, \pm globose, ca as long as wide; sepals 4 or 5, \pm obtuse, hardly scarious, obscurely nerved; styles $<$ 0.5 mm; lvs often ciliate at base, not crisp-margined; mont meadows and stream banks; BC, Cas and OM, WA, to CA, e to Alta, se WA, ne OR, ID, MT, and s to CO; blunt-sepaled sta. (*A. o.*, *S. viridula*, *S. o.*)

14 Engellaria obtusa Steud.

14b Fls in terminal cymes (occ cymes few-fld or fls solitary at st tip); sts sprawling to \pm erect, gen br above; lvs narrowly to broadly lanceolate, ovate, or elliptic, sessile; petals present or absent

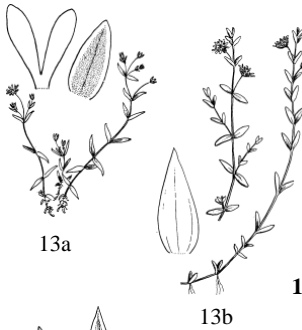
16a Caps broadly ovoid, 1–1.5 \times as long as wide, green; styles 0.4–0.9 mm; petals absent or to 1(–1.5) mm; sepals 2–2.5 mm at anthesis; lvs ovate to broadly elliptic, gen not $>$ 2.5 cm; moist meadows, seeps and wet areas, mont to alp; widespread in mts of our area, AK s to CA and NM; e Asia; northern sta. (*S. c.* var. *simcoei*, *S. s.*)

15 S. calycantha (Ledeb.) Bong.

16b Caps ovoid, 1.5–2 \times as long as wide, straw-colored to dark brown; styles 0.9–2 mm; sepals 2–5 mm at anthesis; petals 1–3 mm (rarely absent); lvs lanceolate to narrowly elliptic, mostly $>$ 2.5 cm;



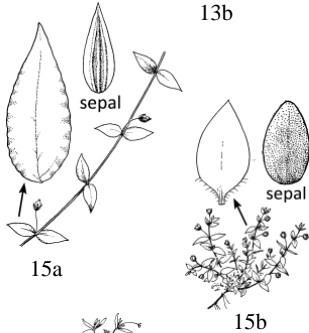
12a



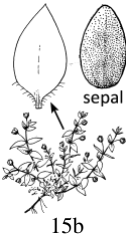
13a



13b



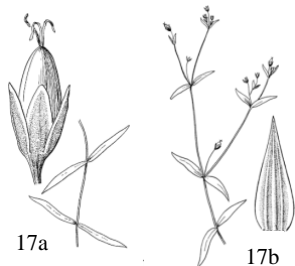
15a



15b



16a



17a Sepals 2–3.3 mm, ovate to ovate-triangular, with an indistinct midvein extending to near tip, lateral veins visible only near base; mature caps often brown, mostly 3–4.5 mm; st internodes glab; lvs mostly 2–3 cm, widest just below middle; circumpolar, s occ in mts **16 S. borealis** Bigelow

17b Sepals 3.5–5 mm, narrowly triangular, gen with 3 ridged veins extending to near tip; mature caps straw-colored, 5–7 mm; st internodes finely papillate (20×); lvs mostly 3–6 cm, widest near base; common, AK to CA, e to Alta, SD, and UT (*S. calycantha* vars. *bongardiana*, s., *S. s.*) **17 S. sitchana** Steud.