

Stellaria media

Common chickweed

Introduction

The genus *Stellaria* contains approximately 190 species, occurring primarily in the temperate regions. Sixty-four species have been reported in China^[12].

Taxonomy

- Order:** Centrospermae
- Suborder:** Caryophyllineae
- Family:** Caryophyllaceae
- Subfamily:** Alsinoideae Vierh.
- Tribe:** Alsineae Pax
- Subtribe:** Stellarinae Aschers. et Graebn.
- Genus:** *Stellaria* L.
- Section:** *Stellaria*
- Subsection:** *Stellaria*
- Series:** *Petiolares* Fenal
- Species:** *Stellaria media* (L.) Cyr.

Description

Stellaria media is an annual or biennial herb that can reach 10-30 cm in height. The stem is light purplish red with one or two rows of hairs on the surface, and procumbent or erect branches at the base. Leaves are broad ovate or ovate, margin entire, 1.5-2.5 cm long and 1-1.5 cm wide, with acuminate or abrupt



apex and attenuate or subcordate base, lower leaf is petioled. The inflorescence is a terminal cyme. The sepals are, ovate lanceolate, about 4 mm in length, slightly obtuse or suborbicular apically and covered with short glandular hairs outside. Shorter than sepals, each petal is white, oblong, nearly bisected. Shorter than petals, stamens are 3-5 with 3 linear styles. Slightly longer than the persistent calyx, capsules are ovate, 6-lobed apically. The flowers bloom from June to July and followed by fruits in July through August. The plentiful seeds are reddish brown, ovate to suborbicular, nearly compressed, 1-1.2 mm in diameter^[12, 187].

Habitat

Stellaria media most often occurs in moist croplands, along roadsides, or in grasslands near streams^[39].

Distribution

Stellaria media occurs in Anhui, Fujian, Gansu, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hebei, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Jilin, Liaoning, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanxi, Sichuan, Xizang, Yunnan, and Zhejiang provinces^[12, 187].

Economic Importance

Although the stems, leaves and seeds of *S. media* are reported to be medically useful and edible, *S. media* is a bothersome weed during the early through middle

stage of crop growth of wheat, rape and some vegetables. It is also poisonous to poultry^[39, 108, 187].

Related Species

S. media var. *micrantha* (Hayata) T. S. Liu & S. S. Ying, native to Taiwan, is a perennial herb. Its petals are nearly equal to sepals, which are 2-2.5 mm long, whereas *S. media* var. *media* has longer sepals and shorter petals^[12]. *S. media* and five additional members of the genus *Stellaria* are regarded as unwelcome plants in China. They are *S. alsine* Grimm, *S. pallida* (Dumortier) Crépin, *S. dichotoma* L., *S. discolor* Turcz., and *S. neglecta* Weihe ex Bluff et Fingerh^[108].

Natural Enemies of Stellaria

Eleven fungi and eighteen arthropods have been found on the members of the genus *Stellaria*. Four fungal species are reported to infect *S. media*. One out of seven insects that attack *S. media*, *Hypera basalis* (Voss) is considered to be a potential biological control agent^[116].

Species of *Stellaria* in China^[12, 187]

Scientific Name	Scientific Name
<i>S. alaschanica</i> Y. Z. Zhao	<i>S. media</i> (L.) Cyr.
<i>S. alsine</i> Grimm ^I	<i>S. monosperma</i> Buch.-Ham. ex D. Don
<i>S. amblyosepala</i> Schrenk	<i>S. neglecta</i> Weihe ex Bluff et Fingerh.
<i>S. arenarioides</i> Shi L. Chen et al. ^{II}	<i>S. nemorum</i> L.
<i>S. arisanensis</i> (Hayata) Hayata	<i>S. nepalensis</i> Majumdar et Vartak
<i>S. bistyla</i> Y. Z. Zhao [†]	<i>S. nipponica</i> Ohwi
<i>S. brachypetala</i> Bge.	<i>S. omeiensis</i> C. Y. Wu et Y. W. Tsui ex P. Ke
<i>S. bungeana</i> Fenzl	<i>S. ovatifolia</i> (Mizushima) Mizushima
<i>S. cherleriae</i> (Fisch. ex Ser.) Williams	<i>S. oxycoccoides</i> Kom.
<i>S. chinensis</i> Regel	<i>S. pallida</i> (Dumortier) Crépin ^{III}
<i>S. congestiflora</i> Hara	<i>S. palustris</i> Ehrh. ex Retz.
<i>S. crassifolia</i> Ehrh.	<i>S. parviumbellata</i> Y. Z. Zhao
<i>S. decumbens</i> Edgew.	<i>S. patens</i> D. Don
<i>S. delavayi</i> Franch.	<i>S. petiolaris</i> Hand.-Mazz.
<i>S. depressa</i> E. Schmid	<i>S. petraea</i> Bge.
<i>S. dianthifolia</i> Williams	<i>S. pilosoides</i> Shi L. Chen et al. ^{IV}
<i>S. dichotoma</i> L.	<i>S. pusilla</i> E. Schmid
<i>S. discolor</i> Turcz.	<i>S. radians</i> L.
<i>S. ebracteata</i> Kom.	<i>S. reticulivena</i> Hayata
<i>S. filicaulis</i> Makino	<i>S. salicifolia</i> Y. W. Tsui ex P. Ke
<i>S. graminea</i> L.	<i>S. soongorica</i> Roshev.
<i>S. gyantseensis</i> Williams	<i>S. souliei</i> Williams
<i>S. gyirongensis</i> L. H. Zhou	<i>S. strongylosepala</i> Handel-Mazzetti [†]
<i>S. henryi</i> Williams	<i>S. subumbellata</i> Edgew.
<i>S. imbricata</i> Bge.	<i>S. Tibetica</i> Kurz
<i>S. infracta</i> Maxim.	<i>S. uda</i> Williams
<i>S. irrigua</i> Bge.	<i>S. umbellata</i> Turcz.
<i>S. lanata</i> Hook. f. ex Edgew. et Hook. f.	<i>S. vestita</i> Kurz
<i>S. lanipes</i> C. Y. Wu et H. Chuang	<i>S. winkleri</i> (Briq.) Schischk.
<i>S. longifolia</i> Muehl. ex Willd.	<i>S. wushanensis</i> Williams
<i>S. mainlingensis</i> L. H. Zhou	<i>S. yunnanensis</i> Franch.
<i>S. martjanovii</i> Krylov	<i>S. zangnanensis</i> L. H. Zhou

† Not listed in *FRPS*

^I Recorded as *S. uliginosa* Murr. in *FRPS*

^{II} Recorded as *S. arenaria* Maxim. in *FRPS*

^{III} Recorded as *S. apetala* Ucria ex Roem. in *FRPS*

^{IV} Recorded as *S. pilosa* Franch. in *FRPS*

Fungi

Phylum	Family	Species	H. R.	Ref.
Ascomycota	Sclerotiniaceae	<i>Sclerotinia sclerotiorum</i> (Lib.) de Bary	p	[26]
Basidiomycota	Pucciniaceae	<i>Puccinia arenariae</i> (Schumach.) J. Schröt.	po	[26]
		<i>Puccinia stellariicola</i> Cummins	p	[229]
		<i>Uromyces inaequalis</i> Lasch ex Rabenh.	oo	[26]
			po	[26]

Phylum	Family	Species	H. R.	Ref.
		<i>Uromyces leptaleus</i> Syd.	oo	[26]
Oomycota	Peronosporaceae	<i>Peronospora alsinearum</i> Casp.	m	[26]
			o	[202]
		<i>Peronospora media</i> Gäum.	m	[26]
		<i>Peronospora parva</i> Gäum.	oo	[202]
		<i>Peronospora stellariae-radiantis</i> Sawada	oo	[202]
		<i>Peronospora stellariae-uliginosae</i> Sawada	mo	[26]
oo	[202]			
Anamorphic <i>Mycosphaerella</i>		<i>Septoria paraphysoides</i> Spag.	oo	[26]

Arthropods

Order	Family	Species	H. R.	Ref.	
Acariformes	Tetranychidae	<i>Tetranychus cinnabarinus</i> (Boisduval)	po	[167]	
Coleoptera	Curculionidae	<i>Hypera basalis</i> (Voss)	m	[116]	
Hymenoptera	Tenthredinidae	<i>Rhogogaster viridis</i> (L.)	po	[166]	
Lepidoptera	Geometridae	<i>Euphyia cineraria</i> (Butler)	m	[195]	
			m	[189]	
		<i>Euphyia unangulata</i> (Haworth)	m	[195]	
		<i>Euphyia unangulata gracilaria</i> (Bang-Haas)	m	[189]	
			<i>Sterrhia rufaria</i> Hübner	m	[25]
	Noctuidae		<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i> (L.)	po	[166]
			<i>Amathes triangulum</i> Hüfnagel	po	[166]
			<i>Apamea characteria</i> (Denis & Schiffermüller)	po	[15]I
			<i>Axylia putris</i> (L.)	po	[228]II
				po	[178]
				po	[11]
				po	[181]II
			<i>Euxoa tritici</i> (L.)	p	[25]
			<i>Hoplodrina alsines</i> (Brahm)	po	[15]III
				po	[166]III
			<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i> (Denis & Schiffermüller)	po	[15]IV
			<i>Lacanobia w-latinum</i> (Hüfnagel)	po	[25]V
			<i>Polia illoba</i> (Butler)	p	[228]
			<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i> (L.)	p	[166]VI
			<i>Xestia triangulum</i> (Hüfnagel)	po	[178]VII
po				[224]VII	
po	[11]VII				
po	[181]VII				

^IRecorded as *Apamea hepatica* (L.)

^{II}Recorded as *Agrotis putris* (L.)

^{III}Recorded as *Athetis alsines* (Brahm)

^{IV}Recorded as *Athetis blanda* (Schiffermüller)

^VRecorded as *Recorded as Polia w-latinum* Hüfnagel

^{VI}Recorded as *Amathes c-nigrum* L.

^{VII}Recorded as *Agrotis triangulum* (Hüfnagel)