

Cerastium glomeratum Thuill., STICKY MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED. Annual, taprooted, typically 1-stemmed at base, erect to ascending, (5–)10–25(–45) cm tall; shoots ± pilose with erect multicellular hairs and some capitate glandular hairs. **Stems:** cylindric, 1 mm diameter, green becoming flesh-colored or deep purplish red, internodes 10–75 mm long, the shortest at plant base. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, sessile with pair connected by 2 low ledges across node, without stipules; blade oblanceolate or obovate to elliptic or ovate, in range 12–27 × 3.5–12 mm, dull, broadly to narrowly tapered at base, entire and ciliate on margins, acute to rounded or obtuse at tip, sometimes sheathing stem for 0.5–1 mm, appearing faintly parallel-veined at base with midrib raised on lower surface, pilose. **Inflorescence:** dichasial cyme, terminal or occasionally axillary, open or compact when young, 20–140 × 30–110 mm, equally 2-forked at each node, several–many-flowered, bracteate; bracts subtending each fork 2, leaflike but reduced upward; bractlets subtending pedicels absent; pedicel typically 1–2.5 mm long, pilose and capitate-glandular. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 1–1.5 mm across; hypanthium inconspicuous; **sepals** 5, lanceolate, at anthesis 2.3–3 × ± 0.7 mm increasing to 4–5 × 1 mm in fruit, green and colorless-scarious on exposed margins, acute at tip, with fine venation, glandular-hairy, pilose at tip and sometimes with a purple line or dot approaching tip; **petals** 0(5), forked at tip, oblanceolate, ≤ length of sepals, white; **stamens** 5(10), free; filaments slender, ± 1 mm long, whitish translucent; anthers basifixed, minutely dithecal, < 0.2 mm long, whitish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ovoid to oblong, 1.4–1.9 × 1.3 mm, glabrous, pale green, 1-chambered with ca. 25 ovules attached to central post; styles 5, 0.5 mm long, pubescent above midpoint (= stigmatic region), greenish at base, white to pale yellow above. **Fruit:** capsule, dehiscent by 10 teethlike valves at tip, 15–25-seeded, cylindric and somewhat curved, 3.2–8 × 1–2 mm, glabrous, whitish translucent but greenish at base; teeth acuminate, with outwardly folding margins. **Seed:** triangular-ovoid compressed side-to-side, ca. 0.5 × 0.4 × 0.2 mm, light brown to pale reddish brown, glabrous, with short, hard projections or minutely warty. Early March–early May.

Naturalized. Annual native to Europe widespread in North America and occasionally observed in disturbed grassy habitats or trailside in SMM, most commonly in the hillsides south of Westlake Village. In range, flowers of *Cerastium glomeratum* most often lack petals and have only five stamens. This species is quickly recognized by its persistent, whitish translucent capsules having ten teeth.

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