

Silene coniflora Otth, MULTINERVED CATCHFLY. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, 1-stemmed from base, branching in inflorescence, erect, 20–65 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, viscid, glandular-hairy with erect or spreading, multicellular hairs and puberulent with downward-arching, nonglandular hairs. **Stems:** cylindric, to 5 mm diameter, tough, densely glandular-hairy and sparsely pubescent, faintly scented. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, sessile with pair fused across node, without stipules; blade lanceolate, 30–80(–100) × 4–13 mm, entire, acute at tip, with only midrib conspicuous and slightly sunken on upper surface, with to 5 principal veins from base and raised on lower surface, sparsely villous and densely glandular-hairy. **Inflorescence:** dichasial cyme, terminal and axillary, open, typically forked at least 3 times, bracteate, glandular-puberulent; bract subtending each fork with pair fused at each node, leaflike, equal, lanceolate, 8–35 × 2–8 mm, successively shorter, densely glandular-hairy and viscid; peduncle to 90 mm long with successive internodes shorter, glandular-hairy and viscid, with short nonglandular hairs; pedicel straight, 4–7 mm long increasing to 4× in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 4–4.5 mm across; receptacle extending above calyx as stalk (stipe) 1 mm long, fused to and surrounding stalk of ovary; **calyx** 5-lobed, ovoid urn-shaped, at anthesis 8–12 × 4–4.5 mm, becoming wider, more inflated, and ± spheroid in fruit, glandular-hairy; tube conspicuously 16–25(–30)-veined, the veins raised and green (red-purple), densely glandular-hairy, furrows whitish; lobes ascending, acuminate, 1.5–3 mm long, at anthesis red-purple; **petals** 5, arising from stipe below stamens, included to short-exserted, narrowly oblanceolate, 7–11.5 × 1 mm, colorless or whitish with green midvein and sometimes pinkish at tip (when exerted), asymmetrically 2(–3)-toothed at tip, 1-veined, glabrous; lacking appendages at base of limb; **stamens** 10, arising from rim of stipe, included, unequal; filaments slender, 5–8 mm long within each flower, white, glabrous; anthers versatile, dithecal, 0.3 mm long, whitish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **nectaries** 10, alternate with stamens between filament bases, slightly raised, whitish like filaments; **pistil** 1; stipe (gynophore) ± 1 mm long; ovary superior, sausage-shaped, 3–3.5 mm long, green, glossy, 3-chambered, each chamber with many ovules attached to central post; styles 3, included, ascending, 2 mm long, white, stigmatic and papillate along inner face. **Fruit:** capsule, short-stalked, dehiscent by teeth at tip, enclosed in inflated calyx, many-seeded, pear-shaped, ca. 7 × 4.5 mm, straw-colored with tannish orange ribs. **Seed:** broadly kidney-shaped, in range ca. 0.8 × 0.7 × 0.6 mm, ± flat on side of micropyle, brownish to blackish, conspicuously papillate, the papillae in 7–9 interlocking rows, transversely elongated, very prominent along outer edge. Late March–early June.

Native. A viscid annual occasionally encountered on disturbed slopes or recent burns.

Silene coniflora was formerly

called *S. multinervia*. The distinguishing feature is the inflated calyx with about twenty-five conspicuous ribs, and the calyx conceals the developing fruit. This plant is also viscid, so that debris, soil particles, and dead insects are often found stuck on the shoots

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson