

Molluginaceae

carpet-weed family

Comprising 13 genera with 100 species, the carpet-weeds are small herbaceous plants with tiny flowers. The inflorescence is an open cyme or the flowers are axillary and singly borne. Most are perfect and hypogynous; sepals number 4–5. The petals may be absent; if present they are minute. There are 2–5 carpels; locules are equal. Dry fruit is subtended by a persistent calyx. Leaves are alternate or opposite, even whorled, smooth on the margins.

Mollugo L.

Carpet-weed

Our single species is a smooth, sprawling annual, with whorled leaves. Flowers have 3–4 stamens but no petals. Freely branching, plants form tangled, prostrate mats.

Mollugo verticillata L.

Indian Chickweed; Carpetweed; mollugine verticillée

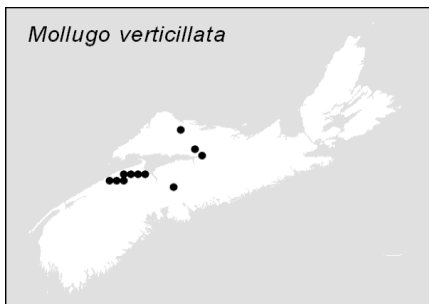


Photo by Sean Blaney

As above, with lanceolate leaves on very short petioles or sessile. Flowers 2–5, pale green, carried on short pedicels from the leaf nodes. Numerous seeds produced in each carpel.

Flowers June to November

Its habitat includes sandy river banks, roadsides or cultivated soils. Old railyards.



Collected from Waterville, Kings Co., in 1929. Reported from Mount Thom and Truro, further eastward. Most recently collected from roadsides in the Kingston/Greenwood area; Berwick and Cambridge in Kings Co. and from Pugwash River, Cumberland Co.

FL to TX and Mexico; migrating north to ON, NB and NS; BC.