

Distribution.—The Caryophyllaceæ are natives principally of the frigid and temperate zones. The order, in common with several others, may be considered as representing the boreal type in the Flora of Central Canada. Critically speaking, however, the Clove-worts are either Arctic or Alpine in character, and as a consequence are but scantily represented in regions essentially of a sub-arctic or sub-alpine type of vegetation. Here therefore we have a solution of the fact that, in the Flora of the Lake Superior region—a region whose plants of a boreal character are distinctly of a sub-arctic nature, we find so few representative species of this order. Agassiz, in his work on the Natural History and Botany of this District, enumerates but five species in all, viz:—1. *Stellaria longipes*, Goldie. 2. *S. borealis*, Bigelow. 3. *Cerastium arvense*, L. 4. *Sagina nodosa*, Fenzl. 5. *Alsine stricta* (*Arenaria stricta*, Michx., *Alsine Michauxii*, Fenzl.) To this list the writers are enabled to make, from their own collections on the Eastern and Southern shores, the following interesting additions:—6, *Stellaria media*, Smith. 7. *Cerastium viscosum*, L. 8. *Silene Antirrhina*, L. 9. *Stellaria graciles*, Richardson. Many species, on the other hand, are met with in the Tropics of both Hemispheres; but these usually occupy high elevations, reaching in most cases the limits of eternal snow. According to Humboldt the Pink-worts constitute 1-17 of the flowering plants of Scandinavia, 1-22 of France, and 1-27 of Germany. In the valley of the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes they are represented by 12 genera, including 38 species; in the Northern U. States by 16 genera and 52 species; and between the parallels 25° and 45° N. latitude, by 70 species in all.

SYNOPSIS.

The order, as constituted by Endlicher is naturally divisible into four Suborders, two of which are capable of being further subdivided into Tribes. The following are the Natural Suborders:

- I. CARYOPHILLINEÆ.
- II. ILLECEBRINEÆ.
- III. SCLERANTHINEÆ.
- IV. MOLLUGINEÆ.

SUBORDER I. CARYOPHYLLINEÆ.

Exstipulate. Petals rarely absent.