

MONOGRAPH OF THE CANADIAN CARYOPHYLLACEÆ,

AS REPRESENTED

*Within the Valley of the St. Lawrence and
Great Lakes,*

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Diagnosis. Herbaceous plants with stems tumid at the articulations. Leaves always opposite and entire. Flowers cymose, symmetrical and regular. Sepals 4 or 5, imbricated in the bud, continuous with the peduncle, persistent, distinct, or cohering in a tube. Petals 4-5, very often stamen-like in appearance, inserted upon the pedicel of the ovary, unguiculate or not, bifid or entire, but sometimes altogether wanting. Stamens distinct, generally twice as many as the sepals, to which they are opposite except in *Mollugo*, rarely equal or less in number. Ovary free, 1-5 celled, with amphitropous and campylotropous ovules. Styles 2-5, distinct or partly united, stigmatic along the inner surface. Fruit generally a 1-celled capsule, rarely 2-5 celled, either opening at the top or loculicidal. Seeds numerous, generally definite in number. Embryo external, curved around the mealy albumen,

Properties. The Pinkworts, as a rule, are entirely destitute of active properties. Among Canadian representatives of this order, however, two examples may be cited as being decidedly deleterious. Malapert and M. Bonet have shown that *Saponaria officinalis* and *Lychnis* (*Agrostemma Githago* L. and Gray, 2nd Ed.) are of a poisonous nature, ascribing this quality to the existence, especially in their roots and seed, of a certain quantity of Saponine. A few of the pinks, such as the *Dianthus* and *Lychnis*, are highly prized as ornamental flowers; but the majority of Canadian examples are insignificant weeds, abounding for the most part in waste sandy soils, road sides, and cultivated fields.