

that was followed by several botanists, among them Elias Fries,⁸ who recorded it from Sweden and Denmark, and Babington,⁹ who reported both this and *S. pallida* from the British Isles. There are not a few authors, however, who have felt more inclined to consider these plants as representing a single species, "*S. media*" with the others as merely varieties. Thus Fenzl¹⁰ enumerates three varieties, *decandra*, *oligandra* and *apetala*, besides four others, which are less characteristic; a similar classification is given by Lange,¹¹ who distinguishes between var. *vulgaris* with 3-5 stamens, var. *neglecta* with 10 stamens and var. *apetala* without petals, or as suggested by Doell¹² var. *decandra* and var. *apetala*.

Stellaria media is, thus, with European botanists the plant with 3-7 stamens, *S. neglecta* the one with 10 stamens and *S. apetala* with 2-5 stamens, but with no petals. Of these the typical form has been described as being very frequent in North-America, while none of the others have been cited. It would, however, be desirable to know a little more about this plant as it is represented in this country, and we thought therefore, that some more information might be obtained by presenting this brief notice about the European plant with its allies, whether these be considered as varieties or species. And there is good reason for supposing that the species, *S. media*, in this country is actually an aggregate of several well defined forms or even species, which may naturally be looked for in the cold temperate regions or farther south. So far the writer has succeeded in detecting Weihe's *S. neglecta* in the vicinity of Washington, D.C., where it grew in shady places in deciduous forests, moreover, some specimens in Dr. E. L. Greene's herbarium, collected in California proved to be this species, besides that the herbarium of the Geological Survey Department of Canada, contains several

⁸ Fries, Elias. *Corpus florarum provinciarum Sueciae I. Flora Scanica*. 1835, p. 88.

⁹ Babington, C. C. *Manual of British Botany*, 1874, p. 57.

¹⁰ Fenzl in "*Ledebour's Flora Rossica*," 1841, Vol. I, p. 377.

¹¹ Lange, Joh. *Haandbog iden Danske Flora*, 1864, p. 342.

¹² Doell, I. Ch. *Flora des Grossherzogthums Baden*, Vol. 3, 1862, p. 1224.