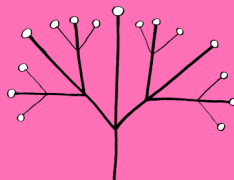




Caryophyllaceae – Campion Family

Family Features

- Actinomorphic flower
- Inflorescence usually a forked cyme
- Petals usually five, sometimes notched at apex
- Sepals usually 5 sometimes fused into calyx tube
- Stamen 2x number of sepals
- Superior ovary sometimes perigynous
- Carpels 2-5
- Fruit usually a capsule
- Leaves opposite
- Leaves simple
- Usually free central placentation of ovules



Forked Cyme

A cyme is an inflorescence where lateral flowers grow from bract axils lower down the inflorescence stalk. Terminal flowers open first with lateral flowers open in succession. A forked cyme has two lateral flower per bract axil.

Example species

Stellaria holostea – Greater Stitchwort

Five petals, strongly bifid

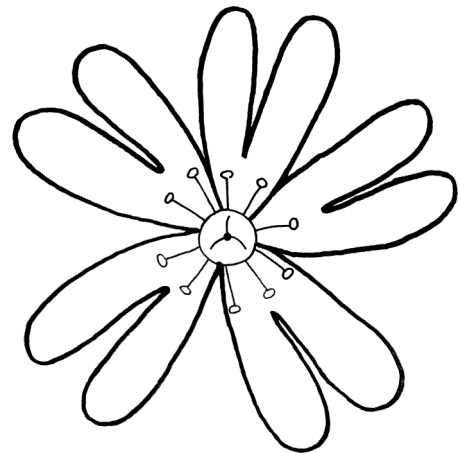
Petals longer than sepals

Ten Stamens

Three carpels, fused

Fruit a capsule with six teeth at the apex on opening

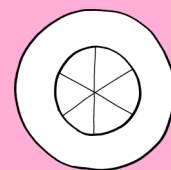
Leaves opposite, lanceolate and sessile, alternating at 90 degrees along the stem



Fruit characteristics of *Stellaria holostea*



longitudinal section



Top view

Free central placentation.

This is where the seeds are attached by a freestanding axis in the centre of the capsule that reaches to the top

Capsule valves.

The valves at the top of the fruit open producing teeth. Their number is either equal to the number of styles or 2x as many.