

Convolvulus L. MORNING GLORY, BINDWEED

Convolvulus arvensis L., BINDWEED, ORCHARD MORNING GLORY. Perennial herbaceous vine, twining, deep-taprooted and with fleshy belowground caudex, several-many-stemmed at base, long branches often unbranched, twining on itself and surrounding plants to prostrate and trailing on bare ground; shoots with only cauline leaves, flexible-stemmed, ± villous aging glabrescent; latex milky. **Stems:** ridged, 1–1.5 mm in diameter, with 2 conspicuous ridges descending from each leaf, green with reddish ridges, tough. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole narrowly channeled, 2–16 mm long, pubescent; blade oblong to narrowly ovate or lanceolate, 15–50 × 7–25 mm, with spreading lobes (hastate) to arrow-shaped at base (sagittate), entire to inconspicuously crenate on margins, rounded to acute at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins slightly raised on lower surface, dull. **Inflorescence:** cyme reduced to 1 or 2 flowers, axillary, erect, bracteate, soft-hairy aging glabrescent; peduncle at anthesis 10–50 mm long, turned upright abruptly at base; bractlets 2, subopposite, the lower bractlet subtending first pedicel, the upper bractlet subtending second pedicel (if present), narrowly oblong to oblanceolate, 2.1–3.5 × 0.8–1 mm, pubescent to short-pilose, ciliate on colorless margins, persistent; pedicel initially erect, 5–13 mm long, flexible, becoming stiff and arched to strongly deflexed in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 18–25(–38) mm across; pleated in bud; **sepals** 5, ± free, overlapping, unequal, cupped-circular or cupped-obovate to cupped-oblong, 3–4 × 2–4 mm, green and thick-membranous, stiff, rounded to truncate or slightly notched at tip with central point, above midpoint membranous margin often ciliate to fringed, in fruit thick-based, tightly appressed, and aging reddish; **corolla** shallowly 5-lobed, broadly funnel-shaped, 15–20 mm long, thin, internally glossy green near base with pigment showing through to outer surface, mostly white or creamy white on upper inside and outside but pink or light purple on outer sectors exposed to sunlight in bud, pubescent on pigmented sectors; lobes wide and very short, dull; **stamens** 5, fused to base of floral tube for 1–2 mm; free portion of filament arched, (4–)5–7.3 mm long, thick and wide at base, abruptly narrowed and tapered at tip, pale green and whitish at tip, with conspicuous glandular hairs on base; anthers included, dorsifixed, dithecal, 2–2.9 mm long, white, arrow-shaped at base, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **nectary** cupped around ovary base, crownlike with 5 unequal lobes, 0.5–0.7 × 1.3–1.4 mm, yellow-orange; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, conic, ± 1–1.5 mm long, white, 2-chambered, each chamber with 2 ovules attached to base; style slender, 8–10 mm long, white, with 2 included, ascending, sausage-shaped, white stigmas ± 3 mm long. **Fruit:** capsule, indehiscent, 2–4-seeded, ± spheroid, 7–9 × 6.5–7.5 mm, tannish brown, leathery, with persistent style base forming a point, empty beneath tip where mature seeds not filling chamber; septum translucent. **Seed:** obovoid, 4–5 × 2–3 mm long (larger when immature), dull dark brown, with minute, granular surface and conspicuous, rounded, lighter brown protuberances on all faces, ± obtusely angled on inner face or not (when 2-seeded), convex on outward face, when 4-seeded slightly concave on 2 faces; hilum on oblique tip, rectangular, light brown. January–December.

Naturalized. A perennial vine growing in waste and disturbed open sites, typically in full sun, as well as in unkept yards of residences. *Convolvulus arvensis* has showy white, sometimes rose-tinged, flowers.. Flowering of bindweed is mostly spring to fall, but

especially where plants receive supplemental water and in agricultural fields, flowers may be found somewhere in range during any week. Fruits are rarely produced at some sites, possibly due to absence of pollinators, but at other sites, there may be a full complement of fruits along a prostrate shoot, with the fruits nodding on deflexed pedicels.

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