

Minuartia L. SANDWORT

Minuartia douglasii (Torrey & A. Gray) Mattfeld, DOUGLAS'S STITCHWORT. Annual, fine-taprooted, 1–several-stemmed at base, divaricately branched from each node, ascending and branched to erect and unbranched, 4–30 cm tall; shoots wispy, essentially glabrous. **Stems:** cylindric, slender, 0.3–0.6 mm diameter but bulbous and ± 1 mm diameter just above each node, green aging reddish purple, internodes 10–25 mm long. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, sessile with pair fused by membranous wing across node, without stipules; blade needlelike-linear and hemi-cylindric, 6–30(–40) \times 0.2–0.5 mm, membranous-winged at base with wing extending across node, entire, blunt and reddish at tip, 1-veined and raised on lower surface, in range glabrous. **Inflorescence:** dichasial cyme with unequal branches, terminal or axillary, open, = upper plant, bracteate, with scattered glandular hairs on all green structures; bracts subtending each fork 2, leaflike but shorter; paired lateral branches ascending and oriented by bulbous bases; pedicel slender, 5–33 mm long, wiry. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 6–7 mm across, dish-shaped; hypanthium cup-shaped, ± 0.4 mm long, ± 1.4 mm across, with scattered glandular hairs; **sepals** 5, \pm free, overlapping, narrowly ovate to lanceolate, at anthesis 2.5–3.7 \times 0.8–1.2 mm, wider and persistent in fruit, green, white-membranous on margins, acute and sometimes reddish purple at tip and submarginally near tip, glabrous or with several scattered glandular hairs at base, faintly 1–3-veined with veins becoming more visible in fruit; **petals** 5, short-clawed, elliptic, in range typically extending < 1 mm beyond sepal, white, rounded to truncate or shallowly notched at tip, finely 3-veined or 4-veined, persistent and when dry slightly $<$ sepals; **stamens** 10 in 2 whorls, free, formed on rim of hypanthium; filaments unequal, ascending to erect, at anthesis 1–2 mm long and increasing in fruit, of outer whorl longer, colorless; anthers dorsifixed, conspicuously dithecal, 0.3 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **nectaries** at bases of stamens, forked, to 0.6 mm long, yellowish green; **pistil** 1, very short-stalked (stipe or gynophore); ovary superior, broadly ovoid to spheroid, 1.1–2 mm long, glossy green, glabrous, 1-chambered with many ovules attached to base on a central post; styles 3, ascending, ± 1 mm long, translucent-white, stigmatic on inner side of styles and especially on spreading tips, conspicuously papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, short-stalked, dehiscent from top by 3 valves, up to 18-seeded, ovoid, 3.5 \times 2.5 mm, valves rounded and glossy before drying, seeds erect and stalked on central postlike placenta; fruit stipe erect, 0.3–0.5 mm long. **Seed:** notched circular-lenticular, in range 1.5–1.7(–2) \times 1.3–1.4 mm, reddish brown, thin and almost appearing winged, minutely sculptured with convex cells and finely scalloped edge, not papillate. Mid-March–early May.

Native. A wispy annual rarely encountered in the range and currently documented only from Triunfo Pass (SMM) and on the north slope of China Flats (SH), growing in shallow soil, but expected elsewhere. *Minuartia douglasii* resembles in flower and general form the species of *Spergularia* and *Spergula*, but it has no stipules and produces distinctive seeds. Douglas's stitchwort appears only in certain years, and it is not known what factors promote its germination.

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