

## A NEW SPECIES OF SILENE FROM SOUTH SPAIN

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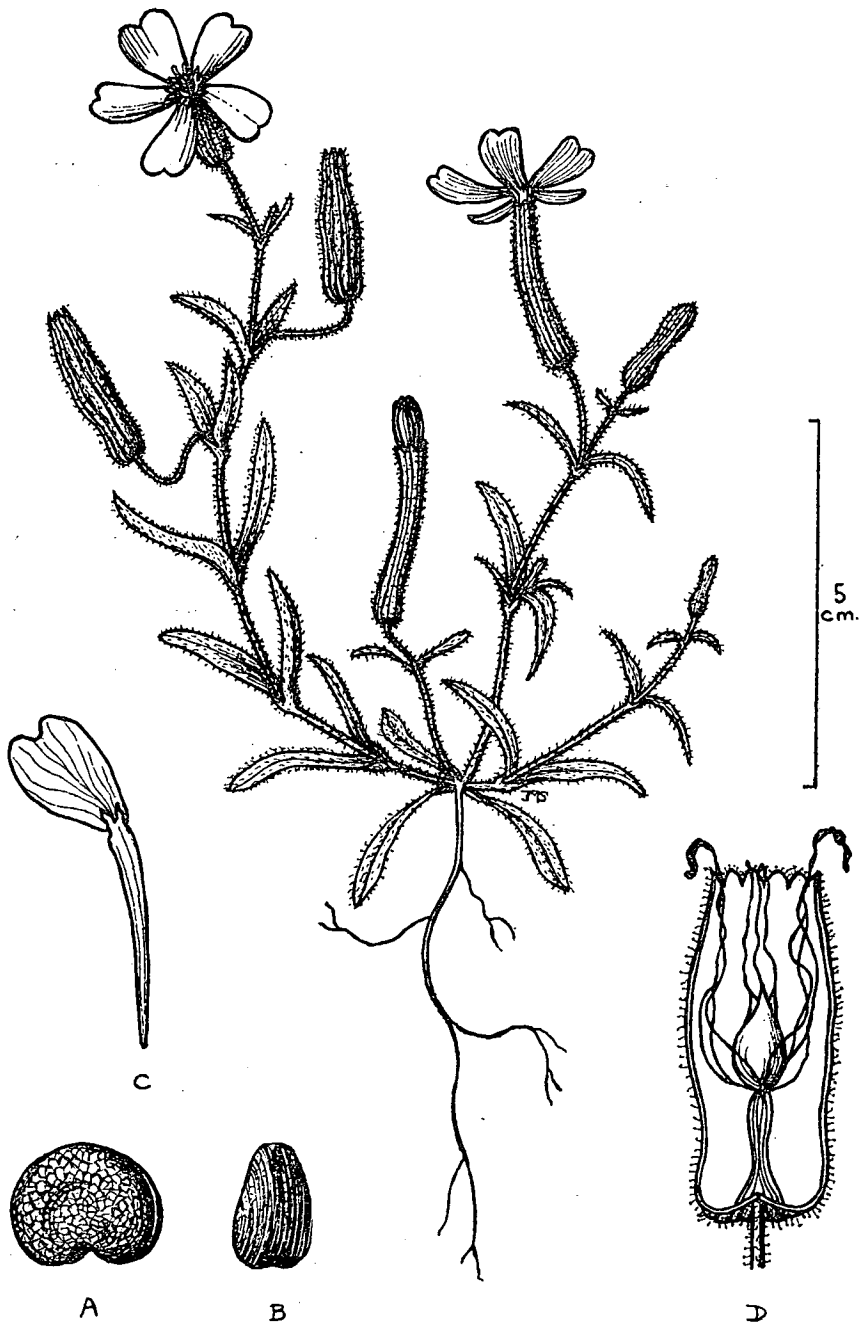
**Resumen.** Se describe una nueva especie, *Silene stockenii* Chater, perteneciente a la Sect. *Erectorefractae* Chowdhuri.

**Summary.** *Silene stockenii* Chater, a new species in Sect. *Erectorefractae* Chowdhuri, is described from Cádiz province.

***Silene stockenii* Chater sp. nov. e Sect. *Erectorefractae* Chowdhuri.**

A *S. littoreo* Brot. calyce (17-) 19-25 mm. longo, limbo corollae superne cerasino, seminibus 0,8-1 mm. longis inter alia differt.

Annual. Stems 5-17 cm., branched from the base and up to the inflorescence, slender, prostrate to ascending, more or less densely covered with short, crisped and appressed glandular and eglandular hairs and with short, patent glandular hairs. Basal leaves 10-35 x 1,25-3 mm., very narrowly linear-spathulate, obtuse, gradually narrowed at the base, with more or less sparse, appressed or erecto-patent and crisped glandular hairs, ciliate at the base, often red-tinged. Cauline leaves 10-30 x 0,75-2 mm., linear-oblancoolate or linear, gradually narrowed below but sometimes dilated at the extreme base, with denser appressed to erecto-patent, sometimes crisped glandular and eglandular hairs. Inflorescence lax, raceme-like, occupying the upper 1/2-3/4 of the stem, with 1-4 (-8) flowers. Bracts 7-15 x 1,5-3,5 mm., those of a pair equal, linear-lanceolate, the lower obtuse, the upper acute, widest at the base and gradually narrower upwards, sometimes slightly falcate, densely hairy with appressed or ascending usually crisped glandular and eglandular hairs and erecto-patent or patent glandular hairs. Pedicels 5-15 mm. and erect in flower, densely hairy with mostly patent glandular hairs; 7-20 mm. and



*Silene stockenii* Chater. A, B, seed (x 20); C, petal (x 2);  
D, fruiting calyx opened out (x 2).

becoming strongly deflexed and often appressed to the stem in fruit and bent near the apex so that the fruit is erecto-patent or erect. Calyx (17-) 19-25 x 2-3,5 mm. in flower, cylindrical, 10-veined, truncate or slightly umbilicate at base, greenish, with a strong purplish tinge above and sometimes throughout, more or less densely hairy with appressed, crisped and erecto-patent mostly glandular hairs; teeth 1,5-2,5 mm., ovate, obtuse; calyx becoming slightly inflated and up to 5 mm. wide in fruit, usually widest at the middle, more strongly umbilicate at the base, and often slightly curved. Petal-claw exerted for 1-1,5 mm., yellowish-white, glabrous; limb 7,5-9 x 5 mm., cuneate-obovate, bifid with a broad obtuse notch 1,5-2 mm. deep at the apex; flowers 16-25 mm. in diameter; petal-limb bright deep pink (cerise or puce) above, dull scarlet beneath, but whole of limb appearing purplish when dry. Coronal scales 1-2 mm., oblong, yellowish-white or pink. Carpophore 6,5-9 mm., glabrous. Capsule c. 7 mm., ovoid, occupying the middle third of the calyx. Seeds 0,8-1 mm., broadly reniform, the faces flat or slightly convex, the back broad, slightly convex to slightly concave, with a distinct and more or less regular reticulation over the whole surface but smooth and shining, greyish-black. Flowers February-April.

Like *S. littorea* Brot., but calyx (17-) 19-25 mm. (not 10-19 mm.), petal-limb cerise or puce above (not purplish-pink or white), and seeds 0,8-1 mm. (not 0,6-0,8 mm.).

Like *S. psammitis* Link ex Sprengel, but pedicels shorter than calyx (not usually longer), calyx (17-) 19-25 mm. (not 13-18 mm.) and less strongly inflated in fruit, petal-limb cerise or puce (not purplish-pink or white), carpophore 6,5-9 mm. (not 3-6 mm.), capsule c. 7 mm. (not 3-6 mm.), and seeds smooth (not tuberculate on back).

Rough dry pasture on slopes on calcareous sandstone (Miocene) at 200-300 m. alt. on hillside immediately west of Bornos, Prov. de Cádiz, Spain: and on the same ridge (Sierra de Santiscal) 5 Km. east of Arcos de la Frontera.

*Holotypus*. Cádiz: Bornos, rough pasture on dry weathered calcareous sandstone, 2.III.1966, B. E. Smythies 28a (E).

This plant was first found in 1962 at Bornos by the late C. M. STOCKEN, who was struck by the vivid and unusual colour of its flowers and by its great abundance over a small area (*Journ. Roy. Hort. Soc.* Jan. 1964: 17). Material in flower collected by him on 18 March is in E. Further collections, both of flowering and fruiting material, were made by B. E. SMYTHIES in 1966 and subsequent years.

I have named the plant after its discoverer, CHRISTOPHER MAITLAND STOCKEN (1922-1966) whose activities as plant collector and horticulturalist have added much to our knowledge of the flora of Spain and of many other countries.

I am grateful to Mr. B. E. SMYTHIES for drawing my attention to this plant, for specimens, and for information about its appearance in the field, and to Mrs. JILL SMYTHIES for the illustration. I am also grateful to the Regius Keeper of the Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, for the loan of material.