

Silene uralensis ssp. *ogilviensis*

(A.E. Porsild) D.F. Brunt

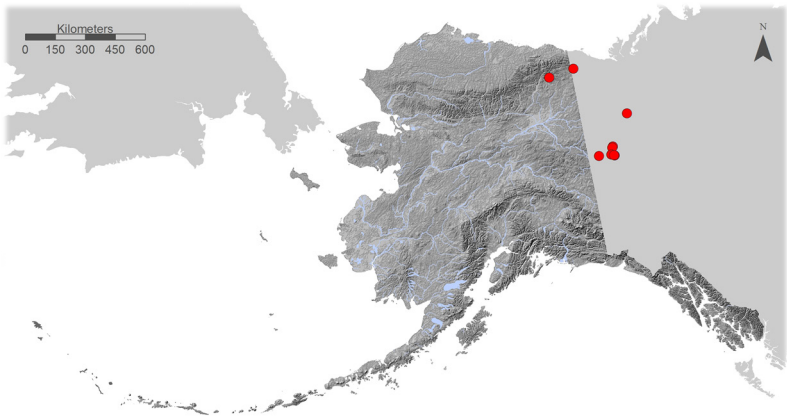
Caryophyllaceae

Global Distribution: Alaska and Yukon,⁴² possibly also scattered throughout the Canadian arctic.¹⁸⁴

Alaska Distribution: Arctic Tundra.

Ecoregions Occupied: Brooks Range (Sheenjek River Valley).

Conservation Status: S1Q G4G5T2.



Description^{24, 184, 185}

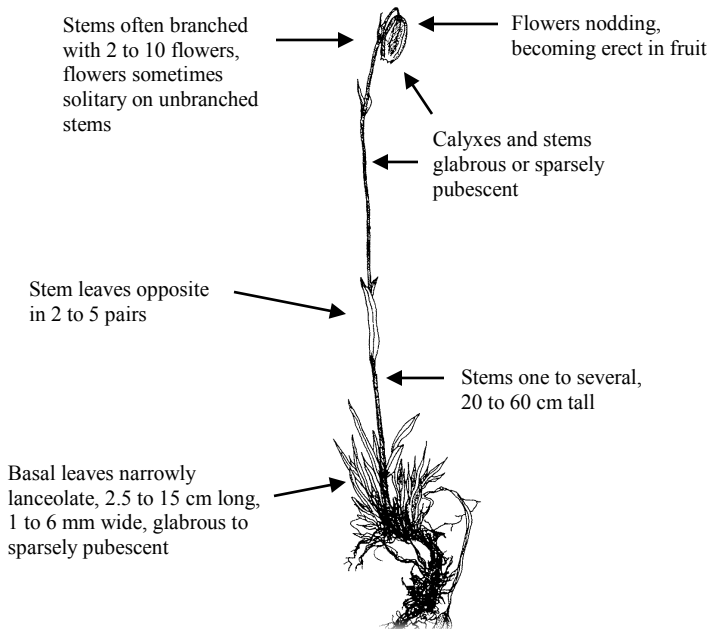


Illustration by Valerie Ford, courtesy of Canadian Science Publishing

- General:** Perennial herb from stout taproot; stems one to several, erect, simple or branched above, 20 to 60 cm tall, glabrous or sparsely pubescent.
- Leaves:** Basal leaves few, petiolate, narrowly lanceolate, 2.5 to 15 cm long, 1 to 6 mm wide, glabrous or sparsely pubescent, entire; stem leaves opposite in 2 to 5 pairs, linear to lanceolate, sessile, reduced above.
- Flowers:** Flowers solitary on stems or 2 to 10 at ends of branches, nodding; bracts very narrow, 5 to 15 mm long; calyxes glabrous to sparsely pubescent, ovoid to ellipsoid, inflated, 11 to 17 mm long, 6 to 10 mm wide, papery, prominently veined with purple or brown veins; calyx lobes ovate to triangular, 2 to 3 mm long; corollas pink, purple, or red, only slightly exceeding calyx, 1 to 4 mm long.
- Fruits:** Pedicels erect in fruit; capsules equaling or slightly longer than calyxes, opening by 10 teeth; seeds brown, broadly winged, 2 mm wide.

Ecology

- Elevation:** Known from 760 m in Alaska; 440 to 1,680 in Yukon.¹⁸⁴
- Landform:** Tundra hummocks; also river banks, river terraces, and alpine slopes in Yukon.
- Soil Type:** Organic soils, sand, gravel, scree, talus; associated with calcareous substrates.
- Moisture regime:** Moist to wet.
- Slope:** Flat to moderately sloped.
- Aspect:** No particular aspect.
- Vegetation type:** Tundra, heath, tall willow shrubs.
- Associated species:** No information available.
- Longevity:** Perennial, longevity unknown.
- Phenology:** In flower in July.
- Population estimate:** There is one known occurrence in Alaska; population size in Alaska not known but at least one occurrence in Yukon is locally common.



ALA 133354

Similar Species¹⁸⁴

Silene uralensis ssp. *ogilviensis* may not be taxonomically valid and requires further investigation.⁴² The features distinguishing ssp. *ogilviensis* from ssp. *uralensis* intergrade,¹⁸⁴ and the most consistent way to distinguish between the two subspecies is by the pubescence (see table below).⁴² The chromosome count between the two differs with $2n=48$ for ssp. *ogilviensis* and $2n=24$ for ssp. *uralensis*; however, the $2n=48$ chromosome count should be double checked to ensure that they do not belong with the tetraploid *Silene soczavana* (referred to by Morton 2005 as *Silene uralensis* ssp. *porsildii*).⁴²

Species	Pubescence	Habit	Stems	Flowers
<i>Silene uralensis</i> ssp. <i>ogilviensis</i>	Glabrous or sparsely pubescent	One to several stems from stout taproot	20 to 60 cm tall	Stems often branched with 2 to 10 flowers, flowers sometimes solitary on unbranched stems; flowers nodding
<i>Silene uralensis</i> ssp. <i>uralensis</i>	Densely pubescent above with purple hairs	Tufted, one to many stems from branched caudex and stout taproot	5 to 30 cm tall	Flowers usually solitary on unbranched stems, stems less commonly branched with 2 flowers; flowers nodding
<i>Silene involucrata</i>	Usually densely pubescent above	Tufted, stems several	10 to 45 cm tall	Inflorescences with 1 to 3 flowers; flowers erect
<i>Silene soczavana</i>	Densely pubescent with purple hairs	Tufted	10 to 35 cm tall	Stems sometimes branched with 2 to 3 flowers, flowers sometimes solitary on unbranched stems; flowers erect