

Mouseear chickweed

Cerastium fontanum ssp. *vulgare* (Hartman)

Greuter & Burdet

Life cycle

Patch-forming perennial.

Leaves

Opposite, dark green, oval to spatula-shaped leaves with pointed tips and smooth margins are densely hairy and stalkless.

Stems

Prostrate, spreading stems are capable of rooting at the nodes to form dense patches. Stems are slender and very finely hairy with swollen nodes.

Flowers and fruit

Small, white flowers have five petals. Each petal is notched deeply to resemble a pair of petals. Green, hairy sepals surround petals.



Mouseear chickweed seedling.

Mouseear chickweed *continued*

Fruit are slightly curved, cylinder-shaped capsules that contain many tiny, brown seeds.

Reproduction

Seeds and creeping stems.



Mouseear chickweed plant.



Mouseear chickweed flowers.



Mouseear chickweed flowering stem.

Caryophyllaceae (Pink family)

Mouseear chickweed *continued*

Similar weeds

Common chickweed

[*Stellaria media* (L.) Vill.]

Differs by having an annual habit with hairless leaves and light green foliage.



Common chickweed plant.

Mouseear chickweed *continued*



Common chickweed flower.



Common chickweed foliage and flowers.

Caryophyllaceae (Pink family)