

## 2017 December *Guess that Plant*



*Petrorhagia prolifera* (L.) P.W. Ball & Heywood, Childing Pink

The December 2017 *Guess that Plant* was *Petrorhagia prolifera*, childing pink. Obsolete names are found in the older field guides and manuals such *Dianthus prolifera* L. in Fernald's Gray's Manual 8th edition (1950) and *Tunica prolifera* (L) Scop. in Gleason and Cronquist (1950). This introduced annual is a member of the Pink Family, Caryophyllaceae. The species originates in Southern Europe and Asia. It prefers dry, loose soils, and is commonly associated with disturbed habitats such as farm field edges, un-mowed road shoulders, railroad beds and similar open upland settings. It was introduced into the Northeast United States a century ago. It has been found on New Jersey's Coastal Plain, and it has been documented in Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Gloucester, Ocean, Middlesex and Salem counties.

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