

# Fringed Campion (*Silene catesbyi* Walt.)

FC121320232

**IDENTIFICATION:** Fringed Campion (*Silene catesbyi*) is an evergreen perennial herb belonging to the carnation family (Caryophyllaceae). Hairy leaves are opposite in arrangement and the plant is approximately 10" tall. It spreads vegetatively from a long, slender stolon-like rhizome. The apex of each of the five pink or white petals is divided into slender segments that give the plant a fringed appearance. It was designated as an endangered species on January 18, 1991.

The plant is typically associated with rich, well-developed, semi-closed canopy upland hardwoods on steep slopes, bluffs, and ravines. Frequently, they are found on the upper to mid-slope, as opposed to lower slope. Tree species present often include magnolia, yellow poplar, maples, beech and spruce pine.

## **FORESTRY CONSIDERATIONS:**

Logging upslope of fringed campion sites should prioritize protecting downslope seepage of water and summer shade. They are very dependent on the moist soil conditions where they grow, so any activity that affects the hydrology of the site, including construction of fire lanes, site preparation, or harvesting is potentially harmful and should be carefully planned.



## **DISTRIBUTION BY**

**COUNTY:** Fringed campion is currently only known from

central Georgia and the Florida panhandle. No known Alabama populations exist, but the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service believes it may be found in Barbour, Chambers, Henry, Houston, Lee and Russell counties due to appropriate habitat being present in those counties.

*Silene catesbyi* (Fringed Campion) Photo Credit: Alan Cressler



This information is provided by the Alabama Forestry Commission

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