



Brassica tournefortii

Brassicaceae

African / Sahara mustard



BRTO

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- growth** : Annual herb with stem 10-100 cm high.
- flower** : Flowers light yellow, 4 petals, 6mm wide, racemes with 6-20 flowers. Will flower and fruit as early as December or January, setting seed by February. In fruit or dead by April. Inflorescence subtended by only small bracts.
- stems** : Branching stems +/- from base, more so above. Hairs on lower stem are stiff and white.
- leaves** : Usually in basal rosette. Stem leaves decrease in size from base upwards. Basal leaves 7.5-30 cm long, deeply lobed with serrate edges. Lobes also toothed, margins prickly hairy.
- seeds** : Rounded, finely reticulate, brown to brown-purple; approximately 1 mm diameter; sticky when wet.

- fruit** : Fruiting pedicels widely diverging from stem, lower pedicels 6-22 mm long. Capsule, linear, rounded, slightly constricted between seeds; 3-7cm long, 2-3 mm wide, glabrous; **beaks stout**, 1.0-1.5 cm long, cylindrical, confluent with capsule, apex as wide as stigma; seeds uniseriate.



flower color

Elevation:
Up to 7200 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:
Dunes, desertlands & riparian areas.

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

Found in diverse natural and disturbed habitats at low elevations in S Arizona, NW Sonora, and SE California.

Common in disturbed sites, roadsides and abandoned fields and southwestern deserts. Also found in sandy soils, gravelly washes, low dunes, sandy alkaline troughs and rocky slopes.

Brassica tournefortii competes with or displaces native annual species, interferes with lizard and mammal behavior and may introduce fire to vegetation that isn't fire adapted.

SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.

Note: basal rosette of leaves with deep lobing; profusely branched stems above; flowers in racemes. →

