



# *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.

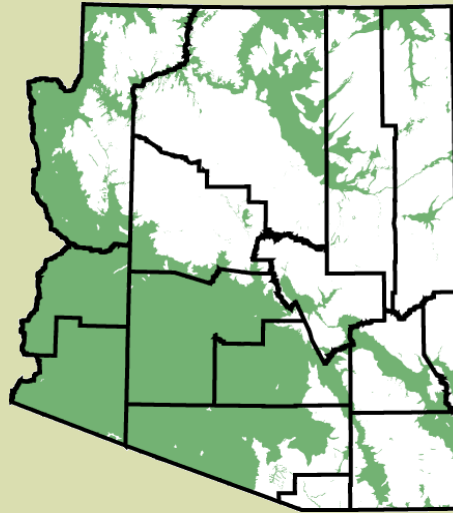
## ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

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. →

