

Brassica tournefortii Gouan, SAHARA MUSTARD. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, erect, 20–115 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, rosette internodes later elongating so basal leaves eventually appearing only cauline, ± hispid with long, often reflexed hairs having swollen bases + short-hirsute with radiating or downward-pointing hairs, the hairs unbranched. **Stems:** cylindrical, typically 5–11 mm diameter, light green, hairs abundant near base, long hairs spreading to reflexed becoming sparser upwards, short hairs absent on upper stem. **Leaves:** helically alternate, deeply pinnately lobed with a large terminal lobe and to 22 lateral lobes (basal and lower cauline leaves) and unlobed (upper cauline leaves and bracts), 50–600 × 15–110 mm, the largest at several nodes above shoot base and then decreasing upward, petiolate, without stipules; petiole hemi-cylindric, 10–40 mm long, upper surface whitish typically with long reflexed hairs + short erect hairs; blade of basal and lower cauline leaves obovate to broadly oblanceolate in outline, terminal lobe typically > 1/4 blade length with 0–2 lobes, other lobes alternate to subopposite with deep sinuses ± to leaf axis and lobes often backward-facing, asymmetrically ovate, to 90 mm long, the trailing base of lobe free and the upper portion fused to leaf axis, coarsely toothed with ± rounded teeth on margins, obtuse to rounded at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins raised on lower surface, dull, pubescence with long hairs having swollen base scattered over upper surface and mostly restricted to veins on lower surface, coarsely ciliate with similar hairs, upper surface with long and short hairs along midrib, veins light pink on upper surface; blade of the uppermost leaves obovate to elliptic-lanceolate, cut on margin, acute at tip. **Inflorescence:** panicle of racemes, terminal, open, racemes many-flowered, congested and ± flat-topped at tip with open flowers slightly overtopping buds, essentially glabrous; bract subtending raceme leaflike, narrowly elliptic-linear, < 30 mm long, entire or serrate on margins, on basal bracts with stiff hairs (especially along midrib on lower surface) but other bracts often glabrous or with a pair of colorless, short hairs at the base, lower midrib pink to deep rose; bractlets absent; pedicel at anthesis 6–8.5 mm long increasing 2× in fruit and aging reddish with light specks (stomates). **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 6–7 mm across; **sepals** 4, monomorphic, ± oblong, 3–4 × ± 1 mm, reddish or green aging reddish, with membranous margins; **petals** 4, clawed, funnel-shaped, 5.3–6.5(–8) × 1.3–2 mm; claw erect, narrow, with yellow midvein and colorless margins; lobes spreading, oval to obovate, 3–4.5 mm long, light yellow, pinnately veined; **stamens** 6, free, dimorphic, outer 2 short and inner 4 longer, long stamens short-exserted; filaments 2 mm long (short stamens) and 4 mm long (long stamens), pale yellow; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ca. 1.2 mm long, light yellow, arrow-shaped at base, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **nectaries** 4, the larger ones subtended by short stamens, spheroid, width > height, the smaller ones fingerlike, in whorl with short stamens, < 0.5 mm long, green, persistent opposite base of septum; **pistil** 1, at anthesis = long filaments; ovary superior, squarish cylindrical, light yellowish green, 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 row of ovules; style absent (ovary tip becoming beak); stigma hemispheric-capitate, greenish. **Fruit:** siliqua (silique), dehiscent by 2 valves and conspicuously beaked, to 23-seeded, squarish in x-section, valves 20–32 × 1.5–2 mm, acute at base, truncate at tip, with conspicuous midvein + minor lateral veins, with 1 row of seeds per chamber; beak cylindrical, 10–13(–17) mm long, green or red-striped. **Seed:** spheroid, 1–1.2 mm, reddish brown, shallowly pitted. Early December–mid-May.

Naturalized. Annual mustard currently localized mainly at Point Dume and neighboring properties, but potentially an invasive species in our entire range. Following rains during wintertime, *Brassica tournefortii* can blanket a disturbed habitat with its rosettes and produce enormous numbers of fruits in a moderately wet year. Flowers of Sahara mustard are much paler, smaller, and not as showy as are the other local species of *Brassica*, but like them the fruit has a very conspicuous beak.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson