

Descurainia sophia (L.) Prantl, FLIXWEED. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, branched throughout with ascending lateral branches terminating in inflorescences, erect, 17–65 cm tall; shoots with dissected basal leaves and cauline leaves, rosette absent at flowering, pubescent with branched nonglandular hairs (dendritic) and lacking stalked colorless glandular hairs, not scented. **Stems:** cylindric, to 10 mm diameter, often purplish on exposed lower stem, \pm swollen at base of lateral branches, uniformly pubescent with dendritic hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, odd-2–3-pinnately compound and dissected, \pm sessile with a primary leaflet at base, without stipules; blade widely ovate to oblanceolate in outline, < 10–110 mm long, gradually reduced upward; leaf axes channeled, rounded on lower side, pubescent; axis of primary leaflet channeled; terminal segments \pm oblanceolate to oblong, of varying lengths, mostly to 5×0.4 –1.5 mm, acute to obtuse at tip, sparsely pubescent with dendritic hairs. **Inflorescence:** raceme or panicle of racemes, terminal, many-flowered, not flat-topped with open flowers significantly overtopping buds, lacking bracts; axes sparsely hairy to glabrescent; pedicel at anthesis steeply ascending, slender, 7–8 mm long increasing to 11 mm long and spreading-ascending in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 1–1.5 mm across; **sepals** 4, erect, 2 oblong-elliptic and somewhat hooded at tip, 2 narrowly lanceolate and acute at tip, \pm 2.7 mm long, green, membranous at acute tip, with scattered dendritic hairs, deciduous; **petals** 4, distinctly clawed, erect to ascending, 2.4–2.5 mm long; claw linear, to above midpoint, yellowish; limb broadly oblanceolate, light yellow; **stamens** 6, free, \pm equal with outer 2 short and 4 inner slightly longer; filaments 2.6–3.3 mm long, greenish yellow; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 0.6–0.75 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **nectaries** 6, = minute lobes between filaments, greenish, not producing nectar; **pistil** 1, 2.5–2.8 mm long; ovary superior, \pm cylindric, green, glabrous, 2-chambered, each chamber with ca. 16 ovules attached to septum in 2 rows; style ca. 0.2 mm long, persistent; stigma capitate, unlobed. **Fruit:** siliqua (silique), dehiscent by 2 valves, many-seeded, linear with slightly bulging seeds, 15 – 31×0.9 mm, glabrous, with ridgelike midvein on each valve, beak < 0.5 mm long; seeds attached to elliptic, translucent septum. **Seed:** \pm ellipsoid, ca. 1×0.5 mm, orange-brown sometimes reddish along raphe, with outline of radicle visible. Early April–mid-summer.

Naturalized. A late spring annual with highly dissected compound leaves, known in range from Triunfo Canyon but likely occurring other places and with the potential to become invasive in waste areas. *Descurainia sophia* has dissected leaves like its cousin, but leaves of flixweed are not as feathery. Flowers are narrow and not showy, but the ascending, slender, linear fruits are easy to spot, and clearly distinguish *D. sophia* from other local, yellow-flowered mustards.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson