

Descurainia pinnata (Walter) Britt. subsp. *brachycarpa* (Richards.) Detl., ALKALY WESTERN TANSY MUSTARD. Annual, feathery, taprooted, rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, branched or not, spreading to ascending, 10–70 cm tall; shoots with finely dissected basal leaves and cauline leaves, densely pubescent with branched nonglandular hairs (dendritic) and stalked colorless glandular hairs having well-defined heads, strongly scented. **Stems:** angular becoming ± cylindric, to 4 mm diameter, with ridges and lines descending from each leaf, densely glandular-hairy. **Leaves:** helically alternate, odd-2–3-pinnately compound, ± sessile with primary leaflet (pinna) at base, without stipules; blade oblanceolate to oblong in outline, 30–115 × 12–50 mm, gradually reduced upward; leaf axes angular, with scattered glandular hairs; primary and secondary units (pinnules) ovate to obovate; ultimate segments ± obovate, of varying lengths, deeply lobed, the lobes obovate to elliptic, < 2 mm long, acute to rounded at tip, grayish green due to abundant dendritic hairs. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal, many-flowered, flat-topped with open flowers somewhat overtopping buds, lacking bracts; axes glandular-pubescent; pedicel ascending, slender, at anthesis 3–5 mm long increasing 2× and ± spreading in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 2 mm across; **sepals** 4, spreading, cupped-elliptic, 1.5–2 mm long, green with yellow margin and while open aging completely yellowish, with dendritic hairs and sometimes several glandular hairs, deciduous; **petals** 4, distinctly clawed, erect, obovate, 1.5–2 mm long, bright yellow; **stamens** 6, free, ± equal with outer 2 short and 4 inner slightly longer; filaments 1.3–1.6 mm long, yellow-green; anthers basifixed, dithecal, < 0.4 mm long, yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **nectaries** 6, = minute lobes between filaments, greenish; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ± fusiform, 1.5 mm long, greenish yellow, glabrous, 2-chambered, each chamber with ca. 16 ovules attached to septum in 2 rows; style < 0.1 mm long, persistent; stigma capitate, unlobed. **Fruit:** silique (silique), dehiscent by 2 valves, many-seeded, fusiform-elliptic and 4-angled to ± club-shaped, 5–12 × 1.5–2 mm, glabrous, with conspicuous midvein on each valve, subcylindric with seeds often bulging; beak absent; seeds attached to elliptic, translucent septum. **Seed:** sausage-shaped, ca. 1 mm long, black. Mid-December–early May.

Native. An early spring annual with highly dissected compound leaves, found most commonly in sand on coastal benches and bluffs, but also at several inland sites, e.g., at Wildwood Regional Park in Thousand Oaks. *Descurainia pinnata* subsp. *brachycarpa* has in the past been referred to as subsp. *halictorum*, *menziesii*, or *ochroleuca*, but ours is currently defined as the subspecies in California with yellow, rather than purple, sepals. This species and subspecies of *Descurainia* has feathery foliage that is aromatic from the stalked glandular hairs. Flowers of *D. pinnata* are the smallest of the local yellow-flowered mustards. The glabrous fruits of this species are borne on long pedicels with glandular hairs, and thereby cannot be confused with any other species.

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