

Rorippa curvisiliqua (Hooker) Britt., YELLOW CRESS. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, branched throughout, ascending to spreading, in range 25–45 cm tall; shoots sometimes with lateral rosettes at flowering, mostly glabrous but with scattered, short, unbranched hairs. **Stems:** cylindric, < 5 mm diameter, green, sparsely short-pilose to glabrescent. **Leaves:** helically alternate, pinnately lobed with sinuses commonly incised at least midway to midrib, petiolate (basal leaves) and \pm sessile and with basal lobes (auriculate, upper cauline leaves), without stipules; petiole to 30–45 mm long, typically winged, without lobes but flared at base; blade of basal leaves oblanceolate or oblong to elliptic in outline, to 150 \times 15–30 mm, lobes increasing in size from base to tip and having a large terminal lobe, lateral lobes alternate or opposite just below terminal lobe, irregularly serrate to dentate on margins, acute to obtuse at tip, the terminal lobe 25–40 \times 15–30 mm, irregularly serrate to dentate on \pm crenate to shallowly incised margins, obtuse to rounded at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins raised on lower surface, dull, glabrous except for several hairs near leaf base; blade of upper cauline leaves reduced upward and as narrow as 10 mm, with rounded projections (auricles) to 3 mm wide at base, subentire to toothed. **Inflorescence:** raceme or panicle of racemes, terminal and axillary, flowers helically alternate (opposite), many-flowered, \pm flat-topped with tips of young, ascending fruit at same level as flowers and buds; bract subtending base of inflorescence and the basal 1 or 2 racemes of a panicle, leaflike, obtuse to rounded at tip, for raceme 25–65 mm long; axes irregularly ridged, with ridge descending from each pedicel, glabrous; pedicel at anthesis ascending and ca. 2.5 mm long increasing 2 \times and spreading in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 2 mm across; **sepals** 4, erect, \pm equal, ovate to narrowly oblong and somewhat boat-shaped, 1.8–2.3 \times \pm 0.7 mm, green with whitish or light yellowish margins, hooded at tip, glabrous or with several short hairs, abscising after anthesis; **petals** 4, erect, not clawed, spatulate, 1.3–1.9 \times 0.4–0.6 mm, light to vivid yellow, faintly pinnately veined; **stamens** 6, free, dimorphic with outer 2 short and inner 4 longer; filaments erect, \pm 1.5 mm (short stamens) and > sepal length (long stamens); anthers basifixed, dithecal, tongue-shaped, \pm 0.8 mm long, light yellow, short arrow-shaped at base, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light amber to pale yellow; **nectaries** 4, paired at bases of short stamens, very shallowly triangular and slightly arched partially around filament, minute, greenish to faintly reddish at tip; **pistil** 1, 1.5–2.5 mm long; ovary superior, sausage-shaped, green, glabrous, 2-chambered with many ovules; style extremely short (< 0.3 mm long); stigma capitate, densely papillate. **Fruit:** siliqua (a short silique), straight or somewhat arched upward, dehiscent by 2 valves, many-seeded (to 30 seeds per chamber), sausage-shaped and distended by maturing seeds, in range 5.5–10 \times 1.8–2 \times 1.5 mm plus a short, valves parallel to septum, stout beak, slightly wider at base, glabrous, with seeds in 2 rows per chamber. **Seed:** irregularly heart-shaped to pouch-shaped or \pm kidney-shaped, 0.5–0.8 mm long, orange-yellow to pale orange brown, notched at hilum, finely beaded. Late April–mid-September.

Native. Annual occurring occasionally along the fringe of drying ponds, such as at SMMNRA Rocky Oaks (SMM). *Rorippa curvisiliqua* has pinnately lobed leaves, and some of our leaves are longer than typically reported in the literature, but the fruits are shorter and broader. Yellow cress has tiny yellow flowers and fruits similar to those of yellow-flowered *Descurainia* as well as white-flowered *Nasturtium officinale*. Seeds of *R.*

curvisiliqua are extremely lightweight, which makes them dispersed easily by waterfowl. If recognized, our populations would be *R. curvisiliqua* var. *curvisiliqua*.
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