

DESCURAINIA PINNATA (Walt.) Britt.
Tansy-mustard

FAMILY: Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)

SYNONYMS: *Descurainia pinnata* (Walt.) Britt. subsp. *brachycarpa* (Richardson) Detling
Descurainia pinnata (Walt.) Britt. var. *brachycarpa* (Richardson) Fernald *Sisymbrium*
canescens Nutt.

HABIT: Annual; usually a single stem, branched above, 2-7 dm tall; flowering May-June; fruiting
July-August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Similar to other species in the genus but can be distinguished by
differences in fruit characters and by glandular hairs on the stem.

TOTAL RANGE: A chiefly northern plant extending s. to New England, WV, TN, and TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Erie, Fulton, Hamilton, Henry, Lucas,
Scioto, and Wood counties. Pre-1980 records are from Athens, Butler, Clark, Clermont,
Clinton, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Jackson, Miami,
Monroe, Montgomery, Ottawa, Pickaway, Pike, Portage, Ross, Sandusky, and Seneca
counties.

HABITAT: Dry, open or sparsely wooded places, fields, railroad embankments, and in very
disturbed situations; often in sandy soil.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Good, since this species often grows in disturbed habitats.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature fruiting specimens.

COMMENTS: It should be sought in suitable habitats throughout Ohio. Mohlenbrock (1980)
includes a good illustration of this species. Ohio plants are the southern variety
brachycarpa. Rollins (1993) details the nomenclatural and taxonomic history of the
species.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States
and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.

Mohlenbrock, R.H. 1980. The illustrated flora of Illinois. Flowering plants, willows to mustards.
Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, IL. 286 pp.

Rollins, R.C. 1993. The Cruciferae of Continental North America. Systematics of the Mustard
Family from the Arctic to Panama. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California. v-xvi
+ 976 pp.



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