



Schismus arabicus

Poaceae

Mediterranean/ Arabian grass



SCAR

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

growth

Annuals, 0.5-3.5 dm tall, low-growing, tufted, stems ascending to somewhat prostrate, hairless.

leaves

Alternate; ligules less than 1 mm long, irregularly lacerate (ragged, torn look) to densely long-ciliate (marginal fringed hairs); Blades narrowly linear, in-rolled, 5 -10 cm long, 0.5-2 mm wide, smooth and hairless to minutely rough.

auricles

Absent. Sheaths glabrous to minutely rough or with scattered soft hairs.

lemma

2-3.5 mm long, obovate, 9-nerved, the back keeled, short-soft-hairy, the apex rounded with 2 acute lobes, the lobes 0.5-1 mm long.

Inflorescence

1-5 cm long, a dense, ovate to elliptic, terminal panicle.

spikelet

Spikelets 4-8 mm long, compressed, becoming reddish, composed of 3-8 florets, the glumes 5-7 mm long, lanceolate, subequal, 5-7-nerved, apices acute, margins scarious.



flower color

Elevation:
1000-2500 feet

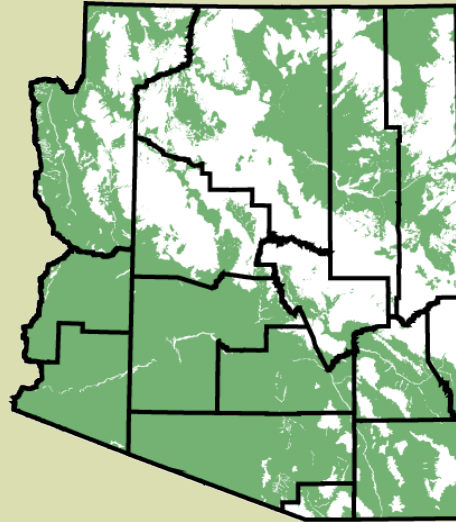
Ecotypes Invaded:
Dunes, desertlands & semi-desert grasslands.

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

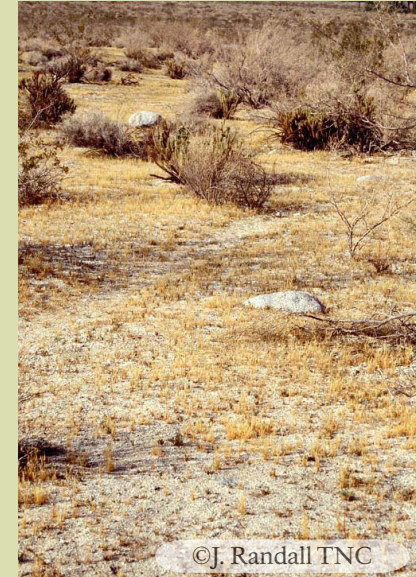
Schismus arabicus and *S. barbatus* have been reported from roadsides, waste areas, fields, and dry river beds. Both species have become important components of the winter-early spring annual vegetation of the Mojave and Sonoran deserts, especially in disturbed or open areas among shrubs.

Although *S. arabicus* is more common in arid regions, it can become very abundant in semi-arid regions and can also contribute to increased frequency and extent of desert fires.

SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.



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