

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

growth

Bushy, hairless, annual herbs, typically to 1 m tall, wider than tall.

flower

1-flowered (rarely 2-3-flowered with lateral flowers mostly abortive); bracts alternate, not overlapping, strongly reflexed at maturity, base not distinctly swollen, narrowing into spiny tip. Perianth segments prominently winged (two wings usually reduced to small, almost awl-shaped winglike appendages).

stems

Main stem shorter than lateral branches. First 4 lateral branches often form a cross-shaped pattern and are nearly prostrate, with the tips curved upwards. Stems erect, profusely branched from or near base; branches straight or arched. Typically without striation on the stems (seldom purplish striate).

leaves

Alternate; blade threadlike to narrowly linear, usually < 1 mm wide, 5-20mm long, fleshy or not, rigid, with a spiny tip. Foliage glabrous or sparsely hairy.

fruit

Utricles, +/- spherical, 1-seeded, enclosed by persistent calyces. Sepal wings 2-4 mm long. Apex graduates to a sharp point and spine, glabrous; fruiting perianth 7-12 mm diam. Seeds +/- round and slightly flattened.



flower color

Elevation:
0-9000 feet

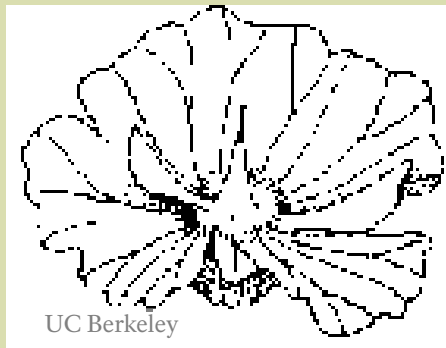
Ecotypes Invaded:
Dunes, desertlands, scrublands, grasslands & woodlands.

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

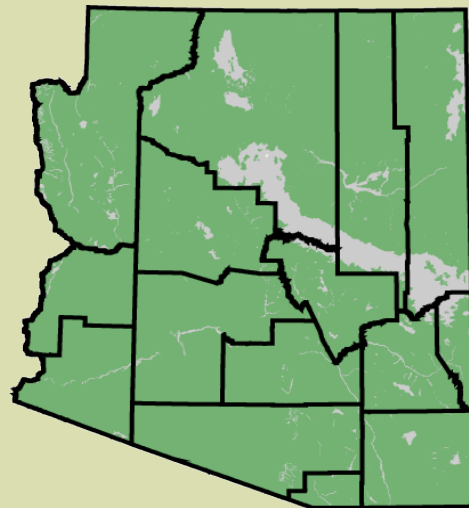
Flowering spring-summer. *Salsola paulsenii* is found in sandy soils, disturbed natural and semi-natural plant communities, semi-deserts, deserts, eroded slopes, sand dunes and sandy waste places at 0 to 1900 m in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah.

Weakly differentiated from *S. tragus sensu stricto*. Intermediate forms between them seem to be more common along margins of the natural range of the species.

Fruit; calyx wings.



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.