

Evaluated but not
listed

impact risk level

Sisymbrium irio

Brassicaceae
London rocket



SIIR

KEY
CHARACTERISTICS

growth

Annuals; stems erect, 15-50 cm tall, branched throughout or above the middle.

flower

Small, with four pale yellow petals, 2.5 to 4 mm long. Flowers in a raceme.

stems

Glabrous to sparsely short-appressed hairy at base, the hairs simple.

leaves

Lower leaves 10-20 cm long. Lowermost are short-stemmed, pinnately lobed, with 2-3 pairs of lateral lobes. The *terminal lobe is arrowhead shaped, with out-turned lobes, much larger than the proximal ones.*

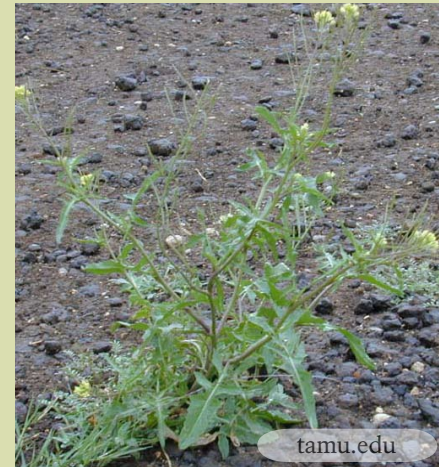
Stem leaves gradually reduce in size further up, the upper ones stalkless, entire.

fruit

Pedicels in fruit 5-11 mm long, straight, slender, spreading to ascending. Fruit a capsule, 25-65 mm long, straight or slightly curved, round, hairless, 3-veined.



Note small “beak” on fruit above, and large terminal lobes on leaves, at right.



flower color

Elevation:
Unknown

Ecotypes Invaded:
Unknown

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

In Arizona, it occurs in disturbed areas such as abandoned fields, backyards, waste places, roadsides, and range-lands.

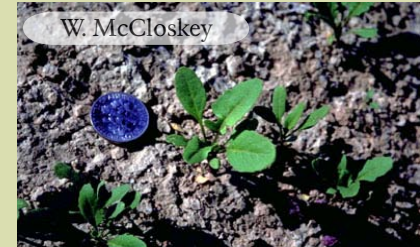
Sisymbrium can displace native plants and alter fire regimes by contributing to high fire loads.

In the U.S., London rocket occurs in a large portion of the northeast, as well as large areas throughout the western U.S., however it the appears to be most problematic in the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts. In Arizona, London rocket is most problematic in Ironwood Forest National Monument and throughout the Pinacate Region of the Sonoran Desert.



Above: Fruiting pedicels are less wide than the silique.

Seedling



... Similar species include hedge mustard, *Sisymbrium officinale* and Oriental hedge mustard, *S. orientale*. Both species differ from *S. irio* by having the fruiting pedicels about the same width as the silique and a denser pubescence on the stems and leaves. *Sisymbrium officinale* is distinguished by having short, appressed, erect fruiting pedicels and beaked fruits that are 8-20 mm long. *Sisymbrium orientale* has a basal rosette of leaves, pubescent ovaries and young fruits, and mature fruits that are 35-100 mm long.