

KEY
CHARACTERISTICS

growth : Annual, sometimes biennial, 10-150 cm tall, erect, herbaceous, generally hairless, from a stout taproot.

flower : Yellow strap-shaped and dandelion-like flowers, 1.5-2.5 cm wide, solitary or in small corymbose terminal clusters of 2-7. Bracts in several unequal series, the outer ones shorter than the inner. Bloom February-August.

stems : Central stem somewhat succulent, stout, hairless, the lateral stems erect to ascending. Stem secretes a milky sap when cut.

leaves : Alternate, oblong to ovate, 5-30 cm long. Leaves clasp the stem, are lobed, rounded at the base (**round-ed auricles**) and have spiny toothed margins. Lower leaves slightly to deeply lobed.

fruit : Oval ribbed achenes (3-5 on each face) 2-3 mm long. Soft, slender pappus 6-9 mm long.



L .Allain



C. Rechenthin



Western NM University &
Dale. A. Zimmerman Herbarium

Elevation:
150-8000 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:
Desertlands, grasslands, non-riparian wetlands, riparian areas, woodlands & montane forests.

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

The closely related species, *S. oleraceus* L. (annual sow thistle) differs primarily by having deeply lobed leaves, leaf bases that are acute and lack the spiny-toothed leaf margins.

Sonchus asper and *S. oleraceus* occur on disturbed sites such as waste areas, roadsides, open sites in grasslands, desert washes and abandoned fields.



SUITABLE HABITAT

