

Invasive Species Alert

Common name: Ward's weed

Scientific name: *Carrichtera annua* (L.) DC.

Origin:

- Mediterranean region and Western Asia (native), invasive in Australia

Identifying Factors:

- Small bristly-haired plant, 5-40 cm
- Leaves: < 10 cm and deeply divided into multiple narrow lobes
- Flowers: pale yellow, 4 petals, 8-9 mm with purple veins
- Fruit: 6-8 mm in drooping position, topped with spoon-shaped petals



Photo: David Albrecht



Above Photos: Bob & Fiona Richardson

Dispersal:

- Seeds dispersed via foraging animals and ants over short distances
- Long distance dispersal on vehicles, clothing, large animals, and agriculture

Impacts:

- Replaces perennial native species in some environments

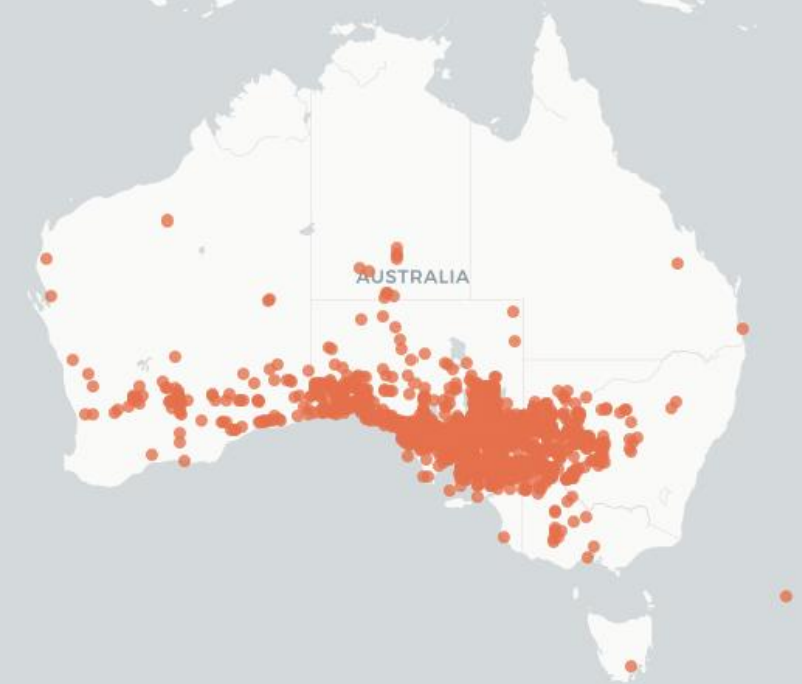
Looks Like:

- Some resemblance to western tansymustard

Management:

- If spotted please notify Sara Allen: smallen@sanidiego.gov & Victor Nava: Vnava@sanidiego.gov to schedule treatment ASAP.

References:
https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/carrichtera_annua.htm
<https://www.calflora.org>



Invasive Non-Native:
Ward's weed
(*Carrichtera annua*)

Description: Plant size varies from small to multi-branched 0.5m ht; Stems branched basally and distally; form similar to a small tumbleweed; Basal leaves: petiole 1–4.5 cm; blade 3-6 lobes each side, 1.5-4 cm, terminal lobe linear to oblong, margins entire. Flowers white or creamy yellow petals 6.5-8 x 1-2 mm ; Fruits short reflexed pods.

Ecology: Plant size varies greatly depending on environmental conditions; prefers disturbed areas, but readily invades between and under shrubs; coastal sage, maritime chaparral, grasslands











