

## **Wards Weed**

## Carrichtera annua

Natural History Society of South Australia Inc.



Habit (keyserver.lucidcentral.org, QLD Biosecurity, David Albrecht)



Open field covered by dried Wards weed



Native of northern Africa, Asia (Mediterranean to Iran) and southern Europe.

## Description

Erect annual herb to 40 (rarely to 60) cm high. Plants branched mostly from the base.

Leaves pinnately lobed and to 10 cm long.

Fruit opening at maturity to release seeds; containing 3-4 seeds per chamber of lower segment; on a stalk about 3 mm long.

Flowers/Seedhead Sepals 4–5 mm long; petals pale yellow with purple veins, 7–9 mm long; stamens 6. Flowers winter and spring.

Seeds globe-shaped, 1–1.5mm long, compressed, dark brown, hook and bristles on seed shell help distribution via animals and clothing

(www.weeds.org.au)



Dried seeds on stalk, note hook and small bristles on seed shell

Flowers with fruit beginning to develop, flower detail (Rob and Fiona Richardson)







