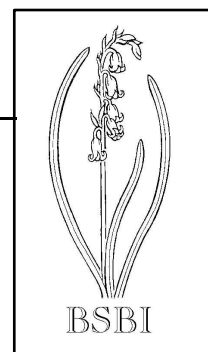


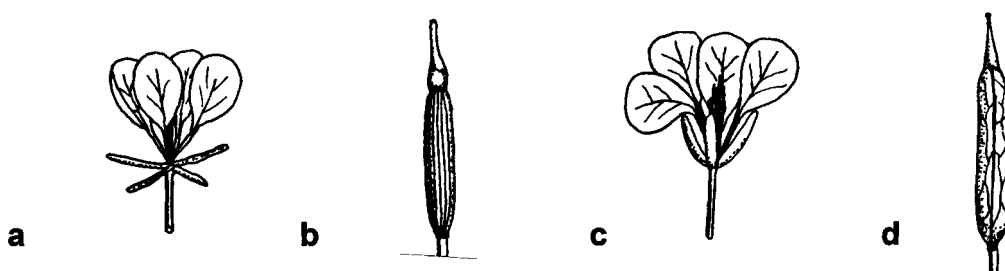
Plant Crib



BRASSICA JUNCEA / SINAPIS ARVENSIS

Brassica juncea and the very variable *Sinapis arvensis* are easily confused. *Brassica juncea* is not uncommon as a bird-seed or oil-seed casual, and is overlooked. The differences between are shown overleaf:

| | <i>Sinapis arvensis</i> L. | <i>Brassica juncea</i> (L.) Czern. & Coss. |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Habit | Coarse with spreading branches, dark green | Slender with erect branches, light green, sometimes slightly glaucous |
| Hairs (stem and leaves) | Coarsely hairy to glabrescent | Glabrous or sparsely hairy below |
| Sepals | Held at an angle of (40-)60-150° (Fig. a) | Held at an angle of 20-70° (Fig. c) |
| Valves of dried fruit | 3-7 strong veins, the mid-vein only just the strongest (Fig. b) | 1 strong central vein and finer weak laterals (Fig. d) |
| Beak of fruit | 7-16 mm long, 0-1 seeded | (4-)5-9(-12) mm long, sterile |



Flowers and fruits of *Sinapis arvensis* (a, b) and *Brassica juncea* (c, d)

References Rich, T. C. G. (1987). *BSBI News* **47**: 25-27.
 Rich, T. C. G. (1988). *Wild Flower Magazine* **411**: 29-32.