

**CAPER-FRUITED TROPIDOCARPUM  
(TROPIDOCARPUM CAPPARIDEUM)**

California Native Plant Society List 1A



*Description*

Caper-fruited tropidocarpum is an annual herb in the mustard family ( Brassicaceae ). It has slender, hairy stems up to 20 inches (50 cm) tall. The leaves are deeply lobed. The flowers, which appear in March and April, have yellow petals approximately 0.2 inch (5 mm) long. The oblong pods contain four rows of seeds, which

distinguishes caper-fruited tropidocarpum from its common relative, slender tropidocarpum ( *Tropidocarpum gracile* ).

*Habitat*

Caper-fruited tropidocarpum grows in low, alkaline grasslands of hillsides or valleys.

*Range/distribution*

Within the San Joaquin Valley, it was found historically in Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Joaquin counties. This plant has not been seen for nearly 50 years, but it may yet be rediscovered.

Photo: © Dieter Wilken, from Calphotos:  
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*References*

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