
Picnomon acarna

Nomenclature:

Family: Asteraceae

Species: *Picnomon acarna* (L.) Cass.

Synonyms:

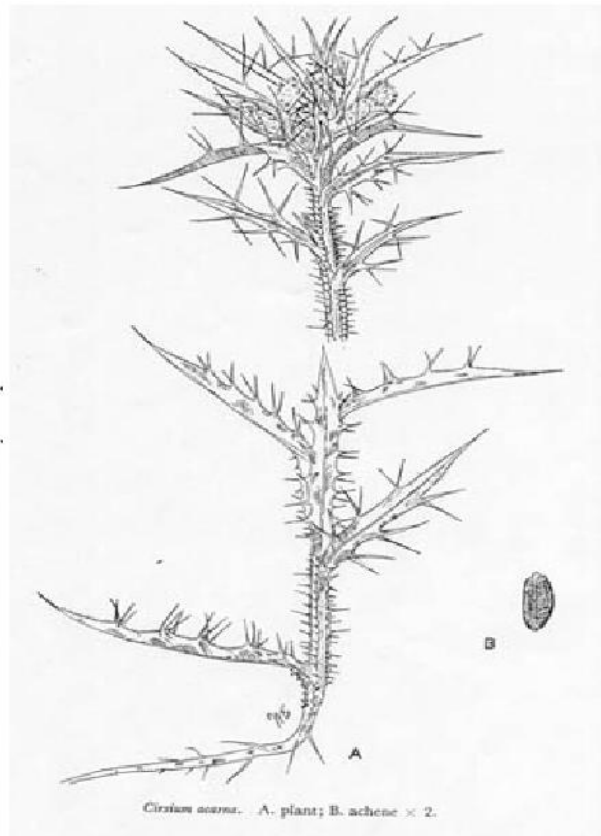
Cirsium acarna (L.) Moench.

Carduus acarna L.

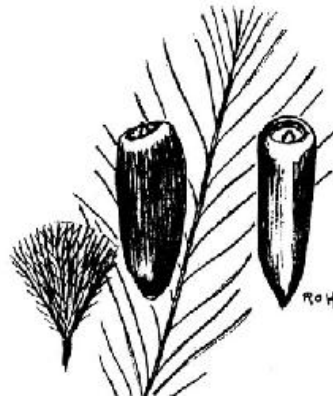
Bayer code: PCOAC

Common names: yellow plumed thistle and shawk-ul-far (Lebanon); soldier thistle (Australia); gemeine stacheldistel (Germany); chardon acanthin (France); carda acantino (Italy)

Description. An erect annual up to 100 cm high, many branches with spiny wings and dense cobweb-like hairs giving a woolly appearance. Leaves also woolly with white hairs, rosette leaves up to 30 cm long, slightly lobed and with short spines. Stem leaves alternate, up to 10 cm long, narrow, shallowly lobed with yellow spines 10–15 mm long on lobes and shorter spines on the margins. Leaf bases extend down the stem as wings. Inflorescences cylindrical but tapering to the tip, 2–4 cm long, about 1 cm wide, solitary or in small groups at the ends of branches or on small stalks in leaf axils, surrounded by numerous bracts each ending in multi-forked yellow spines. Florets pink or purple. Seeds brown to black with lighter longitudinal markings, 4–6 mm long, smooth and shiny; pappus of numerous feathery, silvery-white bristles 1–2 cm long, loosely attached. Seed is spread by wind and via wool, hides, vehicles, mud, and water, particularly along irrigation channels. The whole plant may also break off and become a tumbleweed (Parsons and Cuthbertson, 1982).



Picnomon acarna
Edgecombe, 1977



Picnomon acarna
Reed, 1977

Distribution:

Listed as “principal” weed in Lebanon; “present (as a weed)” in Australia, Morocco, Turkey; and “in flora, weediness unknown” in Afghanistan, Israel (Holm *et al.*, 1979)

Mediterranean, Lebanon, Portugal, Italy, Australia (Reed, 1977)

Albania, Balearics, Bulgaria, Crete, France, Greece, Switzerland, Italy, Yugoslavia, Portugal, Rumania, Russia (Crimea), Sardinia, Turkey (Werner, 1976)

Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Romania, Yugoslavia, France, and Spain (USDA, 2008)



Picnomon acarna
G. Fowler, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Center for Plant Health Science and Technology

Main sources include: Holm *et al.* (1979), Reed (1977), and Werner (1976)

Biology and Ecology: *Picnomon acarna* is recorded by Holm *et al.* (1979) as a “principal” weed of crops in Lebanon. When established, soldier thistle competes with cereal crops and can choke harvesting machinery. Its sharp spines injure sheep and dogs and, because it is avoided by stock, the available grazing area in infested pastures is much reduced (Parsons and Cuthbertson, 1982). It also occurs as a weed of roadsides, channel banks, neglected areas and in cereal crops in areas with a rainfall of 300 to 600 mm. *Picnomon acarna* occurs in fields, gardens, roadsides, and waste places in Lebanon (Edgecombe, 1970). *Picnomon acarna* has the potential to be introduced accidentally with crops produced in Europe or the Mediterranean region. It could become a serious weed of crops and rangelands in subtropical and temperate regions of the United States.

References:

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