

## **SINAPIS**

Both *S. arvensis* and *S. alba* are very variable, but are quite distinct species and should not be confused. *Sinapis arvensis* is much the commonest species. *Sinapis alba* is sometimes cultivated (yellow fields in summer).

1. Uppermost leaves/inflorescence bracts simple, or with two shallow, acute lobes at base (margin very variable in toothiness); beak of fruit (i.e. portion beyond valves) conical, round to oval in cross section ***S. arvensis* L.**
1. Uppermost leaves/inflorescence bracts deeply lobed, pinnatisect to pinnate; beak of fruit flat (except at seed, if present) ***S. alba* L.**

A useful  $\pm$  diagnostic character of *Sinapis*, which will separate them from most other yellow crucifer genera, is that mature flowers have widely spreading to reflexed, narrow (in-rolled) sepals. This may not always be clear!

*Author* T. C. G. Rich February 1988, updated 2012