

Hypericum triquetrifolium

Family: Hypericaceae (also placed in Clusiaceae)

Species: *Hypericum triquetrifolium* Turra

Common Names: wavy-leaf St John's wort, curled leaf St John's wort, tangled hypericum; dirnah (Lebanon)

Synonyms: *Hypericum crispum* L.

Bayer Code: HYPTR

Description: A perennial herb to 50 cm high with a dense tangle of thin branches, glabrous but spotted with small black glands. Sap is resinous. It has deep vertical roots and a shallow rhizome system from which new shoots are produced. Leaves are opposite, sessile, simple, 5–15 mm long, the base clasping the stem. Margins of the leaf are wavy, undulate, also with small black or translucent glands. Flowers are 10–15 mm across, shortly stalked in clusters of two to five at the ends of branches, with 5 free yellow petals. Stamens are many in three groups. Sepals are 2 mm long, ovate, without glands. The capsule is three-celled, 3–5 mm long with numerous seeds 1–2 mm long, slightly curved, with a pitted surface.

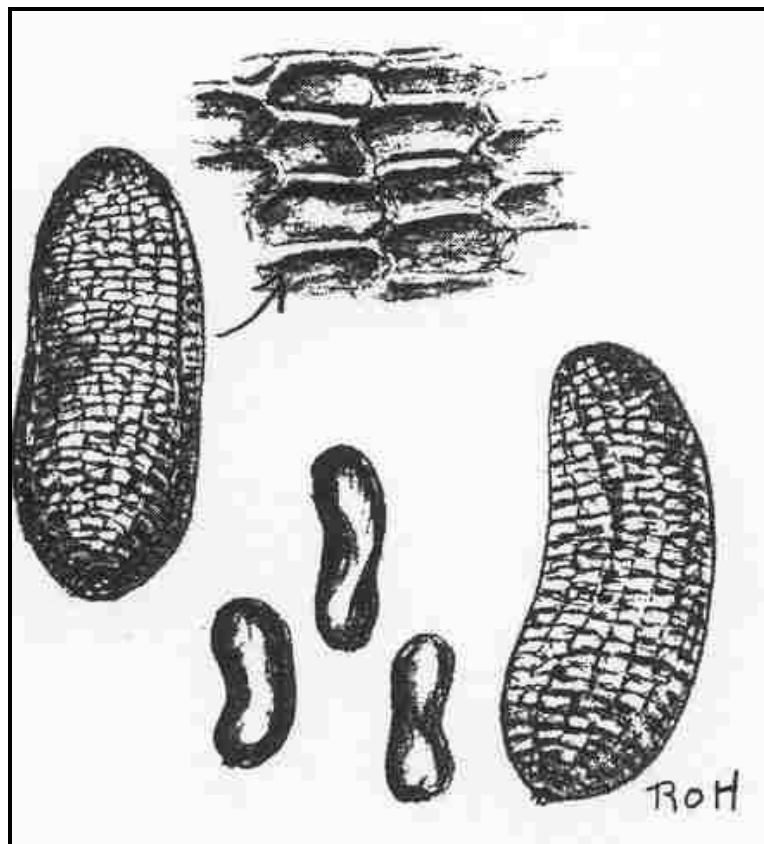


Figure 1. *Hypericum triquetrifolium* seed from Reed (1977)



Figure 2. *Hypericum triquetrifolium* from Parsons and Cuthbertson (1992)



Figure 3. *Hypericum triquetrifolium* from Abu-Irmaileh (1982)

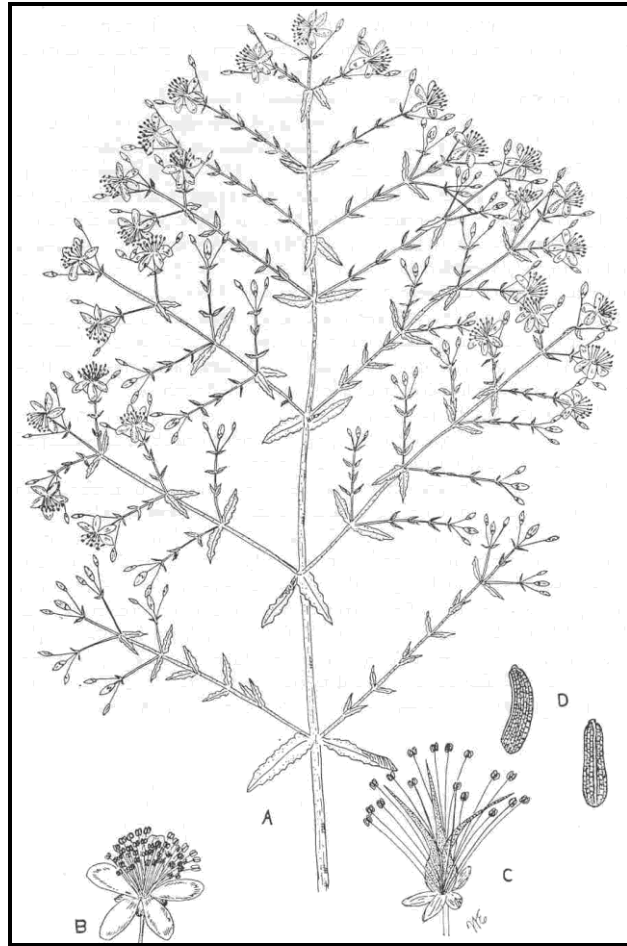


Figure 4. *Hypericum triquetrifolium* from Edgecombe (1970)

Distribution: Native in Europe (Albania, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Former Yugoslavia), Asia (Cypress, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey), and Africa (Algeria, Libya). Naturalized in Australasia (Australia) (NGRP, 2002; Holm et al., 1979; Parsons and Cuthbertson, 1992; Reed, 1977; Tutin et al., 1968).

Native and Naturalized Distribution of *Hypericum triquetrifolium* Turra

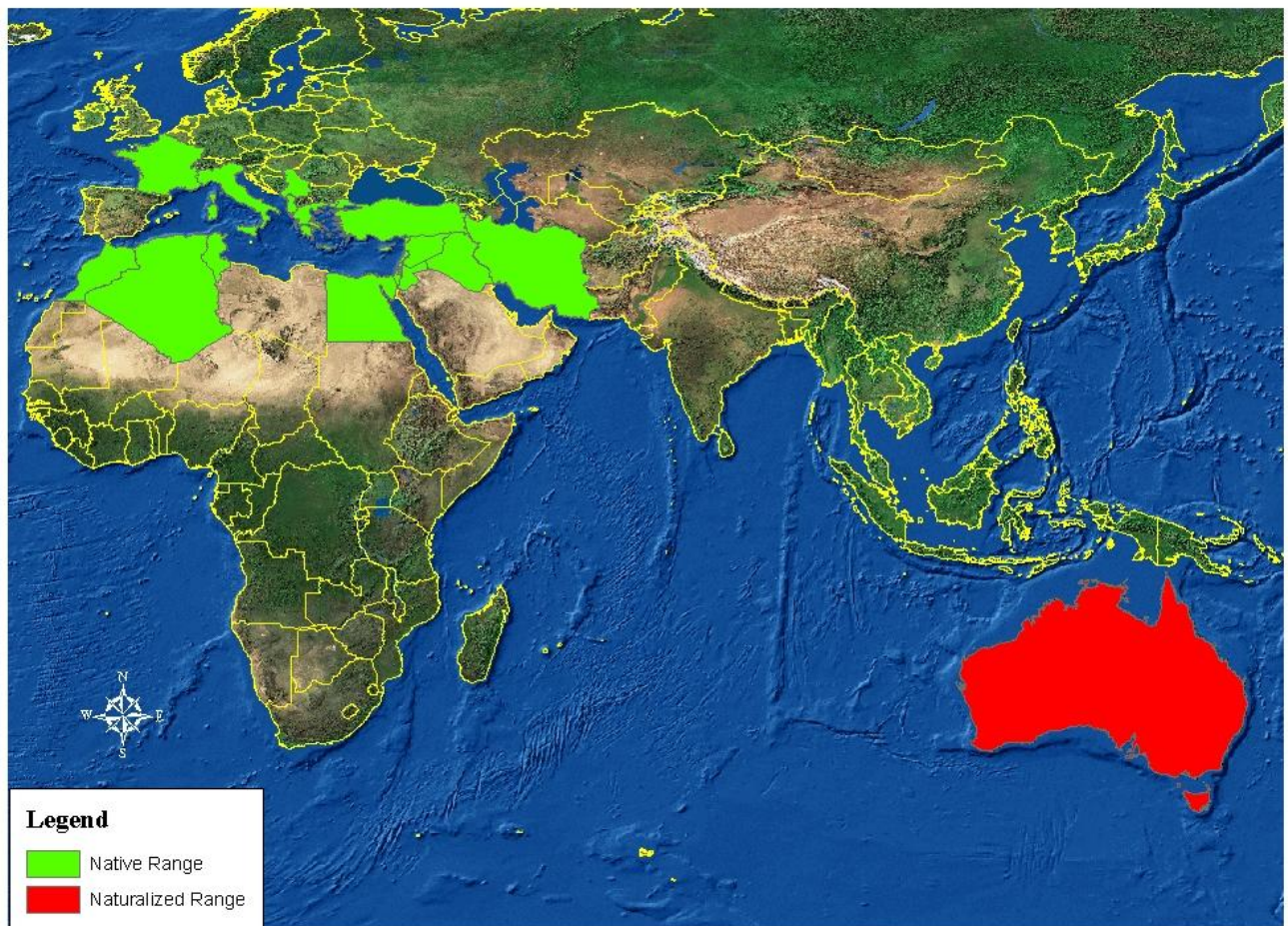


Figure 5. By Glenn Fowler, USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST, 2002 (Fowler, 2002)

Biology and Ecology: *Hypericum triquetrifolium* seeds germinate in autumn. Seedlings produce mainly root growth during the first winter. Stems develop in the spring followed by flowers and fruits between July and September. Stems die in the autumn before regenerating from crowns and rhizomes in early spring. The plant spreads by both seeds and rhizome fragments following cultivation.

Possible Pathways to the United States: As a weed of annual and perennial crops in a wide range of countries, there is a significant risk of accidental introduction as a contaminant of crop seed or other agricultural produce or containers.

Adverse Impact: *Hypericum triquetrifolium* is listed by Holm et al. (1979) as a “principal” weed in Tunisia and a “common” weed of Lebanon. In these and other countries of the Middle East, it is a weed of cereals, orchards, vineyards, and waste places. It has established a small infestation in Australia, where it is listed as a noxious weed. It is poisonous to livestock (NGRP, 2002). If introduced to the United States, it has potential to spread rapidly and dominate a variety of habitats.

Literature Cited:

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