

Resedaceae

Mignonette family

We have a single species of this Eurasian-African family of 55 species. All have hypogynous flowers borne in spikes or racemes. They are perfect but irregular. Petals and sepals number 4–8, with an enlarged central petal that is fringed dorsally. Carpels are 3–6, fused to form a superior ovary flanked by the stigmata. Leaves are alternate and sometimes lobed. All produce mustard oils.

***Reseda* L.**

Mignonette

Leaves are entire and floral parts four-merous. Petals are yellow and may be cleft. They are about 6mm wide, borne on short pedicels.

***Reseda luteola* L.**

Dyer's-rocket; Yellow-weed; réséda jaunâtre



Photo by Sean Blaney

A tall plant, it has lanceolate leaves. It bears a tall terminal spike of greenish-yellow flowers. The four petals are flattened at the base, and lobed.

Disturbed soils as along roadsides and fallow land.

Historically found at Point Pleasant Park, Halifax and in Windsor, Hants Co.

Adventive from Europe, it was once cultivated as a dye plant for its yellow colour.