

Bidens pilosa L. (Asteraceae)

General shape: Flattened, 4 angled with ridged edges, tapering at each end. Sometimes curved.

Normal size:
6.0 -9.0 mm L x 0.5-1.0 mm W

Color: Black to blackish brown, lighter near the base and apex.

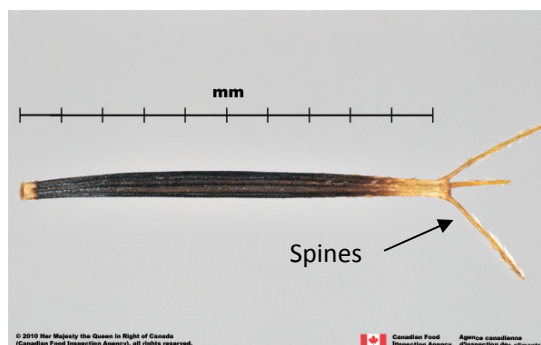
Texture: Slightly warty, tubercles on edges. Stiff, slightly curved hairs down length of seed.

Distinguishing features: Faces slightly depressed on one side. Obscure 2-grooved faces. Apex has 3 or 4 barbed, sharp spines. Base is enlarged, oblique and lighter in colour.

Embryo: Embryo with well-developed cotyledons and a broad stalk having a truncate top, no endosperm.



Bidens pilosa achenes with spines



Bidens pilosa achene



Close up of apical barbs on *Bidens pilosa* achene spines