

*Sida rhombifolia* L. (Malvaceae)

Mericaip.

Mericarps originally formed in a schizocarp ring, which breaks apart when mature into 8-12 one-seeded segments (mericarps).

**General shape:** flattened-reniform, wedge-shaped

**Normal size:** 2.5 mm L x 2.0 mm W x 1.0-1.5 mm D

**Color:** dark brown

**Texture:** glabrous (without pericarp)

**Distinguishing features:** each mericaip is topped by two small spines (0.5-1mm L) that bear very small retrorse barbs. Surface transversely wrinkled on the back, reticulate on the sides.

Seed:

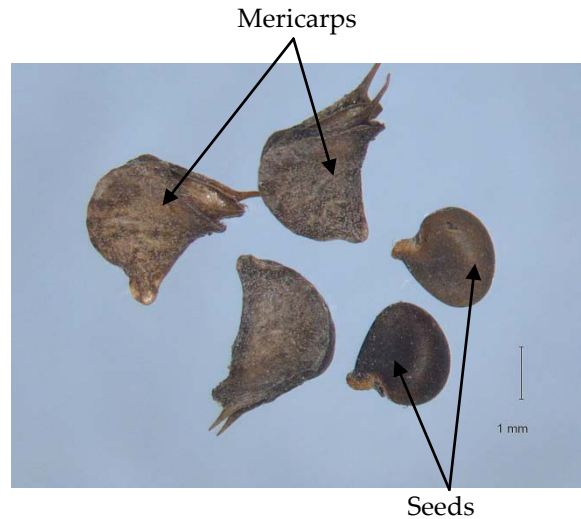
**Normal size:** 1.8 mm L x 1.5 mm W x 1.0 mm D

**Color:** brown

**Texture:** smooth

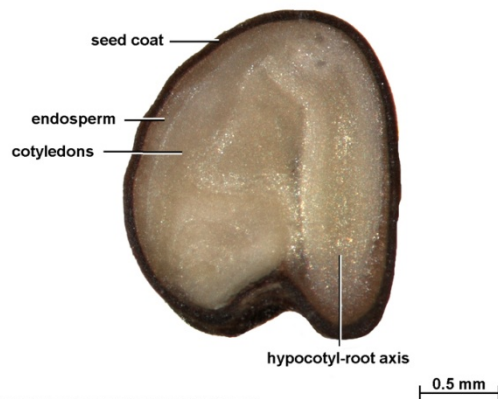
**Distinguishing features:** the seed enclosed is broadly ovoid with one side round and two sides flat (more or less concave), all edges obtuse; scar at the large end in the midst of a slight depression (hosting the small hilum).

**Embryo:** clearly bent, with folded cotyledons (type: axial-folded).



Mericarps of *Sida rhombifolia* and seeds

Image by SNES-GEVES



Cross section of seed showing embryo and nutritive tissue