**Helianthus annuus** L. (*Asteraceae*)

**General shape:** Flattish oblong, truncate at the apex with a narrowed base.

**Normal size:**
- Wild type: 4.0-5.0 mm L x 2.0-3.0 mm W x 1.0-2.0 mm D
- Cultivated type: 9.0-13.0 mm L x 7.0-9.0 mm W x 4.0-6.0 mm D

**Color:**
- Wild type: Greyish to brown with dark lengthwise streaks and mottling.
- Cultivated type: White to black with variable striping.

**Texture:**
- Wild type: Smooth surface with appressed silky hairs and pubescence near the apex.
- Cultivated type: Smooth surface.

**Distinguishing features:**
- Wild type: Hairs at the apex are stiff and upward-directed. Small apical rim. Attachment area notched and smooth.
- Cultivated type: No obvious apical rim or obvious hairs. Attachment area has a small notch..

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

Images by Jo Jones

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