

CUSCUTA CORYLI Engelm.
Hazel Dodder

FAMILY: Convolvulaceae.

HABIT: Leafless annual vines of indeterminate length, parasitic on a variety of herbaceous and woody species; flowering and fruiting July- September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The genus *Cuscuta* is easily recognized and quite conspicuous. However, species within the genus are extremely difficult to identify without critical examination of flowers and fruits under magnification.

TOTAL RANGE: N.E. to MT, s. to NC, TN, MO, NM, and AZ.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from Darke County. There are pre-1980 specimens from 7 other counties: Cuyahoga, Delaware, Erie, Hamilton, Madison, Ottawa, and Portage.

HABITAT: In full sun in a variety of dry to moist situations.

HAZARDS: Members of this genus, although not necessarily this species, can cause considerable damage to cultivated plants and thus often are destroyed by farmers. Some of the rarities in *Cuscuta* may be destroyed incidentally in the process.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect only fertile material. Attempt to obtain specimens with both flowers and fruits. Obtain a fertile portion of the host plant and press it with the *Cuscuta*. Collect, dry, and store some flowers and fruits of in a packet, unpressed. This will prevent the obscuring of critical characters (Austin, 1979).

COMMENTS: The true status of this species in the Ohio flora is difficult to ascertain accurately. The genus has not been well collected in the state and species identification is troublesome. The state range presented above, then, is quite tentative and subject to change. The English and Latin names of this species are very misleading. It is parasitic on many types of plants and is not restricted to hazels (*Corylus*).

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Austin, D.F. 1979. Comments on *Cuscuta*-for collectors and curators. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 106: 227-228.

Yuncker, T.G. 1965. *Cuscuta*. N. Amer. Fl., ser. 2, pt. 4: 1-51.



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