

CUSCUTA COMPACTA Juss. ex Choisy
Sessile Dodder

FAMILY: Convolvulaceae.

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

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: FL to TX, n. to N.E., IN, MO, and OK.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1960 collections from Licking and Meigs counties. There are pre-1960 specimens from four other counties: Auglaize, Hamilton, Jackson, and Trumbull.

STATE STATUS: 1980-1987: Endangered, 1988 to present: Presumed Extirpated.

HABITAT: Low woods and thickets.

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 *Cuscuta* 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.

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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