

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDCUS01130

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Cuscuta odontolepis*

COMMON NAME: Santa Rita Dodder

SYNONYMS:

FAMILY: Cuscutaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Engelmann, George. Transactions of the Academy of Science of St. Louis 1(3): 486. 1859.

TYPE LOCALITY: United States: Arizona.

TYPE SPECIMEN: Missouri Botanical Garden: MO-694302. C. Wright #1624, 1851-1852.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: There are 17 species of *Cuscuta* found in Arizona. Four species, *C. mitriformis*, *C. odontolepis*, *C. erosa* and *C. dentatasquamata*, are only found in Arizona within the U.S., and two species, *C. mitriformis* and *C. dentatasquamata* are only known from single collection sites.

DESCRIPTION: Flowers 4 to 5 mm. long, short-pedicellate, forming rather large, dense clusters; corolla cylindric-campanulate, the lobes ovate-lanceolate, acute; scales oblong or subspatulate, dentate near the apex only; styles slender, mostly longer than the ovary; capsule globose.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: Capsules circumscissile, i.e., easily separating near the base in a more or less regular line of cleavage; styles more slender than subulate, mostly about equally thick throughout; scales dentate only towards apex (not fimbriate); flowers whitish when dry, more or less granulate, calyx lobes broad, ovate-deltoid, short-acute, scales bridged below middle.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Herbarium Mount: <http://swbiodiversity.org/seinet/imagelib/imgdetails.php?imgid=441776>

TOTAL RANGE: Mexico (Sonora, Chihuahua, Baja California), New Mexico (east of Chiricahua Mountains), and Arizona (Coconino and Pima Counties).

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Mostly from Pima County around and south of Tucson, but there is also a 1940 collection from Havasupai Canyon, Coconino County. A collection from

SW New Mexico, and others from northern Mexico from Chihuahua to Baja suggests a wider, but unknown distribution.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Perennial, herbaceous vine, rootless.

PHENOLOGY:

BIOLOGY: The plant is parasitic. Upon emergence from the seed, the slender, elongate seedling coils its yellowish, thread-like stems about an available host to which it becomes firmly attached by means of its sucker-like organs (haustoria) Kearney and Peebles, 1960.

HABITAT: Parasitic on *Amaranthus palmeri*, *Baccharis*, and other plants. Type locality is a rocky hillside, but Arizona collections also mention edge of irrigation ditch, disturbed ground and xeroriparian habitats.

ELEVATION: Arizona collections reported from 2400 – 2985 feet (730 – 910m).

EXPOSURE: Not specified.

SUBSTRATE: Not applicable; no roots. Attaches to host plant.

PLANT COMMUNITY:

POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS: Unknown

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None.

STATE STATUS: None.

OTHER STATUS: None.

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: Unknown.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN: None.

SUGGESTED PROJECTS:

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**REFERENCES:**

- JStor| Global Plants, accessed 9/19/2013, <http://plants.jstor.org/specimen/mo-694302?s=t>.
Kearney, Thomas H. and Robert H. Peebles. 1960. Arizona Flora. Univ. of Cal. Press, Berkeley. pp. 666-671.
NatureServe. 2013. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: September 19, 2013).
Tropicos, accessed 9/19/2013, <http://www.tropicos.org/Name/8500697>.

MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Revised: 2013-09-20 BDT

To the user of this abstract: you may use the entire abstract or any part of it. We do request, however, that if you make use of this abstract in plans, reports, publications, etc. that you credit the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Please use the following citation:

Arizona Game and Fish Department. 20XX (= **year of last revision as indicated at end of abstract**). X...X (= **taxon of animal or plant**). Unpublished abstract compiled and edited by the Heritage Data Management System, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ. X pp.