

CUSCUTA GLOMERATA Choisy
Glomerate Dodder

FAMILY: Cuscutaceae (Convolvulaceae)

HABIT: Leafless annual vines, usually parasitic on composite plants; flowers and fruits July-Oct.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The genus *Cuscuta* is easily recognized. However, the species within the genus may be hard to separate. *C. glomerata* can be distinguished from other members of the genus by its capitate stigmas, distinct sepals, and sessile flowers subtended by several loosely ascending bracts with recurved tips (McCormac and Windus 1993).

TOTAL RANGE: IN to WI and ND, s. to MS and TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Logan, Union, and Wyandot counties. Pre-1980 records are from Madison and Pickaway counties.

HABITAT: Prairies and fens.

HAZARDS: Fire suppression; overgrowth by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Possibly good since the species is known to respond to fire and has begun to appear at sites where managed burns have been conducted.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect specimens with flowering and/or fruiting material; collect portion of host plant.

COMMENTS: McCormac and Windus (1993) have shown that this species appeared in five sites that had recently been burned and that the species almost always parasitizes *Helianthus grosseserratus* or *S. canadensis* in Ohio. The species should be sought in prairie or fen sites, especially following burning.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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

McCormac, J.S. and J.L. Windus. 1993. Fire and *Cuscuta glomerata* Choisy in Ohio: A connection?. Unpublished manuscript.

Peskin, P.K. 1990. Knotted dodder (*Cuscuta glomerata*: Convolvulaceae) in Ohio. Mich. Bot. 29: 125-127.

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



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Revised: 4/1993 Greg Schneider