

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDCUS010Z0

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Cuscuta mitriformis*

COMMON NAME: Cochise Dodder

SYNONYMS:

FAMILY: Cuscutaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Engelmann, George. Mexicanarum 2:54. July 1879.

TYPE LOCALITY: Mexico: en route from San Luis Potosi to Tampico.

TYPE SPECIMEN: Missouri Botanical Garden: MO-152706. E. Palmer (SN), Dec. 1878 to Feb. 1879 (Holotype).

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: Stems coarse; flowers on short pedicels, forming compact, globular clusters; calyx lobes about as long as the corolla tube, ovate, obtuse, more or less unequal, irregular, the larger lobes often strongly and unevenly carinate; corolla lobes ovate, obtuse, about as long as or exceeding the campanulate tube; scales oblong, mostly somewhat truncate and bifid, or less commonly ovate, as long as the tube, and deeply fringed; styles shorter than the conic ovary, becoming widely divergent; capsule 5 to 8 mm. long, enveloped by the withered corolla.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: Capsules circumscissile, i.e., easily separating near the base in a more or less regular line of cleavage; styles subulate, commonly much thicker at base, calyx lobes commonly more or less carinate; flowers mostly 3 to 5 mm. long, styles pronouncedly subulate, becoming subconic in fruit.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Herbarium Mount: <http://swbiodiversity.org/imglib/seinet/ASU/ASU0042/ASU0042315.jpg>

TOTAL RANGE: Mexico (Coahuila, Chihuahua, Nuevo Leon), New Mexico (east of the Chiricahua Mountains) and Arizona, Cochise County.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Known from a single 1929 collection made in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mountains, Cochise County.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Perennial, herbaceous vine, rootless.

PHENOLOGY: Flowers: July to September.

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 *Lupinus*.

ELEVATION: About 6000 feet (1830 m).

EXPOSURE: Not specified.

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

PLANT COMMUNITY: Not specified.

POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS: Unknown. Plant known from six collections in Mexico (1936 – 1986), New Mexico and a single 1929 collection in Arizona.

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: U.S. Forest Service.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**REFERENCES:**

- JStor| Global Plants, accessed 9/19/, 2013, <http://plants.jstor.org/specimen/mo-152706?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/8500692>.

MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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