

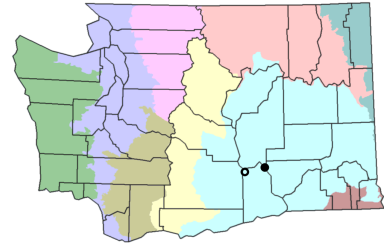
## ***Cuscuta denticulata*** Engelm.

desert dodder

Cuscutaceae - dodder family

status: State Threatened, BLM strategic

rank: G4G5 / S1



**General Description:** A twining perennial herbaceous vine, lacking chlorophyll, with pinkish yellow to white, hairless,

**Floral Characteristics:** Flowers sessile or subsessile in small clusters, 5-parted, about 2 mm long. Calyx not fleshy, deeply divided, the lobes oval to orbicular, overlapping, the margin minutely and irregularly toothed. Corolla tube bell-shaped, slightly exceeding the calyx, the lobes ovate-lanceolate to ovate, overlapping at the base, spreading to ascending, about equaling the tube. Stamens fused with the inner wall of the corolla. Anthers 0.3 mm long, about equaling the free filaments, oval. Fused portion of stamens covered by scales about reaching the base of the free portion of the filaments, obovate-oblong, subentire to irregularly erose-dentate, united to midlength. Styles 2, distinct, 0.5 mm long, stigmas capitate.

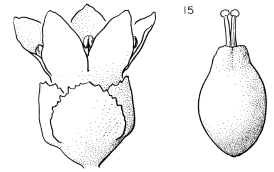
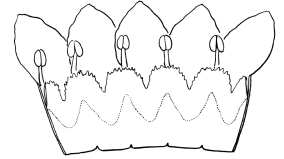


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Press

**Fruits:** Narrowly ovoid capsules, crested-thickened around the base of the style, interstylar opening small or none. Seeds usually single. Flowers July to August.

**Identification Tips:** Look for achlorophyllous vining plants on desert shrubs.

**Range:** CA, UT, NV, AZ, CO, and Baja California. WA and ID populations are disjunct.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Parasitic on a variety of native shrubs in desert areas, including sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.) and rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus/Ericameria* spp.). Elevations in WA: 260-330 m (880-1080 ft). Associated species include big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), Sandberg's bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), buckwheat milk-vetch (*Astragalus caricinus*), purple cushion fleabane (*Erigeron poliospermus*), turpentine wavewing (*Cymopterus terebinthinus*), Cusick's sunflower (*Helianthus cusickii*), and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*).

**Comments:** There is 1 extant site in WA; a former site was converted to agriculture. This species is also rare in ID. Many species of dodder are considered noxious weeds by the USDA.

**References:** Cronquist et al. 1972-94, vol. 4.

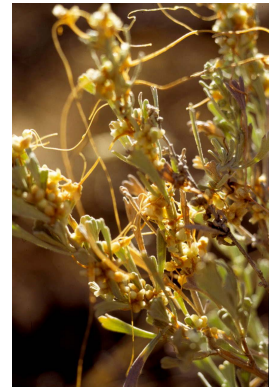


photo by Florence Caplow