

Cuscuta tasmanica



Cuscuta tasmanica.
Photographs: H& A Wapstra.

FAMILY: CUSCUTACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Cuscuta tasmanica*,
Engelm., *Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis* 1: 512
(1859)

COMMON NAME: Golden dodder

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

An annual, parasitic plant with yellow or red thread-like stems, twining and attached to the host plant. Once attached to a host, the stem decays near the base and severs connection to the root. This species has an unusual and distinctive appearance in that it looks similar to plastic. **Leaves:** The leaves are reduced to small scales. **Flowers:** The flowers are in clusters of 2-5 on stalks, which are 4-8 mm long. Flowering is from summer to autumn (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is a capsule (description from Curtis 1967). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from September to December.

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. In Tasmania, *Cuscuta tasmanica* is known from saline areas and brackish marshes often, but not exclusively, on *Wilsonia backhousei* plants (Curtis 1967).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include the Lagoon behind Primrose Sands, Lauderdale marsh, Lagoon Beach opposite Sloping Island and the northern most of the Tregaron Lagoons (Cape Portland).

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Cape Portland private Sanctuary, Lime Bay State Reserve and the Mt William National Park (Kirkpatrick *et al.* 1991).

Ecology and Management

There is currently no information available regarding the ecology and management of this species.



Cuscuta tasmanica habit.

Conservation Status Assessment

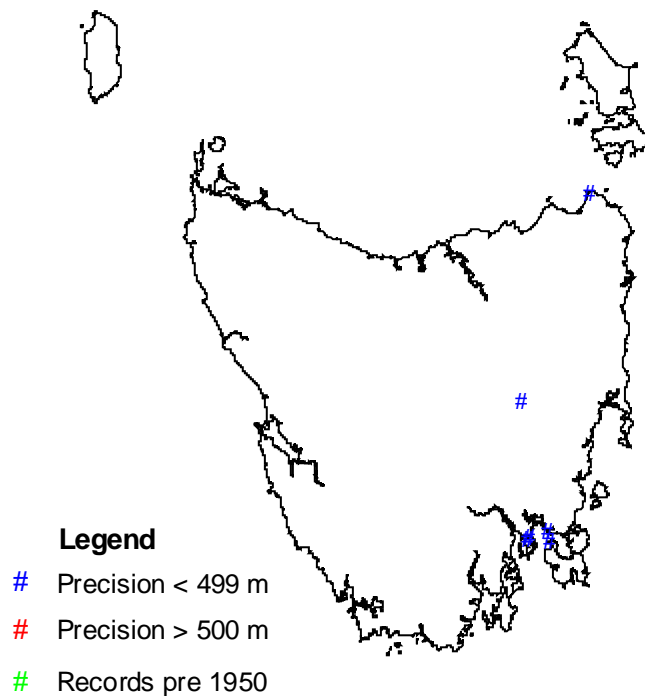
There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Cuscuta tasmanica*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1967, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 3, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB, Barker, P, Brown, MJ, Harris, S & Mackie, R 1994, *The Reservation Status of Tasmanian Vascular Plant Communities*, Tasmanian Conservation Trust Incorporated, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Carlton, Cremorne, Ellinthorp, Lyme Regis.

Date last modified: 03/09/03