

Cuscuta epithymum (L.) L.

Dodder

Key:

Dots refer to the native sites of the species

Numbers refer to the nearby Botanical Collections

Starting references

Family

Cuscutaceae

IUCN category (2001)

Vulnerable

Habit

Annual, rarely perennial, rootless twining herb.

Habitat

Parasitic on the stems of a wide variety of small shrubs and herbs (most frequently *Calluna vulgaris*, *Thymus polytrichus*, *Ulex gallii*, *U. minor*); on heathland, chalk downland and fixed dune grasslands; also casual on field crops and in arable field-borders at the northern and western extent of its range.

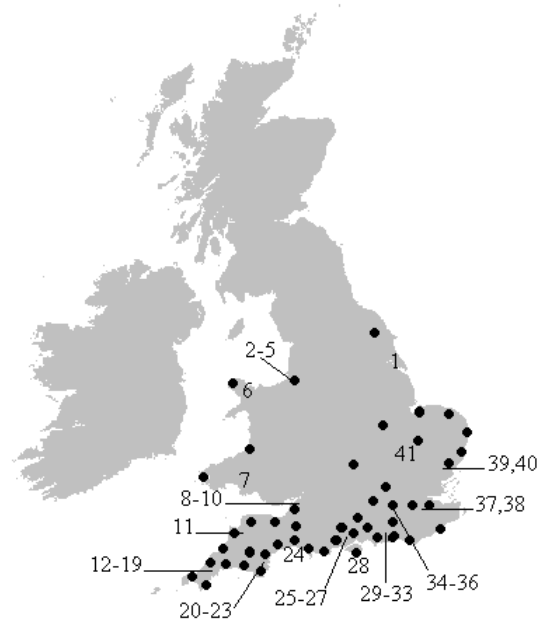
Lowland.

Reasons for decline

Loss of lowland heath, ploughing of chalk downlands, increase in scrub.

Distribution in wild

Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km ² occurrences)	Population (plants)
Wales	Anglesey	2	
	Cardiganshire	2	
	Pembrokeshire	1	
England	Widely distributed		



Ex situ Collections

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 University of Hull Botanic & Exp. Garden
- 2 City of Liverpool Botanic Garden
- 3 Ness Botanic Gardens
- 4 Firs Botanical Grounds
- 5 University of Manchester Botanical & Exp. Grounds
- 6 Treborth Botanic Garden
- 7 National Botanic Garden of Wales
- 8 Bristol Zoo Gardens
- 9 University of Bristol Botanic Garden
- 10 Wildwalk at Bristol
- 11 RHS Rosemoor
- 12 Duchy College
- 13 St Michael's Mount (NT)
- 14 Trebah Garden
- 15 Glendurgan Gardens (NT)
- 16 Trelissick (NT)
- 17 Tregothnan Botanic Garden
- 18 Eden Project
- 19 Tregrehan
- 20 Paignton Zoological & Botanical Gardens
- 21 Bicton Park Botanical Gardens
- 22 Knightshayes Garden (NT)

- 23 The Shippen
- 24 Abbotsbury Subtropical Garden
- 25 Longstock Park Gardens
- 26 Mottisfont Abbey Garden (NT)
- 27 Sir Harold Hillier Garden
- 28 Ventnor Botanic Garden
- 29 West Dean Gardens
- 30 High Beeches Gardens
- 31 Nymans Garden (NT)
- 32 Borde Hill Garden
- 33 Newhaven Botanic Garden
- 34 The Harris Garden
- 35 Windsor Gardens
- 36 Cliveden (NT)
- 37 RBG Kew
- 38 RHS Wisley
- 39 RHS Hyde Hall
- 40 Mark Hall Arboretum
- 41 Cambridge University Botanic Garden

Gardens with specialisation on family Cuscutaceae

None

Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections

From Plants For A Future

- Propagation

Seed - best sown as soon as it is ripe in the autumn, by lodging it among the stems of a host plant.

- Cultivation details

This is a parasitic species that is devoid of leaves, roots or chlorophyll and so is totally dependant upon its host. A climbing plant, it must be grown close to a host plant around which it will twine itself and which it will penetrate with suckers in order to obtain nutriment. The flowers emit a remarkably sweet perfume that is especially pronounced towards evening.

Conservation information

Linkages to BAPs

Designated LBAP Areas are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

Habitat Management

Protected sites with records for *C. epithymum* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

Conservation programmes

Unknown

Web References

- NBN Gateway database : <http://www.searchnbn.net>
- Images: http://www.ukwildflowers.com/Web_pages/cuscuta_epithymum_dodder.htm
- Plants For A Future database : http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Cuscuta+epithymum