

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Cuscuta jepsonii***  
Kristi Lazar (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDDB)  
December 11, 2006

**Background**

*Cuscuta jepsonii* is an annual parasitic vine in the Convolvulaceae. This species is endemic to California and is known from a single occurrence in Lake County growing on *Ceanothus diversifolius*. This species was originally described in 1921; however, in 1986 it was classified as a synonym of *Cuscuta californica* var. *papillosa* and then later treated as a synonym of *C. indecora* var. *indecora* and is treated as such in *The Jepson Manual* (1993). However, in a recent *SIDA* paper published in 2006, Costea et al. studied the specimen and believe it to represent a distinct species. *C. jepsonii* is distinguished from other *Cuscuta* species by its complete reduction of infrastaminal scales. No other *Cuscuta* species has complete reduction of these scales and for this reason, Costea et al. are recognizing *C. jepsonii* as a distinct species. Below is an excerpt from the *SIDA* paper which describes why the authors are choosing to recognize *C. jepsonii* as a distinct species:

"Infrastaminal scales vary to some extent in many *Cuscuta* species. Nevertheless, we know of no instance of complete reduction of infrastaminal scales in a species where scale development is characteristically normal, even if variable. For this reason, and until additional material can be studied, *C. jepsonii* is maintained as a distinct species" (*SIDA* 22(1), pg. 213).

*C. jepsonii* is currently known from only the holotype collected in 1892 on a *Ceanothus diversifolius* shrub and would therefore be considered extirpated from California at this time. *C. jepsonii* requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and the CNDDB.

**Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1A

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as GH / SH

Please review the draft CNPS Inventory record below, respond Yes or No on the proposal to add this species to the Inventory and CNDDB, and provide any edits/comments. If responding No, please provide supporting information.

---

**Draft CNPS Inventory Record**

***Cuscuta jepsonii* Yuncker**

Convolvulaceae

"Jepson's dodder"

List 1A

Lake\*

565C\* [Elk Mountain/3912238]

streamside

Annual vine (parasitic), blooms July-September

Known only from the holotype collected in Lake County in 1892. Occurs on *Ceanothus diversifolius*. Sometimes considered a synonym of *Cuscuta indecora* var. *indecora*. See *Illinois*

Element Code: ?  
Added to CNPS List 3 on 2/16/07

*Biological Monograph* 6: 149 (1921) for original description and *SIDA* 22(1): 222-223 (2006) for taxonomic treatment.

Sent to NW - 1/5/07