

# New Locations of *Cuscuta cuspidata* Engelm. (Cuscutaceae) in Oklahoma

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The genus *Cuscuta* (common dodder) consists of achlorophyllous, holoparasitic flowering plants that bear haustoria and lack roots (1). Haustoria develop when the early vegetative form of *Cuscuta* establishes contact with a suitable host species. After establishing a parasitic relationship with its host, *Cuscuta* loses contact with the soil (2,3). Some species of the genus are quite host-specific, whereas others have been known to grow more vigorously when grown in the presence of mixed host species (4-7).

Members of *Cuscuta* have a growing season that typically begins in May, when the seeds germinate and establish contact with a nearby host. If the parasite does not find a host within 10-15 d after germination, it withers and dies (2,3). After *Cuscuta* successfully parasitizes a host plant, haustoria allow nutrient extraction and provide the food for vegetative growth, which can become quite extensive. Plants can begin to flower as early as June and produce mature seeds into November (1).

We report four new locations for *Cuscuta cuspidata* Engelm. in Oklahoma (Table 1). The site south of Cache is the first documented location of the species in Comanche County. Specimens were collected and preserved using standard plant pressing procedures, and deposited in the Cameron University Herbarium. They were

identified using a key by Waterfall (8) and their identification verified by Ronald J. Tyrl. These four new locations indicate that *C. cuspidata* is more widespread in the state than previously recorded. Thirty-nine other sites for the species appear in the Oklahoma Biological Survey/OK Natural Heritage database (9).

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TABLE 1. Locations of the four new sites for *C. cuspidata*.

County	Location	Latitude/Longitude
Comanche	8 kilometers S of jct of OK Hwys 115 and 62	N34 33.098' W98 37.978'
Cleveland	0.8 kilometers W of jct of Lindsey and 48th St.	N35 12.300' W97 22.661'
McClain	1.4 kilometers W of jct of OK Hwys 9 and 76	N35 07.444' W97 41.109'
McClain	0.7 kilometers W of jct of OK Hwys 9 and 76	N35 07.440' W97 40.620'

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