



FRIGHTENING FACTS

South Carolina and North Carolina Exotic Plant Pest Councils



SCIENTIFIC NAME: *OROBANCHE MINOR*
COMMON NAME: SMALL BROOMRAPE
KNOWN TO OCCUR IN NC

WHAT IS SMALL BROOMRAPE?



Plant Type: root parasite of herbaceous plants (primarily legumes); annual herb, lacks chlorophyll (plant is not green)
Family: Orobanchaceae (broomrape)
Form/Size: erect stem, 6-22 inches tall; flower stem leafless, fleshy, yellowish-brown tinged purple.
Leaves: small, simple, alternate, triangular flaps, straw-colored.
Flowers: bloom within a week of plant emergence; whitish-yellow with violet markings, in terminal clusters, ½ inch long petals, snapdragon-like; self-pollinating.
Fruit: minute, easily dispersed, long lived, abundant seeds viable for 10 years or more (500,000 per plant).

Means of Spread: seed only; by anthropogenic means (soil, equipment, shoes), wind, and water.

Similar Native Species: Beech Drops (*Epifagus virginiana*), also a root parasite which only occurs in the forest, on beech tree roots.



Native Beech Drops
Daniel Reed, www.2bntthewild.com

WHERE DID SMALL BROOMRAPE COME FROM?

Origin: Europe, Middle East, North Africa
North American Introduction: no information
Reason: no information; likely accidental

WHERE AM I LIKELY TO FIND SMALL BROOMRAPE?

Habitat Type: growing as a parasite on clovers, vetches, legume forages, leafy green vegetable crops, lawns, roadsides
Distribution in SC: none
Distribution in NC: Mitchell, Orange, Wake Cos.
Non-native Distribution: FL, GA, NC, TX, VA



WHY IS SMALL BROOMRAPE A PROBLEM?

Environment: limited information; unlikely to impact natural areas
Economy: heavy infestations may cause serious damage to agricultural crops

Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR) Species



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WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND SMALL BROOMRAPE?

Report: take a photo, *in SC:* call the Clemson University Plant Problem Clinic (864-656-2677) for guidance. *In NC:* call the NC Dept. of Agricultural Services (800-206-9333). Report the observation to EDDMapS: <http://www.se-eppc.org/> (location, size of infestation, etc.). Send digital photo to Botanist John Nelson at the USC Herbarium: plantman@herbarium.org for verification.

Prevent spread by using clean seed when planting crops, do not move soil from infested site, do not mow infested site before contacting the Clemson University Plant Problem Clinic, clean equipment thoroughly after use on infested site (with germicidal detergent), brush shoes to remove soil prior to leaving infested site.

Control: hand-pull or hoe small populations; plowing under before seed production or burial by deep plowing after seed production may be effective; general use herbicides (like glyphosate or amine, amine with dicamba) may be effective.

Disposal: no information; unnecessary if controlled by plowing; do not compost invasive plant material



CURRENT LISTINGS:

Federal: noxious weed
State Weed Lists: AL, CA, FL, MA, MN, NC, OR, SC, TX, VT
SC-EPPC Ranking: none
NC-EPPC Ranking: none



LEARN MORE!

- Invasive.org (images): <http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=2450>
- USDA Forest Service: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/small-broomrape.pdf
- Federal Noxious Weed Disseminules of the U. S.: <http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/FNW/FNW%20seeds/html/fact%20sheets/Orobanche.htm>
- Georgia Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey: http://www.invasive.org/publications/om_facts.pdf

Prepared by Sudie Daves Thomas for SC-EPPC and the Early Detection and Rapid Response System

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