



Small Broomrape *Orobanche minor* Smith

Common Names: broomrape, chokeweed, clover devil, devil's root, hell root, herb-bane, lesser broomrape, small broomrape

Native Origin: Europe, Middle East and North Africa

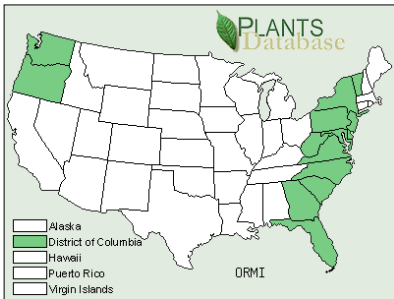
Description: Small broomrape is a parasitic, herbaceous, annual plant in the broom-rape family (*Orobanchaceae*) growing 6 - 22 inches tall. Plants lack chlorophyll. The fleshy leafless stem is yellowish-brown, often with a purple tinge. The simple, alternate leaves are small, triangular flaps. Flowers bloom within a week of plant emergence and are whitish to yellow with violet markings, borne on terminal clusters, snapdragon-like with 1/2-inch petals, and self-pollinating. Seeds are abundant, long-lived, minute, easily dispersed and viable for 10 years or more. Plants produce up to 500,000 seeds per plant and are dispersed by wind, equipment, and animals. Roots are short, un-branched and scaly. They attached to the roots of broadleaf host plant.



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Habitat: It is located along roadsides and fields.

Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in GA. It is on the Federal Noxious Weed List.



Ecological Impacts: This parasitic plant attaches to the roots of plants, growing larger and destroy the host plants. It has a wide host range but is especially problematic in clover. There is some concern that small broomrape may spread to infest crops such as legume forages and leafy green vegetables. Heavy infestations can cause crop failure, causing this plant to be listed as a federal noxious weed.

Control and Management: It can be spread through contaminated seeds, soil, equipment, and shoes. The best control remedy is prevention, i.e., sowing clean seed. Broomrape seeds are among the smallest in existence, so they are easily removed from large seeds. The following precautions should be followed when working to control and manage this plant:

1. Do not take soil from infested sites
2. Do not mow infested sites before contacting the Extension Service or other authority
3. Thoroughly wash equipment or treat with a germicidal detergent
4. Clean shoes to remove soil prior to leaving the site

- **Manual-** Hand pull; hoe
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or amine, amine with dicamba. Follow label and state requirements.

References: www.forestimages.org, <http://plants.usda.gov>, www.nps.gov/plants/alien/list/a.htm, www.invasive.org/publications/om_facts.pdf, www.georgiainvasives.org/weeds/broomrape.html, www-aes.tamu.edu/mary/brmrpe/Br-iwwb.htm, www.ceris.purdue.edu/napis/pests/sbr/sbr_east.html, http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile_smallbroomrape.shtml