



# Ivy Broomrape

## **WEED PEST - *Orobanche hederæ* [ivy broomrape]**

Broomrape are plants in the family Orobanchaceae, and live as parasites, connected below ground to roots of a host plant. Broomrape plants appear above ground to flower and produce fruit. Native California broomrape are an important part of the biodiversity of the State.

Non-native broomrape are plant pests of quarantine and regulatory concern for California, and harmful to row crops, field crops, and nursery commodities. Non-native broomrape cause economic impacts to agriculture and the environment. Non-native broomrape are Federal Noxious Weeds.

*Orobanche hederæ* is a non-native broomrape. It lives as a parasite, connected below ground to on the roots of ivy plants. In California, *Orobanche hederæ* appears above ground from February to September. Plants of *Orobanche hederæ* grows taller than ivy, and look spike-like, with simple (unbranched) stems. Stems are yellow, purple, or brown, and sticky-hairy. Leaves are very reduced (like small triangles). The flowers are bilateral (upper lip is two-lobed, the lower lip is three-lobed) and cream, yellow, or purple in color. *Orobanche hederæ* produces many tiny seeds from fruiting capsules.

### **Occurrences in California**

Alameda, San Francisco counties.

### **Hosts in California**

Ivy [*Hedera* species, Araliaceae]

### **How does ivy broomrape spread?**

Ivy broomrape spreads by seed. Seeds germinate near the roots of the host plant (ivy).

### **Toxicity**

Broomrape is not considered harmful or toxic to animals or humans.

### **How to report broomrape to California Department of Food and Agriculture**

Please report any sighting of broomrape to your nearest California County Agricultural Commissioner office <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap/>

Botany Lab, Plant Pest Diagnostics Center, California Department of Food and Agriculture  
3294 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, California 95832 (916) 262-1100

CDFA Report A Pest Hotline 1(800) 491-1899  
[reportapest@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:reportapest@cdfa.ca.gov) [pesth hotline@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:pesth hotline@cdfa.ca.gov)  
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/reportapest/>

**PLEASE DO NOT COLLECT BROOMRAPE SPECIMENS!**