



WEED PEST - *Phelipanche aegyptiaca* [Egyptian 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.

Phelipanche aegyptiaca [*Orobanche aegyptiaca*] is a non-native broomrape. It lives as a parasite, connected below ground to the roots of tomatoes and other agricultural commodities. In California, *Phelipanche aegyptiaca* appears above ground from May to August. Plants of *Phelipanche aegyptiaca* can be found close to their host plants, and sometimes underneath the canopy of tomato leaves. *Phelipanche aegyptiaca* looks spike-like, with simple (unbranched) or sometimes branched stems. Stems are yellow or purple (sometimes paler colored), 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 purple in color (sometimes paler colored). *Phelipanche aegyptiaca* produces many tiny seeds from fruiting capsules.

Occurrences in California

Solano County

Hosts in California

Tomato [*Solanum* species, Solanaceae] and weeds in Solanaceae. Many additional host plants have been documented for *Phelipanche aegyptiaca*, but these are not yet reported in California.

How does Egyptian broomrape spread?

Egyptian broomrape spreads by seed. Seeds germinate near the roots of the host plant (tomato).

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 pesth hotline@cdfa.ca.gov
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/reportapest/>

PLEASE DO NOT COLLECT BROOMRAPE SPECIMENS!