



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

August 2023

Branched Broomrape

WEED PEST - *Phelipanche ramosa* [branched 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 ramosa [*Orobanche ramosa*] is a non-native broomrape. It lives as a parasite, connected below ground to the roots of tomatoes, hemp, and other agricultural crops. In California, *Phelipanche ramosa* appears above ground from May to December. Plants of *Phelipanche ramosa* can be found close to their host plants, and sometimes underneath the canopy of tomato leaves. *Phelipanche ramosa* looks like a cluster of spikes, with simple (unbranched) or 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 yellow, purple, or blue (sometimes paler colored). *Phelipanche ramosa* produces many tiny seeds from fruiting capsules.

Occurrences in California

Alameda, Butte, Sacramento, San Benito, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Ventura, Yolo counties.

Hosts in California

Tomato [*Solanum*, Solanaceae] and hemp [*Cannabis*, Cannabaceae]. Many additional agricultural and weed host plants have been documented for *Phelipanche ramosa* in California.

How does branched broomrape spread?

Branched broomrape spreads by seed. Seeds germinate near the roots of the host plant.

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!