

A SPECIES OF CUSCUTA NOT HITHERTO REPORTED FROM
INDIANA.

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At the meeting of this Academy last year I presented a paper on the species of *Cuscuta* occurring in Indiana. Included in that report were seven native species (*C. glomerata*; *C. compacta*; *C. Cephalanthi*; *C. Coryli*; *C. polygonorum*; *C. pentagona* and *C. Gronovii*) that were known to occur in the state and two foreign species (*C. Epithymum* and *C. Epilinum*) which are probably in the state although not seen by the writer.

Since that time I have received two collections from different counties of another species, *C. cuspidata* Englm., which has, so far as the writer knows, never been collected before in Indiana. One of the specimens was collected by Mr. W. A. Hunter, president of the Vigo County Bee Keepers' Association, who writes as follows regarding it:

"I only observed a small patch near my apiary, about two miles southwest of Prairieton (Vigo Co.), Indiana; less than one-half mile from the Wabash river, which is the state line between Indiana and Illinois. This patch was in the river bottoms, along the fence row between two corn fields. It was quite plentiful for a few rods along the fence row. . . . The honey bees were working on the flowers, as well as the wild bees and other insects. They seemed to be very active when the flowers were in full bloom."

The other specimen was recently sent to me by Mr. C. C. Deam who collected it in a "low field along the Wabash River about 40 rods south of where the wagon road comes to the river from the east and just below the old dam, or about two miles south of New Harmony, Posey Co."

Cuscuta cuspidata is typically found in the prairie region from the Mississippi river westward to the mountains and southward to Louisiana and Texas. Until the finding of these specimens in Indiana the farthest east that this species had been found of which we have any authentic record was in St. Clair County, Illinois where it has been collected several times. This species belongs to the group of dodders characterized by the possession of sepal-like bracts closely subtending the individual flowers. Only four species belonging to this group are found in the United States three of which (*C. glomerata*; *C. compacta* and *C. cuspidata*) are now known to occur in Indiana. *C. cuspidata* is differentiated from *C. glomerata* and *C. compacta* by its looser inflorescence and more or less cuspidate or mucronate, infrequently obtuse, sepals and bracts. Also, there are ordinarily but one to three bracts about each flower whereas in the other two species the number of bracts is usually greater.

C. cuspidata seems to prefer species of Compositae for hosts, the two specimens sent in being on Ambrosia. It has been found infrequently parasitizing leguminous plants, usually alfalfa, but it is not believed that it will ever become a pest in Indiana.

