

## Yellow Dodder *Cuscuta campestris* Yunck. in Malvern

Roger Maskew.

In late October 2020 a metre wide patch of Yellow Dodder *Cuscuta campestris* (01) was found by local naturalist Gerry Davies growing on the edge of a very large crop of a robust agricultural variant of Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*) at Upper Howsell, Malvern, SO780489. To the best of my knowledge this is the first Worcestershire record outside gardens.



01. Yellow Dodder *Cuscuta campestris*, Upper Howsell, SO780489. Roger Maskew.

Although a native of N. America, Yellow Dodder now occurs in many parts of the world as a contaminant of cultivation, and in the British Isles, according to Stace (2003), since 1970 it has been recorded from only 22 English, 2 Welsh and 3 Scottish vice-counties. It is also listed as a wool-alien by Lousley (1961), yet considering the number of wool-alien species recorded for Worcestershire during the post war period, it is surprising it was never found as such in the county at this time.

Yellow Dodder is recorded as a casual on a range of mainly cultivated plants, especially *Daucus* (Carrots), and also on birdseed, mainly as a Niger-alien, with Worcestershire records from gardens in Little Comberton (2006) and Coles Green (2012).

### Reference

Lousley, J.E. (1961). A Census List of Wool Aliens found in Britain, 1946-1960. *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles* 4:221-247.

Stace, C.A., Ellis, R.G., Kent, D.H., & McCosh, D.J. (2003). *Vice-county Census Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of Great Britain*. Botanical Society of the British Isles, London.

### Editor's Note

In September 2019 Steve Bloomfield and Brett Westwood found four large patches of Yellow Dodder *Cuscuta campestris* at Lower Smite Farm, Hindlip SO8858. The plants were growing in a field of bird-seed sowings.