PLANT FACT SHEET

Cassytha pubescens R. Br.

GENUS *Cassytha* **FAMILY** Lauraceae

COMMON NAMES Downy dodder-laurel

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

CAUTION: Some Cassytha have an alkaloid that can cause abortion and should not therefore be eaten by pregnant women.
The small fruit are eaten and used as flavouring in baking.

DESCRIPTION

A climber. It grows attached to other plants and feeds from them. It appears to not have leaves. It forms dense mats over other plants. The stems are fine and yellow and hairy. They attach to plants by suckers. It climbs 2-3 m high and spreads 2-3.5 m wide. The young stems and flower heads are covered in downy hairs. There are 3-10 flowers in a dense cluster. They are 5 mm wide. They do not have stalks. The fruit are small and round. They are green and fleshy. They are 1 cm long and 0.5-1.5 cm wide.

HABITAT

It grows in coastal and inland areas. It grows in drier regions. It gets its nutrition and water from other plants. It will often kill the host. Tasmania Herbarium.

NOTES

There are 15-20 Cassytha species. Sometimes they are in the family Cassythaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/350fb73f-6f78-40df-8a3d-ea7fb4b0e324