

Cassytha racemosa* forma *racemosa

Commonly: Dodder Laurel

Vascular Plant Family: Lauraceae

Flowers most of the year

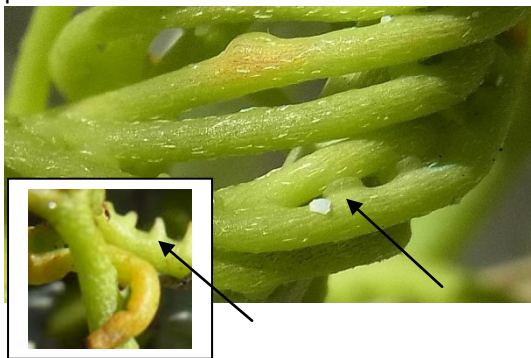
Cassytha racemosa forma *racemosa* is a twining parasitic plant. It has scattered hairs on the stems, with very small triangular leaves. Due to it being a parasitic plant it is a sickly green colour as seen in the photograph below.



On the left hand side of the picture below the small (about 2mm long) triangular leaf is visible.



The stems have fine hairs over the surface. Also in this picture the cup-like suckers (haustoria) are visible. It is by attaching to a host plant with these suckers (see arrow and insert) that the parasite obtains its food and water.



The white flowers, 1-2 mm long, are shortly stalked forming a raceme. Several racemes of flowers are visible in this photograph.



Each flower has 3 sepals and 3 petals (1-2mm long), 6 fertile and 6 sterile stamens (not visible, but the stigma, also white is visible in the centre of the flower).



The fruit is succulent and topped by the remains of the sepals and petals. The seed germinates in the ground but once contact is made with a host plant contact with the soil is lost.