

## *Cassytha flava*

Nees

### DODDER LAUREL

**Flowering period:** January–December.

**Description:** Parasitic perennial scrambler with distinctive yellow-brown leafless stems that produce sucker-like outgrowths that attach to the host species (see photographs below). Stems finely hairy, twining and often ramifying throughout the host canopy. Flowers yellow, in small globular clusters. Fruit globular, fleshy and minutely hairy.

**Pollination:** Not known but likely to be small insects.

**Distribution:** Widespread from Kalbarri to Esperance and often parasitising *Melaleuca systema* in the Perth region where the parasite can grow so prolifically to the point of killing the host plant.

**Propagation:** Unknown.

**Uses in restoration:** Use with caution in restoration programs as the species may hamper regeneration efforts due to its parasitic habit. It is likely that dodder laurel may naturally recolonise restoration sites if suitable host plants are introduced such as *Melaleuca systema*.

**Notes:** The ecosystem importance of dodder laurel is unknown; however, in the aged dune vegetation the parasite can become dominant and cause significant decline in host shrubs.



Habit



Flowers



Habit



Distribution