

***Phelipanche ramosa* (Orobanchaceae) in Louisiana****John Michael Kelley**Walter Jacobs Nature Park, Caddo Parks and Recreation  
Blanchard, Louisiana 71009, USA  
jkelly@caddo.org**Jacob Hamsher**

jhamsher26@gmail.com

**ABSTRACT**

Hemp broomrape is a noxious weed, native to Europe, which has invaded many areas around the globe. Here we provide the first report of this taxon in Louisiana where it inhabits roadsides in association with European weed species. *Published online [www.phytologia.org](http://www.phytologia.org) Phytologia 104(2): 11-12 (June 21, 2022). ISSN 030319430.*

**KEY WORDS:** Noxious Weed, Louisiana, Caddo Parish, Invasive

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*Phelipanche ramosa* (L.) Pomel, commonly called hemp broomrape (Fig. 1), is a holoparasitic herb in the Orobanchaceae which is becoming established in the southeastern United States (Weakley 2022). It has often been treated in the genus *Orobanche* (Weakley 2022). The species was probably introduced outside of Europe by cultivation of its host plants, such as *Cannabis*, *Medicago*, or *Trifolium* (PPQ 2019). It poses a minor threat to agriculture and spreads easily along mowed roadsides (PPQ 2019). It is a widespread pest in east Texas and is regularly observed on the citizen science application iNaturalist (Kartesz 2015). In early 2022, we found this species growing in Louisiana at broadly separated stations in Caddo, Jefferson Davis, and Lafayette parishes (not collected here). These apparently represent the first reports for the state (Kartesz 2015; MacRoberts 2006; Thomas and Allen 1996; USDA, NRCS 2021; Weakley 2022).

We found hemp broomrape growing along regularly mowed roadsides in association with ruderal, native herbs and European exotics. These included members of the genera *Trifolium*, *Medicago*, *Plantago*, *Lolium*, *Bromus*, *Solidago*, *Galium*, *Geranium*, *Sonchus*, *Veronica*, and *Lathyrus*. With abundant hosts and no intentional control efforts in Louisiana, this species will likely spread to other parishes. Hemp broomrape should be sought on weedy roadsides statewide, and in southern Arkansas.

Voucher specimens: **Louisiana. Caddo Parish:** Along Pine Hill road just west of Light Hill Baptist church, scattered plants with European weeds, 8 April 2022, John Michael Kelley s.n. (LSU), **Jefferson Davis Parish:** along highway 165 east of Iowa, clumps with clovers and sow thistle, 9 March 2022, Jacob Hamsher s.n. (LSU).

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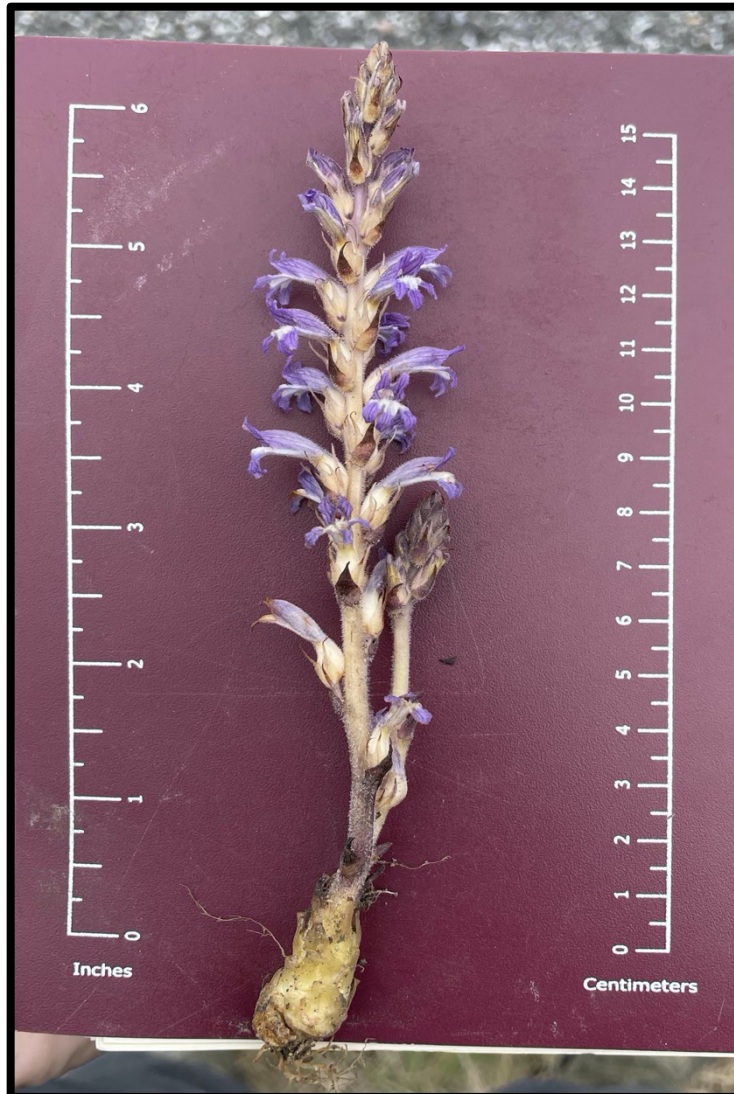


Figure 1. A typical plant of hemp broomrape.

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