

## **SOUTHWESTERN DWARF MISTLETOE**

*Arceuthobium vaginatum* subsp. *cryptopodium*

- Natural range -** Southwestern USA and Mexico
- Species affected -** Ponderosa pine
- Symptoms -** Witches brooms; abnormal growths of dense branches and foliage, branch and top dieback, presence of dwarf mistletoe plants on branches.
- Type of damage -** Infections cause growth loss, dieback and eventually tree death.
- Importance -** The dwarf mistletoes are among the most serious forest disease pests in western North America. They are unlikely to be a problem in urban settings but could be a serious pest in urban/wildland interface situations.



Upper- Southwestern dwarf mistletoe plant on ponderosa pine

Lower left – Witches brooms caused by southwestern dwarf mistletoe on ponderosa pine

Lower right – Ponderosa pine killed by dwarf mistletoe. Note old witches brooms in crown.