

# Viscum album

## COMMON NAME

Mistletoe, European mistletoe

## FAMILY

Santalaceae

## AUTHORITY

Viscum album L.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Hemi-parasitic evergreen shrub, a metre or more in diameter and a range of host trees and shrubs (see note below). Dioecious. Flowers inconspicuous, green. Fruit a white berry.

## DISTRIBUTION

It was present locally in the Wairarapa in the vicinity of Masterton & Greytown, but seems to have died out in the early 1970s. (Tom Moss, pers. comm. in 1980s)

## HABITAT

Barney, C. W., Hawksworth, F. G. and Geils, B. W. (1998) "identified hosts among 452 species, subspecies, varieties, and hybrids in 96 genera of 44 families. Rosaceae has the most hosts with 128 taxa parasitized. Commonly infested genera include Salix, Populus, Acer, Malus, Crataegus, Prunus, Sorbus, Abies, and Pinus."

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

## ETYMOLOGY

**album:** From the Latin albus 'white'

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/viscum-album/>



On apple, Strasbourg, France. Jun 2013.

Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



On apple, Strasbourg, France. Jun 2013.

Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.