

Golden Mistletoe (*Notothixos subaureus*)

Robyn Howard

Several mistletoes are common at the wetlands sanctuary. One of the most easily recognized and interesting species is the Golden Mistletoe. Whilst this species may live directly on rain-forest plants, at the sanctuary, it seems only to parasitise other mistletoes, commonly the Swamp Oak Mistletoe (*Amyema cambagei*). The Golden Mistletoe is named for the perceived shade of its leaves and flowers, but may also reflect a silver or grey hue. Leaves are 3 to 5 cm. in length with hairs on the underside. The tiny flowers are also hairy and borne in clusters. Fruit are approximately 5 mm, and are eaten by Mistletoebirds, honeyeaters, and possums.



The hairs are clear on the stems, leaf undersides and flowers (Photos – Robyn Howard)