

Plant of the Month — December 2015

Amyema linophylla (Fenzl) Tiegh.



Amyema linophylla, commonly known as mistletoe, is an obligate stem-parasite found primarily on *Allocasuarina*. A perennial, woody, aerial shrub, *A. linophylla* has narrow, grey-green leaves and clusters of erect, red, tubular flowers featuring a frost-like indumentum. The fleshy, nutritious, single-seeded fruits which are produced in late summer and autumn are dispersed via the Mistletoe Bird and some honeyeaters.

Mistletoes occur throughout the world. The European mistletoe *Viscum album* has been part of legend and folklore through the centuries. Mistletoe has been associated with fertility, vitality and the cheeky Christmas tradition of kissing under the mistletoe!

Photo: R. Davis

[Find out more about *Amyema linophylla* \(Fenzl\) Tiegh.](#)

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