

## Plant of the Month — July 2020

### *Decaisnina angustata* (Barlow) Barlow



*Decaisnina angustata* is a common Kimberley, aerial stem-parasitic shrub (mistletoe) growing on a wide variety of hosts (25 have been recorded in WA) but it is most commonly found on the Wild Mango (*Buchanania obovata*).

The genus, named for French botanist Joseph Decaisne (1807–1882), is widespread from Tahiti through New Guinea to the Philippines and northern Australia.

The species was once regarded as a subspecies of *D. petiolata* and the specific name, *angustata*, referred to the narrower leaves of the subspecies. However, *D. petiolata* has been incorporated into *D. triflora* and *D. angustata* elevated to a full species, so the name *angustata* is now somewhat ambiguous, particularly as its close relative *D. brittenii* (also found in the Kimberley) has much narrower leaves.

*D. angustata* can be found displaying its spectacular, usually red, flowers and striped fruits throughout the year (yellow and pale pink forms have been seen).

Text: A. Start

Photo: W. Muir

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