

Aids to Identification - Mistletoes

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This is based on notes taken at Brian Molloy's lecture to the Society several years ago, but is here restricted to the species found in Canterbury.

VISACEAE - Dwarf leafless mistletoes.

Korthasella salicornioides common, never far away from Leptospermum (Dracophyllum and Gaultheria species); internodes circular, expanded at tip; fls 4-8 at node forming ring around branch.

Korthasella lindsayi according to Brian, grows on anything except a concrete post, especially spp. of Melicope and Coprosma; internodes flattened; fls in spikes, us 2 at each node and 1-3 terminal.

Korthasella clavata grows on Aristotelia fruticosa, Discaria, Coprosma; internodes flattened like K. salicornioides, but much narrower at the joints; fl. spikes solitary either terminal or at the nodes.

LORANTHACEAE - mistletoes with coriaceous opposite leaves.

Ileostylus (Loranthus) micranthus: branchlets flattened, succeeding planes of flattening change by 90°; yellow fruit with green contents; wide range of hosts.

Tupeia antarctica: pale, pubescent stems; sexes on separate plants; fr sub-globose, white to pink, often with darker pink spots; several hosts, Plagianthus, also on tree lupins.

Peraxilla (Elytranthe) tetrapetala: grows on all beeches except silver; raised blisters on leaves; fls solitary or 2-4 together; ripe fr. always green.

Peraxilla colensoi: grows on silver beech; no blisters on lvs; ripe fr golden.

Alepis flavida: long, narrow, dull lvs with deciduous tip; small, orange-yellow to yellow, tepals open right back; fr yellow to gold.