

## **Leafless mistletoe *Viscum articulatum* on Saint John's Island**

**Subjects:** Leafless mistletoe, *Viscum articulatum* (Magnoliophyta: Santalaceae).

**Subjects identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Straits, Saint John's Island; 26 November 2012; around 1100 hrs.

**Habitat:** Open coastal parkland.

**Observer:** Contributor.

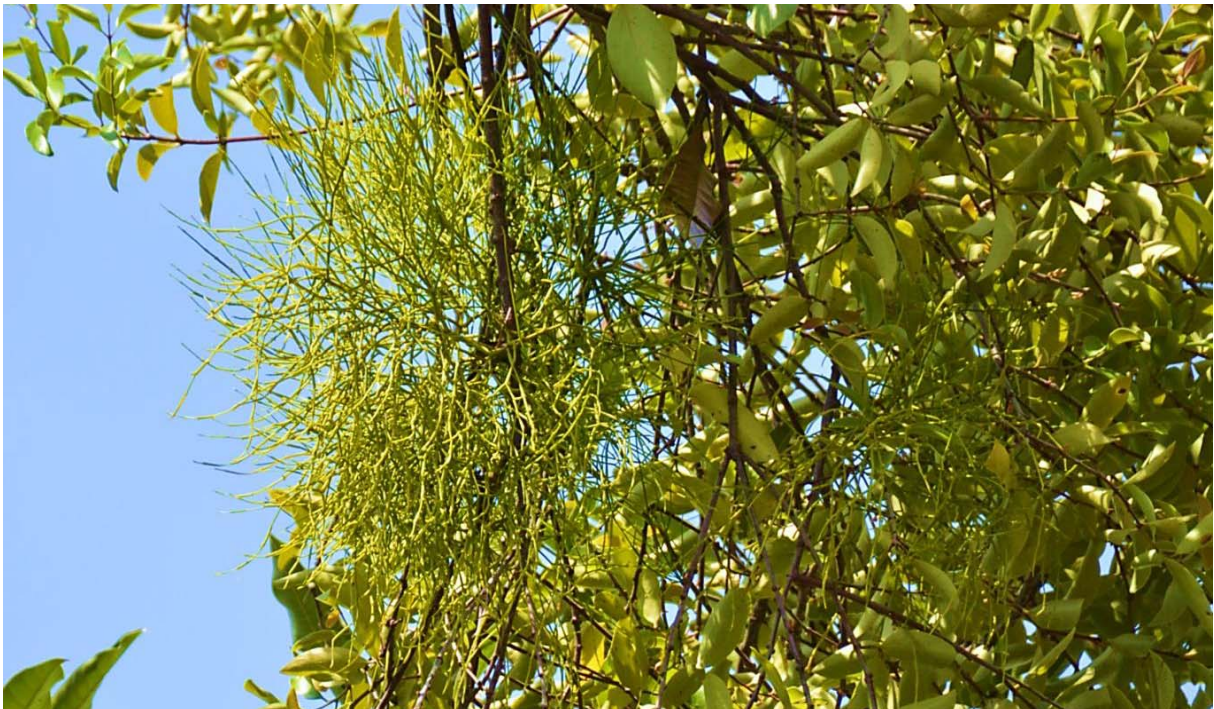
**Observation:** Many examples of the leafless mistletoe were observed parasitising the numerous common Malayan mistletoe (*Dendrophthoe pentandra*) and pink-flowered mistletoe (*Macrosolen retusus*), which were themselves parasites of many trees on the island.

**Remarks:** The leafless mistletoe is a hyperparasite which grows on other species of mistletoe. While it is regarded as 'common' in Chong et al. (2009), this observer and Lim (2011: 71) have found this species to be locally uncommon, with small populations in Sembawang Park, along Canterbury and Dunearn Roads, as well as on Lazarus Island (next to Saint John's Island).

### **References:**

Chong K. Y., H. T. W. Tan & R. T. Corlett, 2009. *A Checklist of the Total Vascular Plant Flora of Singapore: Native, Naturalised and Cultivated Species*. Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. 273 pp.

Lim, F. L. K., 2011. *The Singapore Mistletoe Story. An Expose of a Botanical Marvel*. Carnegale Press, Singapore. xi + 116 pp.



Photograph by Ron K. H. Yeo

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