

Mistletoe

Various species



Adaptation to environment

- Fruit with sticky, sweet, chewy pulp; birds after eating & digesting fruit, need to wipe their anus on branches to remove sticky seeds thereby transferring seeds to new host
- On germination, a root like a 'sucker' starts attachment to host tree.

Where do I live? Woodland Frontal Dunes

What eats me?

- Caterpillars eat leaves: several butterfly species breed only on mistletoe
- Mistletoe Birds are closely associated with mistletoes & seeds eaten by them germinate well; honeyeaters & other birds also eat fruit
- Humans find fruit palatable.

- Shrub growing on other trees; 'hemi-parasitic' - gains moisture & some nutrient from host plant but produces some itself
- Showy red & yellow flowers with long stamens,, 1 -3.5 cm in clusters.