

Further Observations on the Mistletoe *Dendrophthoe pentandra* (L.) Miq. (Loranthaceae) in Thailand

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There is little published information on the hosts of Thai loranthaceous mistletoes although BARLOW (2002) cited records of host genera gleaned from herbarium records, and START (2011) recorded hosts for *Dendrophthoe pentandra* (L.) Miq. collected in the vicinity of Bangkok and Chiang Mai, distinguishing indigenous from exotic host species. Nevertheless, many examples of indigenous species infected by the mistletoe were of cultivated individuals planted as ornamentals (e.g., *Millingtonia hortensis* L.f.). I have been able to record some additional hosts. Methods are as described in START (2011). All observations were in the vicinity of Chiang Mai, northern, Thailand, between 2011 and 2025.

Observations.—The hosts of *Dendrophthoe pentandra* recorded since those published in START (2011) are listed in Table 1. Mistletoe status reflects the relative size and robustness of the mistletoe, a factor START (2011) used to reflect the suitability of the host.

Discussion.—One consequence of urbanisation is the replacement of natural vegetation by anthropogenic structures and the elimination of natural of vegetation. At best, natural vegetation is replaced by cultivated plants, which may include exotic species as well as indigenous species brought into cultivation. Many such species are trees growing on road verges and in public open spaces. Many of these are potential mistletoe hosts. *Dendrophthoe pentandra*, the commonest mistletoe infecting trees in and around Chiang Mai, is an example of an indigenous plant species that, after elimination, has managed to re-colonise and persist in urban areas. Many other plants have achieved re-colonisation and persistence in urban areas like Chiang Mai. Most are epiphytes such as ferns and arboreal orchids, and figs (Moraceae) which are also dependant on trees. The persistence of mistletoes in urban areas has also allowed the persistence of some birds in urban areas. In Chiang Mai, the Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum* is still relatively common, and its persistence has doubtless been facilitated by the presence of *D. pentandra*, from which it feeds (START 2011, 2013) (Fig. 1).

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Table 1. Additional hosts of *Dendrophthoe pentandra* recorded since 2011, in Chiang Mai Province, northern Thailand.

Host Family	Host Species	Location	Host Status	Mistletoe status
Annonaceae	<i>Monoon longifolium</i> (Sonn.) B. Xue & R.M.K. Saunders*	Chiang Mai City	Cultivated	Moderate
Lamiaceae	<i>Gmelina arborea</i> Roxb. ex Sm.	Huay Kaew Waterfall	Indigenous (wild)	Moderate
Lythraceae	<i>Lagerstroemia speciosa</i> (L.) Martyn**	Chiang Mai City	Cultivated	Robust
Salicaceae	<i>Salix tetrasperma</i> Roxb.	Huay Tung Thau Lake	Indigenous (wild)	Moderate

* Syn. *Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.) Thwaites ex Hook.f. & Thomson

** One of the hosts recorded by START (2011) as *Lagerstroemia* sp.



Figure 1. A female Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker in *Dendrophthoe pentandra*, central Chiang Mai, Thailand. Photograph by Antony N. Start.