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# MANGROVES OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA:

## *IDENTIFICATION and TRADITIONAL USE*

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**EXTRACT: *Lysiana* (pp. 111–113)**

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DARWIN 2006

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## *Lysiana*

## LORANTHACEAE

**DERIVATION:** The Greek 'lyo' means to set free, alluding to separation of this genus from *Loranthus*.

An endemic Australian genus of eight species, three of which occur in the NT, *Lysiana maritima* has only been recorded parasitising mangroves in the NT. Barlow (1964) considers *Lysiana* the most advanced Loranthaceous genus.

### *Lysiana maritima* (Barlow) Barlow

### Mangrove Mistletoe

**DERIVATION:** The Latin 'maritimus' means of the sea, in reference to the coastal habitat of this species.

**DESCRIPTION:** Aerial stem parasitic shrub, spreading to erect. Leaves opposite, flat; lamina obovate to spatulate, 2.0–4.0 x 1.2–2.0 cm, apex rounded, base attenuate, venation distinct; petiole obscure, 2–4 mm long. Umbel axillary, 2-flowered; peduncle 2–5 mm long; pedicel 4–8 mm long; bracts 2 mm long, rounded, concave. Calyx 1 mm long, teeth 6, short. Corolla 30–45 mm long, 6 lobed; lobes united into curved tube to middle or higher. Stamens 6, epipetalous, equal; anthers basifixed, introrse, 4-locular, acute. Ovary inferior, locules obscure, ovules undifferentiated; style and stigma simple, style articulate. Fruit baccate, ellipsoidal, 8–10 mm long, somewhat translucent. Seed 1.

**HABITAT:** *Lysiana maritima* has been recorded parasitising *Excoecaria ovalis* and *Thespesia populneoides* in the NT. Records from Queensland show that other mangroves (*Rhizophora* and *Ceriops*) and non-mangrove vegetation may also be parasitised (Barlow 1964, 1982, 1984; Downey 1998). In the NT host plants of *Excoecaria ovalis* and *Thespesia populneoides* occupy rear mangal situations, often bordering open saline sand flats.

**DISTRIBUTION:** *Lysiana maritima* has only been recorded from three areas in the Gulf of Carpentaria. This species also occurs in Queensland, and is an Australian endemic.

**DISTINCTIVE FEATURES:** Mistletoe (aerial stem parasite), leaves less than 20 mm wide.

**NOTES:** *Lysiana maritima* is closely related to *L. subfalcata*, and in the past it was considered a subspecies of *L. subfalcata* (Barlow 1966).

Flowering specimens of *L. maritima* have been collected in June, July and November, fruit have not been observed in NT populations. Primack et al. (1981) note that the flowers of *L. maritima* display several factors related to bird pollination, and observed white-throated honey-eaters (*Melithreptus albogularis*) as being principal visitors and pollinators. The interaction between mistletoes and

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mistletoe birds (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*) has been discussed previously (see *Amyema* spp.).

This species was previously considered endemic to Queensland (Barlow 1966, 1984), however, recent field collections and re-determination of older collections, have extended the range of *L. maritima* to the eastern coast of the NT

References: Barlow 1966, 1984.

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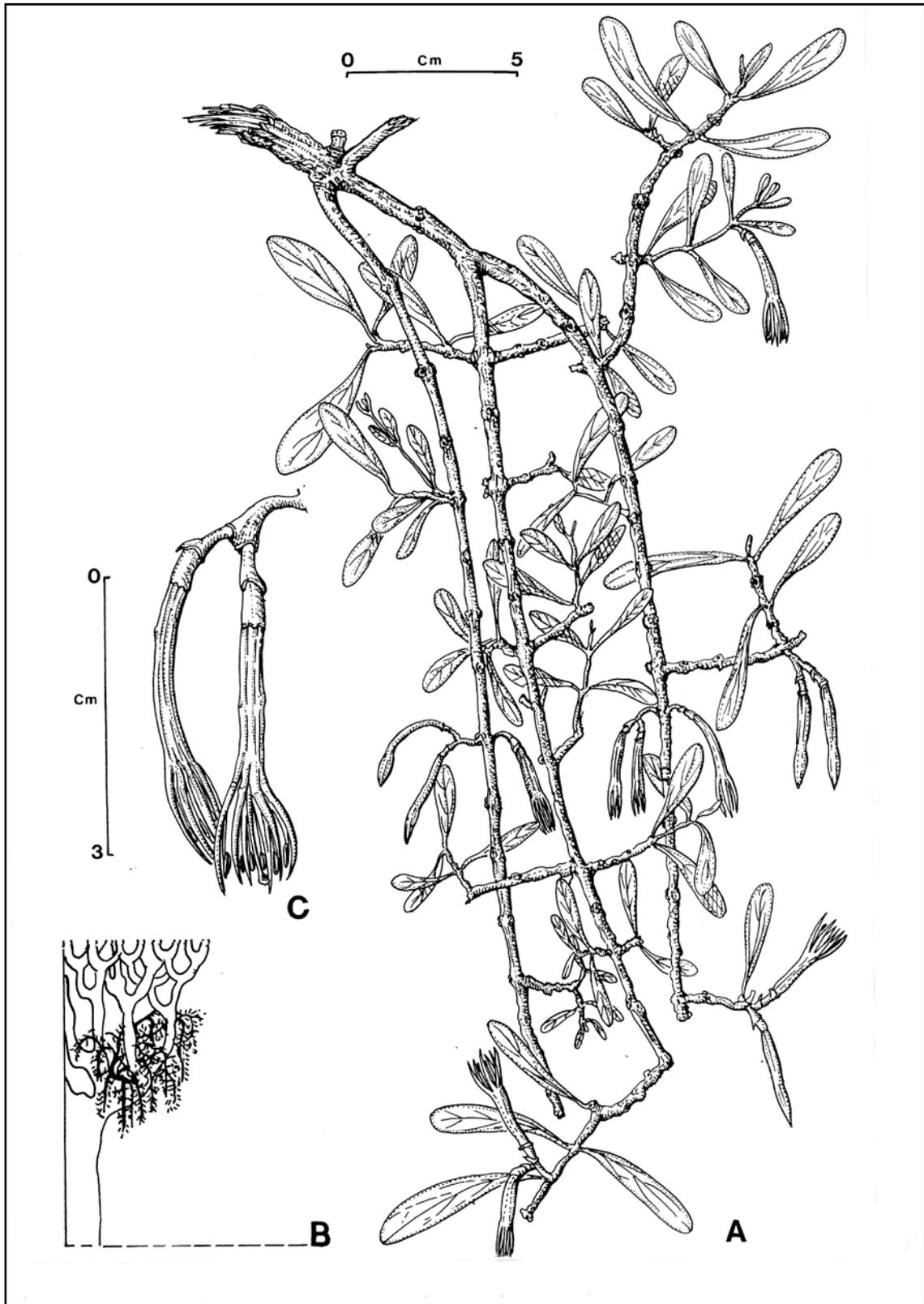


Figure 31. *Lysiana maritima*. A, flowering branch; B, habit; C, flower (A–C, G. Wightman 4083).