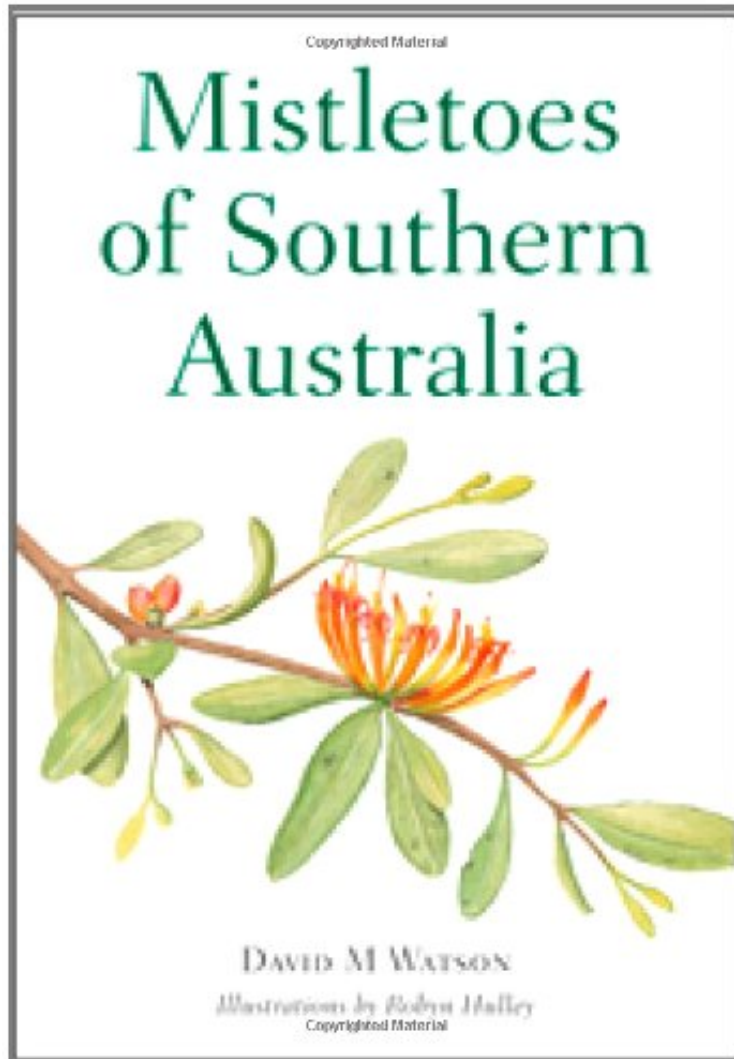


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## Mistletoes of Southern Australia

*David M. Watson*

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**David M. Watson : Mistletoes of Southern Australia** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mistletoes of Southern Australia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating monographBy DJ ArboretumDavid Watson has produced a top class monograph on the Mistletoes of southern Australia. I found it full of fascinating details of the mistletoes themselves, as well as their place in nutrient cycling and as hosts for butterflies and moths. The book details the existing knowledge of the importance of mistletoes and busts some myths about mistletoes as bad guys. I for one now definately want them in my garden (the author does give some advice on how to achieve this). Its a great shame this book won't be more widely read (botanical monographs rarely become best sellers), as it is written in a clear and

engaging style and demonstrates the true complexity of the web of life.

Mistletoes are an enigmatic group of plants. Lacking roots and depending on other plants for their livelihood, they have inspired a range of beliefs throughout the world. Some people regard them as mystical plants endowed with magical properties, others as destructive weeds that devalue native habitats, and still others as beautiful native plants that support wildlife. This book represents the first thorough treatment of mistletoes in Australia. It summarizes their evolutionary origin and global distribution, highlighting diversity patterns in Australasia, and describes the ecology and life history of mistletoes, detailing the variety of animals that depend on them for food and shelter. The book discusses the cultural significance of mistletoes, compares imported European beliefs with home-grown Indigenous lore and looks at the role of mistletoe in contemporary art, design and medicine. It also explores the management of mistletoes, noting those situations where mistletoe becomes too abundant and offering practical solutions to achieve a more balanced outcome. Finally, there is a guide to identifying mistletoes, including detailed species accounts for all 46 species found in southern Australia. With 51 specially commissioned watercolors by artist Robyn Hulley and more than 130 color photographs, *Mistletoes of Southern Australia* is the definitive authority on these intriguing native plants.

**About the Author** David M. Watson is an ecologist with a long-standing interest in mistletoes. In addition to the ecology of parasitic plants, his research focuses on developing solutions to habitat fragmentation and managing biodiversity in agricultural landscapes. He lives on a rural property near Albury with his wife, three sons and a variety of animals.