

## VISCACEAE – CHRISTMAS-MISTLETOE FAMILY

**Plant:** partially parasitic shrubs on trees; elsewhere trees

**Stem:** often brittle

**Root:**

**Leaves:** simple, entire, opposite or whorled, thick and leathery, mostly evergreen or yellow, some reduced; no stipules

**Flowers:** monoecious or dioecious; 2-4 small tepals, rarely more, often reduced; stamens equal tepals; ovary inferior, 3-4 carpels, 1 style

**Fruit:** berry, 1-2 seeds

**Other:** mostly tropical; Dicotyledons Group

**Genera:** 7+ genera; locally *Arceuthobium*, *Phoradendron*

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[Oak] American Mistletoe; *Phoradendron leucarpum* (Raf.) Reveal & M.C. Johnston

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*Phoradendron leucarpum* (Raf.) Reveal & M.C. Johnston

Viscaceae (Christmas-Mistletoe Family)

Sam A. Baker State Park, Wayne County, Missouri

Notes: woody parasitic evergreen shrub; spherical clumps may reach 1 meter in diameter; white poisonous berry; leaves thick, opposite; spread by birds (below in sycamore but not tree specific)

[V Max Brown, 2006]

