

Perhaps a few plants had survived in an open patch in the conifers or along a ride edge, or could it be from buried seed in the soil? We may never know. Climbing *Corydalis* is found locally on the sandy soils such as Kinver Edge and Habberley Valley, and in a few places near Bewdley, but no records are known for the main Wyre Forest woodland.

An ecological account for Shropshire is given by Sinker et al. (1985): "Open woodland and edges of dry peat mosses, persisting in grassland on previously wooded sites, on dry to damp sandy or peaty soils, phosphate and nitrogen poor, base poor, acid, usually sheltered and half shaded to shaded but tolerates some exposure to sun. Poor competitor but sometimes abundant in disturbed parts of recently cleared plantations or woods, scrambling over tree stumps."

It will be interesting to monitor the plant's population and extent in future years to see if it can persist within the woodland as the plant communities mature.

## References

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## *Viscum album* L. Mistletoe. An unusual host species at Far Forest

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Mistletoe is quite common around the Wyre Forest area but uncommon within the actual woodland. Over the years it has been recorded on various host trees including most typically apple *Malus* sp. especially in the old orchards around the forest, but also on wild apple in the woods. Planted lime *Tilia europaea* and hawthorn *Crataegus* spp. are often festooned, more uncommonly on poplar *Populus* spp., Rowan *Sorbus acuparia* or rarely Acacia *Robinia pseudoacacia*. I remember once seeing willow *Salix* spp. with Mistletoe. It was recorded on oak *Quercus* spp. by Jannion Steele Elliott (1871-1942) near Dowles Manor on one of the twin oaks, sadly now just one oak and with no Mistletoe.

On 4th December 2017 I found a large clump of Mistletoe growing on Hazel *Corylus avellana* along a old lane at Far Forest, Worcestershire. It was in the hedgerow and mixed with other shrub and tree species making it difficult to tell exactly what it was growing on. A careful check revealed it was on an old Hazel coppice forming part of the hedge. I can't ever recall seeing Mistletoe growing on Hazel before. There are reports of it occurring on various unusual hosts and Hazel has been reported before so this is not new, but certainly it must be quite uncommon especially for the Wyre Forest area. If anyone knows differently, the author awaits your reports!



Mistletoe on Hazel, Wyre Forest

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