

# *Corymbia abbreviata*

## Scraggy bloodwood

### Classification

Corymbia | Rufaria

### Nomenclature

***Corymbia abbreviata*** (Blakely & Jacobs) K.D.Hill & L.A.S.Johnson, *Telopea* 6: 344 (1995).

*Eucalyptus abbreviata* Blakely & Jacobs in Blakely, *Key Eucalypts*: 77 (1934). T:

Northern Territory: about 20 miles along Maranboy road from Katherine

*M.R.Jacobs 105*; hol: NSW; iso: BRI, CANB.

### Description

**Tree** to 7 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** rough to the small branches, thick, tessellated to flaky, grey to grey-brown over red-brown.

**Branchlets** lack oil glands in the pith; smooth (glabrous), silvery to greenish, not glaucous.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm)**: stems rounded in cross-section, smooth; juvenile leaves opposite, sessile, cordate, large, 15–23 cm long, 8–15 cm wide, stem-clasping, green, more or less smooth, sometimes a few scattered bristle-glands bearing simple hairs can be found on the lamina.

**Crown** of stiff, juvenile leaves, opposite, sessile or on very short petioles (0–0.5 cm); blade cordate to broadly lanceolate, 7–23.5 cm long, 3–11 cm wide, undulate, base usually amplexicaul or lobed, rarely rounded, margin entire, apex pointed, concolorous or slightly discolorous, dull, green but yellowish near main veins, glabrous (rarely a few sparse bristle-glands at the base of the lamina), side-veins at a wide angle to the midrib and widely spaced, and looping to form intramarginal vein, reticulation very dense, oil glands apparently absent. **Inflorescence** usually terminal compound although somewhat congested and with very few branches, sometimes reduced to solitary axillary umbels, the inflorescence internodes and peduncles scabrid with ferruginous setae (bristle-glands) when first formed but soon becoming smooth, peduncles stout, rounded to angular, ultimately smooth, 0.3–1.8(2.5) cm long; umbels of usually 7, rarely 9 or 11 buds per umbel, sessile or on pedicels to 0.3 cm long. **Mature buds** obovoid to pyriform (1.1–1.6 cm long, 0.9–1.2 cm wide when mature), reddish and smooth, scar absent (both opercula shed together at flowering), operculum rounded, stamens inflexed, all fertile, anthers versatile, dorsifixed, oblong, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma blunt and ?papillose, locules 4, with ca 7 or 8 vertical ovule rows on the placentae, or the rows indistinct. Flowers creamy white.

**Fruit** sessile or pedicellate (pedicels to 0.5 cm long), urceolate with a conspicuous erect neck, 2–3.5 cm long, 1.7–3 cm wide, longer than wide, surface smooth, disc descending vertically, valves 4, enclosed.

**Seeds** brown, 10–16 mm long, ellipsoidal with terminal wing, hilum ventral.

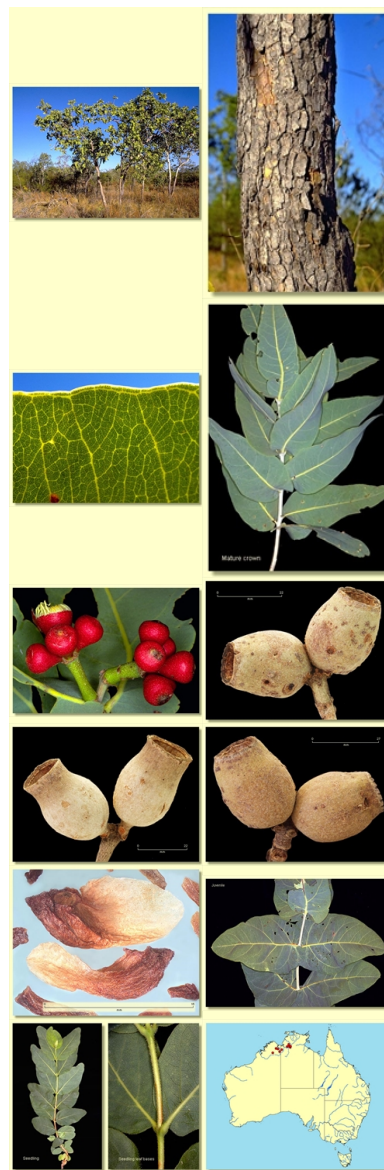
**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10)**: cotyledons large, reniform; stems rounded in cross-section, setose with bristle-glands bearing short simple hairs; leaves opposite, sessile to very shortly petiolate (petioles to 0.3 cm), ovate to elliptical, 4–9.5 cm long, 2–5 cm wide, base rounded or tapering to petiole, becoming stem-clasping higher up the stem, apex rounded or pointed, mid-green, ± concolorous, setose on both sides with bristle-glands bearing short simple hairs.

### Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in January, July, September and November.

### Notes

Straggly tree of scattered occurrence in tropical north-western Australia from Karunji and Wyndham in the northern Kimberley region of Western Australia east to Dorisvale and Willeroo in the Top End of the Northern Territory. *Corymbia abbreviata* occurs on stony rises and rocky sites and has tessellated rough bark, a crown of opposite, undulate, smooth, sessile or shortly petiolate, large green leaves, short



branched terminal inflorescences of smooth reddish buds, and large fruit. The branch segments within the young inflorescence feel rough due to microscopic rust-coloured hairs that adorn the setae (bristle-glands), giving each seta a "stellate" appearance. The leaves of the crown and of coppice growth usually lack these setae but they are found on young seedlings.

*C. abbreviata* is easily distinguished from all other rough-barked bloodwoods in this region by the above combination of characters. Only one other species possesses these "stellate" setae with rust-coloured hairs, viz. *C. ferruginea* (with two subspecies), which has the setae on crown leaves and on the whitish scurfy buds. The distribution of *C. abbreviata* falls within the distribution of *C. ferruginea*.

#### **MORE ABOUT CORYMBIA**

#### **MORE ABOUT RED BLOODWOODS**

#### Origin of Name

*Corymbia abbreviata*: Latin *abbreviatus*, shortened, referring to the terminal inflorescence.

---

Copyright © CANBR 2020, all rights reserved.



Web edition hosted at <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/euclid>