

# *Eucalyptus angophoroides*

## Apple-topped box

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Maidenaria | Euryotae | Bridgesiana

### Nomenclature

***Eucalyptus angophoroides*** R.T.Baker, *Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales* 25: 676 (1901).

T: Colombo, NSW, *W.Bäuerlen s.n.*; lecto: NSW, *vide* J.H.Maiden, *Crit. Revis. Eucalyptus* 5: 185 (1921).

### Description

**Tree** to 40 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** rough on trunk and branches, shortly and closely fibrous, often tessellated, grey, or mottled with grey and white patches, horizontal black scars sometimes present on trunk.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stem rounded or square in cross-section, green or glaucous, warty, new growing tips glaucous; juvenile leaves opposite, sessile for many pairs, becoming sub-opposite, shortly petiolate, orbicular to ovate or cordate, 1.7–7 cm long, 1.5–5.5 cm wide, margin crenulate, discolorous (greenish above and paler, slightly glaucous below).

**Adult leaves** alternate, petiole 1–3.8 cm long; blade lanceolate to falcate, 8–25 cm long, 1.4–4.3 cm wide, base sometimes oblique but usually tapering evenly to petiole, margin entire, discolorous or rarely concolorous, glossy, green, side-veins greater than 45° to midrib, moderately to densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and just within margin or some distance from it, oil glands numerous, small, island and intersectional.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.3–1 cm long, buds 7 per umbel, pedicels 0.2–0.7 cm long. **Mature buds** ovoid, 0.7–0.9 cm long, 0.3–0.6 cm wide, green to yellow, scar present, operculum conical to beaked, stamens irregularly flexed, anthers cuboid or cuneate, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits (non-confluent), style long, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

**Fruit** on pedicels 0.1–0.6 cm long, cup-shaped or hemispherical, 0.4–0.5 cm long, 0.5–0.9 cm wide, sometimes slightly angled longitudinally, disc raised or level, rarely slightly descending, valves 3 or 4, strongly exerted.

**Seeds** blackish, brown or grey, 1–2.2 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, usually lacunose, dorsal surface shallowly pitted, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10):** cotyledons bilobed; stems rounded in cross-section, warty, sometimes glaucous; leaves opposite for many nodes, sessile or very shortly petiolate, cordate, 3–7 cm long, 2–4 cm wide, margin crenulate, discolorous, green above, paler or glaucous below.

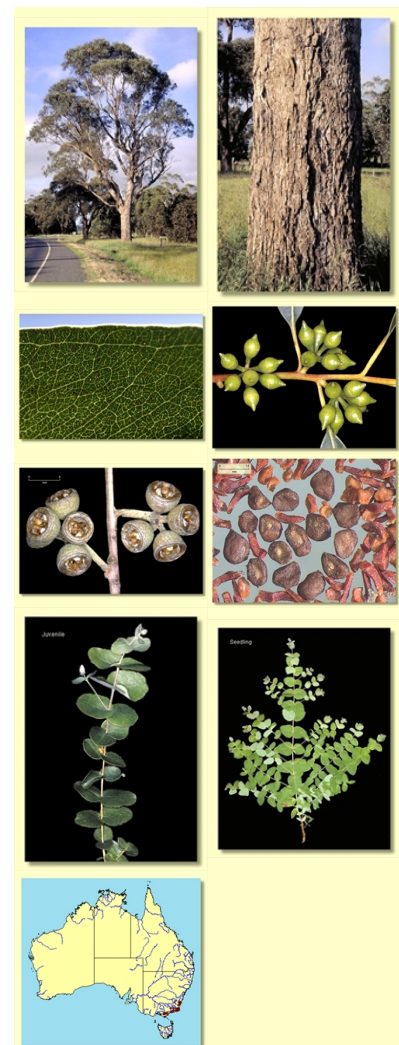
### Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in January, February and December.

### Notes

A small to medium-sized apple box tree of south-eastern coastal New South Wales and Victoria from the Strzelecki Range eastwards. It has typical box-type bark but is unrelated to the true box species. *Eucalyptus angophoroides* has green juvenile leaves, slightly discolorous adult leaves and four valves to the fruit, which distinguishes it from the related tableland species, *E. bridgesiana*, which has sub-opposite to alternate, glaucous juvenile leaves, concolorous adult leaves and usually three valves to the fruit. The third species of the group is *E. dunnii*, a tall tree of the far Northern Tablelands of New South Wales, differing in being mostly smooth-barked and in having green juvenile leaves. The fourth species of the group, *E. malacoxylon*, restricted to the Moonbi area north of Tamworth, can be easily distinguished from the others by the presence of a prominent median flange where the operculum joins the hypanthium, and it usually has coarser glaucous buds and fruit.

*E. angophoroides* belongs to *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Maidenaria*, a large group of species more or less restricted to south-eastern Australia, characterised by bilobed cotyledons, simple axillary inflorescences, buds with two opercula, stamens with versatile



anthers and flattened seeds with a ventral hilum. Within this section *E. angophoroides* belongs to a small group, series *Bridgesianae*, further characterised by rough bark becoming tessellated, ovate, crenulate juvenile leaves, buds in sevens and fruit with exerted valves. There are four species in series *Bridgesianae*—*E. bridgesiana*, *E. dunnii*, *E. malacoxylon* and *E. angophoroides*. The differences are outlined above.

### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus angophoroides*: resembling the genus *Angophora*, allusion obscure.

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