

# *Eucalyptus banksii*

## Tenterfield woollybutt

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Maidenaria | Euryotae | Globulares | Remanentes

### Nomenclature

***Eucalyptus banksii*** Maiden, *Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales* 29: 774 (1905).

T: Wallangarra, NSW, 2 Aug. 1904, *J.L.Boorman s.n.*; lecto: NSW, *vide* J.H.Maiden, *Crit. Revis. Eucalyptus* 3: 79 (1915).

### Description

**Tree** to 20 m tall, at times stunted and mallee-form. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** rough on trunk and larger branches, fibrous or box-like, flaky, grey or grey-brown, smooth branches yellow.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stem square in cross-section initially but becoming rounded, younger stems glaucous, warty; juvenile leaves opposite and sessile for many pairs, orbicular to ovate or cordate, 3.5–8.5 cm long, 3–6.5 cm wide, base amplexicaul, truncate or rounded, margin entire or subcrenulate, glaucous at first but later juvenile leaves becoming glossy, green above.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petiole 1.8–4 cm long; blade lanceolate to falcate, 10–19 cm long, 1.5–3 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, glossy, green, side-veins greater than 45° to midrib, densely to very densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and well-removed from margin, oil glands intersectional or obscure.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, sessile or peduncles to 0.5 cm long, buds 7 per umbel, sessile. **Mature buds** oblong, ovoid or globular, 0.4–0.7 cm long, 0.4–0.5 cm wide, green, smooth, with 2 slight longitudinal angles, scar present, operculum conical to rounded, stamens irregularly flexed, anthers cuboid or cuneate, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits (non-confluent), style long, stigma blunt, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

**Fruit** sessile, hemispherical, cup-shaped or obconical, 0.3–0.6 cm long, 0.6–1.1 cm wide, angled longitudinally, disc level, valves 3 or 4, strongly exserted.

**Seeds** black, 2–3 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface smooth, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10):** cotyledons bilobed to oblong; stems square in cross-section, glaucous, warty; leaves sessile and opposite for at least 17 nodes, orbicular to cordate, 4–6.5 cm long, 5–6.5 cm wide, amplexicaul, margin subcrenulate or entire, glaucous.

### Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in March, June and September.

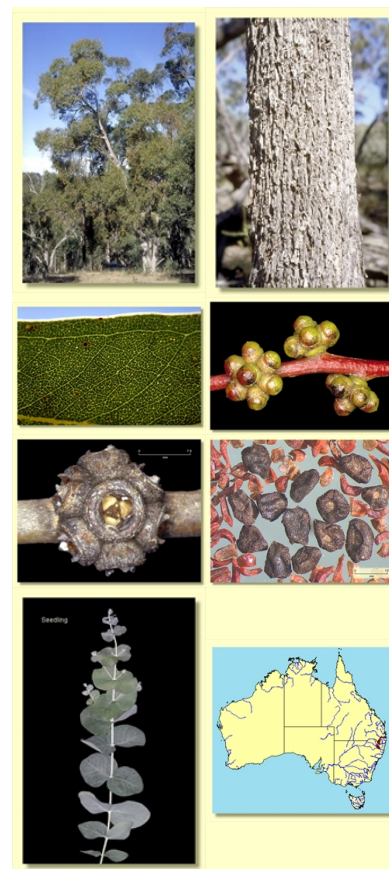
### Notes

A rare tree or mallee with firm box bark, found near Armidale on the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales, extending to the Lamington Plateau in south-eastern Queensland. It occurs on granite, basalt and porphyry hills at higher altitude. *Eucalyptus banksii* has rough bark over the whole trunk with branchlets conspicuously smooth yellow. In habit and bark it may resemble *E. goniocalyx* from which it is distinguished by the juvenile leaves, which are large, round and glaucous at first but soon becoming glossy green and pointed, and by the completely sessile, smaller rounded buds and small tightly clustered fruits. The peduncles of *E. banksii* are very short and thick.

*Eucalyptus banksii* belongs in *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. banksii* belongs in subsection *Euryotae* series *Globulares* subseries *Remanentes*, having sessile, juvenile leaves opposite for many pairs on the stems, small buds in clusters of seven and small fruit.

### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus banksii*: after Joseph Banks (1743–1820). Joseph Banks's position in Australian botany is unique, as he, together with Daniel



Solander, collected the first botanical specimens from the east coast of the continent in 1770 as botanists on board Captain James Cook's ship the *Endeavour*. At an early age Banks had decided to devote his life to the study of natural science and through his friendship with Lord Sandwich, then First Lord of the Admiralty, he was given permission to join Cook on his first voyage. During his voyage along the east coast, when the opportunity arose, Banks collected extensively and kept full records of his travels and his impressions of the new land. Back in Britain he played a very important role in the early development of Australia. He was friends with most of the important people in the British Government of that time and was continually consulted on matters relating to the new colony. He provided patronage for other botanical collectors including George Caley and Allan Cunningham. His botanical specimens are housed at the British Museum of Natural History, but some duplicates are scattered among some of the major herbaria in Australia.

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