

# *Eucalyptus barberi*

## Barber's gum

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Maidenaria | Triangulares | Foveolatae

### Nomenclature

***Eucalyptus barberi*** L.A.S.Johnson & Blaxell, *Contr. New South Wales Natl Herb.* 4: 288 (1972).



T: 7.2 km N of Cranbrook, Tas., 3 Jan. 1965, L.A.S.Johnson & L.D.Pryor NSW 132523; holo: NSW; iso: CANB, MEL.

### Description

**Tree or mallee** to 8 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** smooth throughout or with loose, grey slabs of rough bark at base or trunks, smooth bark grey, white, cream, green, yellow or brown, often with ribbons of decorticated bark in the upper branches.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stem rounded or square in cross-section, warty or smooth; juvenile leaves opposite and sessile for 6 to 11 nodes, becoming alternate, petiolate, lanceolate to elliptical or oblong, 3–8 cm long, 1–3 cm wide, margin entire or crenulate, green.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petiole 1–3.5 cm long; blade elliptical to lanceolate or falcate, 5–14 cm long, 1–3.5 cm wide, flat or undulate, base tapering to petiole, margin entire or crenulate, concolorous, glossy, green, side-veins greater than 45° to midrib, moderately to very densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and well-removed from margin, oil glands mostly intersectional.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.5–1.8 cm long, buds 7 per umbel, pedicels 0.2–0.4 cm long. **Mature buds** ovoid to diamond-shaped or clavate (0.7–1.1 cm long, 0.4–0.6 cm wide), green to yellow sometimes slightly glaucous, scar present, operculum conical or rounded, often beaked (0.3–0.5 cm long), stamens inflexed, anthers cuboid to oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits (non-confluent), style long, stigma blunt or tapered, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

**Fruit** pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.5 cm long), cupular, cylindrical or obconical, 0.5–1 cm long, 0.6–0.9 cm wide, disc raised-annular to level or slightly descending, valves 3 or 4, near rim level or enclosed.

**Seeds** dark brown to reddish brown or blackish, 1.5–2 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, usually lacunose, dorsal surface smooth, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10):** cotyledons bilobed to oblong; stems square to rounded in cross-section, slightly warty; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 5 to 10 nodes, then alternate, oblong to elliptic or ovate, 3–8 cm long, 1–3 cm wide, base rounded to tapering, green.

### Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in August, September, November and December.

### Notes

A mallee of central eastern Tasmania, it has obvious affinities with *E. ovata* with which it may occur although away from the strictly swampy sites typical for *E. ovata*. *E. barberi* has narrower juvenile leaves, more obovoid buds and cupular to cylindrical fruit.

*Eucalyptus barberi* belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Maidenaria* because the cotyledons are bilobed, inflorescences axillary, anthers versatile and seeds flattened-ovoid. Within this large section, *E. barberi* is one of ten species forming subsection *Triangulares* series *Foveolatae*. The species are *E. barberi* and *E. rodwayi* (both Tasmanian endemics), *E. brookeriana*, *E. ovata* (both occurring in Tasmania and on the mainland) and *E. aggregata*, *E. cadens*, *E. macarthurii*, *E. strzeleckii* and *E. yarraensis* (found only on the mainland).

### Origin of Name



*Eucalyptus barberi*: after Horace Newton Barber (1914–1971). Horace Barber was Professor of Botany at the University of Tasmania, 1947–1963, and then head of the School of Biological Sciences at the University of New South Wales from 1966 until his death. He had a keen interest in eucalypts and whilst in Tasmania was the first to investigate this species, which was subsequently named in his honour.

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