

# *Eucalyptus bensonii*

## Benson's stringybark

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Eucalyptus | Capillulus | Pachyphloius

### Nomenclature

**Eucalyptus bensonii** L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Teloepa* 4: 91 (1990).

T: NSW, Central Tablelands, Gaspers Mtn fire trail, 8.2 km S of Mt Boonbourwa, 10 May 1983, *D.H.Benson 1406, K.D.Hill & L.A.S.Johnson*; holo: NSW; iso: CANB.

### Description

**Mallee** or small **tree** to 8 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** rough on part or all of trunk and branches to 6 cm diameter, stringy, grey or brown, branches smooth above.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm)**: stem rounded in cross-section, scabrid; juvenile leaves always petiolate (petioles 0.5–0.7 cm), alternate, broadly ovate rarely elliptical, 4–7 cm long, 3–4 cm wide, leaf-bases rounded, discolourous, glossy above, green; new growth tips, stems and at least the undersides of leaves scabrid with the remains of stellate hairs for at least 1 m in height of coppice.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petiole 1–2 cm long; blade broadly lanceolate to falcate, 6–12 cm long, 1.9–3.7 cm wide, base oblique or tapering to petiole, concolorous, glossy, green, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, reticulation obscure or sparse, intramarginal vein parallel to and well removed from margin, oil glands island.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.4–1.2 cm long, buds in umbels of 7, 9 or ?11 per umbel, sessile. **Mature buds** oblong, 0.5–1 cm long, 0.3–0.4 cm wide, warty, scar absent, operculum conical to rounded, stamens irregularly flexed, anthers reniform to cordate, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by confluent slits, style long, stigma tapered, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 2 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

**Fruit** sessile, cup-shaped, hemispherical or truncate-globose, 0.5–0.7 cm long, 0.8–1.2 cm wide, clustered together but not compressed laterally, disc weakly to strongly raised-convex, valves 3 or 4, near rim level.

**Seeds** brown, 1.6–2.2 mm long, pyramidal or obliquely pyramidal, dorsal surface smooth, hilum terminal.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10)**: cotyledons reniform; stems rounded in cross-section, stellate-hairy; leaves opposite for at least 7 nodes, petiolate, ovate to broadly so, 5–8 cm long, 4–5.5 cm wide, base truncate to rounded, margin irregular, discolourous, glossy, green above, sparsely to moderately stellate-hairy.

### Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in January and November.

### Notes

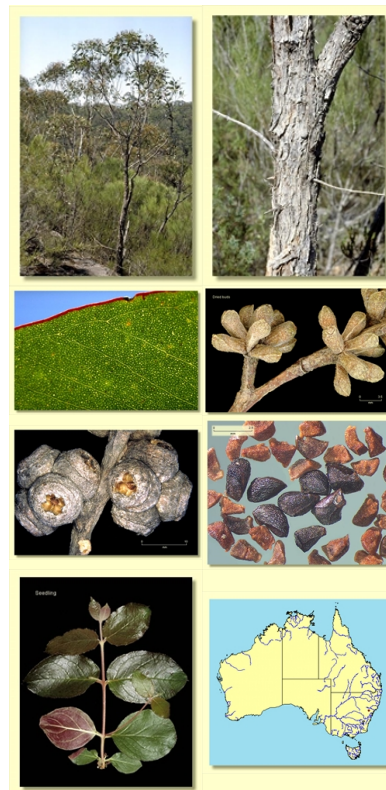
A mallee or stunted stringybark tree of very restricted distribution in mountains of Wollerni National Park south-east of Rylstone in New South Wales, occurring in discontinuous woodlands on ridge tops and plateaus on shallow sandstone-derived soils. *Eucalyptus bensonii* has rather coarse broad glossy green adult and ovate juvenile leaves scabrid on the underside, squat sessile buds with rounded to conical operculum and flattened fruit.

*E. bensonii* is only likely to be confused with other stringybark species; those growing in the general area are *E. sparsifolia* and *E. tenella*, which differ in having narrower juvenile and adult leaves, and smaller fusiform buds and smaller fruit. Further to the west another stringybark occurs, *E. macrorhyncha* subsp. *cannonii*, which has beaked buds and fruit with very prominently raised disc and exerted valves.

*Eucalyptus bensonii* is considered a close relative of *E. camfieldii*, a species endemic to the Sydney metropolitan area, which differs in having rounded to heart-shaped, mucronate juvenile leaves and shorter, stubby buds and (usually) smaller fruit.

### MORE ABOUT STRINGYBARKS

### Origin of Name



*Eucalyptus bensonii*: after Douglas Howard Benson (1949–extant 2009). Doug Benson is a plant ecologist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. He has published many papers, most dealing with the plant ecology of the Sydney region.

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