

# *Eucalyptus bosistoana*

## Coast grey box, Gippsland grey box

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Adnataria | Apicales | Submelliodorae

### Nomenclature

**Eucalyptus bosistoana** F.Muell., *Austral. J. Pharm.* 10: 293 (1895).



T: between Nicholson R. & Tambo R., Vic., *C.L.Schlipalius s.n.*; lecto: MEL 10389, fide J.H.Willis, *Muelleria* 1: 165–166 (1967).

Residual syntype: Genoa River, Barnard s.n. 1884.

### Description

**Tree** to 60 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** partly or wholly rough on trunk but sometimes almost smooth, branches always smooth; rough bark box-type, thin and flaky, mottled grey and white patches or grey-brown, smooth bark white, cream, yellow or grey, sometimes with with ribbons of decorticated bark in the upper branches.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stem rounded in cross-section; juvenile leaves opposite for a few pairs then alternate, petiolate, oblong to elliptical to ovate, 3–7 cm long, 1.8–3.3 cm wide, margin entire, rarely crenulate, pale green.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petiole 1–1.8 cm long; blade lanceolate to falcate, 5.8–20 cm long, 0.7–2.7 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, glossy or dull, green, side-veins acute or sometimes at an angle greater than 45°, densely to very densely reticulate, intramarginal vein well removed from margin, oil glands island and intersectional.

**Inflorescence** usually axillary unbranched, less commonly terminal compound, peduncles 0.7–1 cm long, buds 7 per umbel, pedicels 0.3–0.8 cm long. **Mature buds** obovoid to ovoid, 0.6–0.8 cm long, 0.3–0.5 cm wide, green to yellow, smooth, scar absent, operculum conical to rounded rarely shortly beaked, stamens irregularly flexed, all fertile, anthers adnate to filaments, cuboid to globoid, dehiscing by broad lateral pores, style long, stigma pin-head shaped, locules mostly 5 or 6, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

**Fruit** pedicellate (pedicels 0.4–0.7 cm long), cup-shaped, barrel-shaped or hemispherical, 0.4–0.8 cm long, 0.4–0.8 cm wide, disc descending, valves 5 or 6, near rim level or enclosed.

**Seeds** black, brown or grey, 0.9–2 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface shallowly pitted or almost smooth, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10):** cotyledons bilobed to oblong; stems square in cross-section; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 5 to 10 nodes then alternate, ovate-orbicular, 4–8.5 cm long, 3–6.5 cm wide, base usually tapering, discolorous, mid-green above, paler beneath.

### Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in January, February, March, April and July.

### Notes

A tall tree of Gippsland in Victoria and south-eastern New South Wales, south from Wolgan Valley, although a smaller form occurs on the Southern Tablelands, e.g. between Goulburn and Bungonia Gorge. It is thinly rough-barked, has long narrow adult leaves, flowers with all stamens fertile, and is particularly distinctive in the fruit, which has five or six valves. In this respect it may be confused with *E. melliodora* (four or five valves), which differs in the rougher bark and buds with inflexed stamens and staminodes. Both species have two opercula intact and at maturity therefore no operculum scar.

*Eucalyptus bosistoana* belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Adnataria* (the boxes) because the buds have two opercula, ovules are in four rows, seeds are flattened-ovoid, cotyledons are reniform, and anthers are rigid on the staminal filaments. Within section *Adnataria*, *E. bosistoana*, together with *E. argophloia*, a Queensland endemic, forms series *Submelliodorae*, further distinguished by having buds with the outer and inner opercula united and shed together at flowering time, all stamens fertile and fruit with five or six valves.



## Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus bosistoana*: after Joseph Bosisto (1824–98). Joseph Bosisto was a pharmacist and one of the first to extract essential oils in Australia, particularly the oils in *Eucalyptus*. Later in his life he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Victoria as the Member for Richmond, 1874–1889, and as the Member for Jolimont, 1892–1894.

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