

# *Eucalyptus camphora* subsp. *humeana*

## Mountain swamp gum

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Maidenaria | Triangulares | Foveolatae

### Nomenclature

**Eucalyptus camphora** subsp. **humeana** L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Teloepa* 4: 55 (1990).



T: NSW, Southern Tablelands, 0.5 km S of Lobs Hole on Ravine Road, 27 April 1985, *K.D.Hill* 739, *L.A.S.Johnson* & *L.D.Pryor*; holo: NSW; iso: CANB, MEL.

### Description

**Tree** to 25 m tall, or **mallee** to 10 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** smooth throughout or partly rough on lower trunk; rough bark either loose basal slabs, or compacted, dark brown, grey or blackish; smooth bark white-grey to grey-green, green or yellow-grey, sometimes slightly powdery.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stem rounded in cross-section; juvenile leaves opposite for several pairs, petiolate, becoming alternate, orbicular to ovate or elliptical, 3–5 cm long, 2.5–4.6 cm wide, margin entire or crenulate, apex emarginate or rounded, green or bluish green.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petiole 1.8–4 cm long; blade broadly lanceolate, elliptical to ovate or obovate, 6–15 cm long, 2.5–6 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex often rounded or emarginate, concolorous, usually glossy, green, side-veins irregular, reticulation usually dense, intramarginal vein parallel to and well removed from margin, oil glands island and intersectional. Leaves often appear pendulous in the crown because of the long petioles.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.5–1.5 cm long, buds 7 per umbel, pedicels 0.2–0.6 cm long. **Mature buds** fusiform to diamond-shaped (0.4–0.8 cm long, 0.3–0.5 cm wide), green to yellow, scar present, operculum conical to beaked (0.3–0.6 cm long), stamens inflexed or irregularly flexed, anthers cuboid or cuneate, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscent by longitudinal slits (non-confluent), style long, stigma blunt, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

**Fruit** pedicellate (pedicels 0.3–0.4 cm long), obconical, 0.2–0.5 cm long, 0.4–0.6 cm wide, disc raised-annular or -convex, or disc level, valves 3 or 4, slightly exerted, or near rim level.

**Seeds** black, brown or grey, 1–2.5 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, often pointed at one end, usually lacunose, dorsal surface smooth or shallowly pitted, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10):** cotyledons bilobed to oblong; stems usually rounded in cross-section; leaves sessile to shortly petiolate at first, opposite for 4 to 10 nodes then alternate with the petioles becoming longer, ovate-elliptical to oblong or more or less orbicular, 2–6 cm long, 1.5–3.5 cm wide, base tapering, margin entire or subcrenulate, apex rounded or emarginate, more or less concolorous, dull, mid-green to slightly bluish green.

### Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in February, March and April.

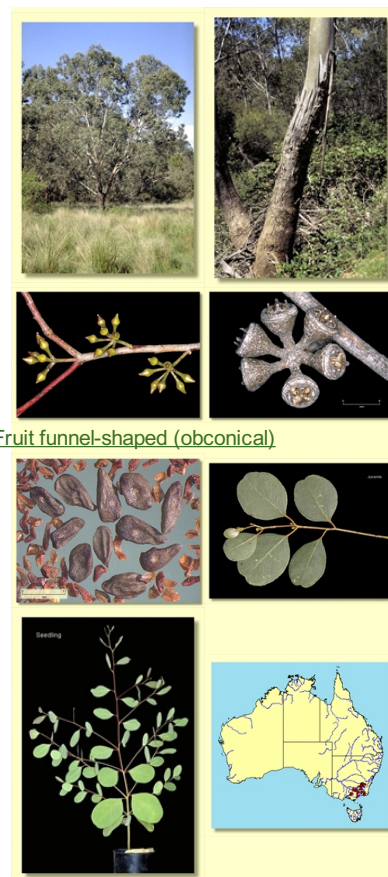
### Notes

*Eucalyptus camphora* is a species of small to medium-sized swamp gum trees of low-lying areas of the high plains and valleys extending sporadically from southern Queensland through New South Wales and Victoria. It has the typical swamp gum double conic buds and obconical fruit.

In EUCLID we recognize two subspecies of *E. camphora*:

#### **E. camphora** subsp. **camphora**

Distinguished by the low stature and small, elliptical leaves often with rounded to emarginate tips. Has a scattered distribution from the Girraween National Park in southern Queensland, then south across the border into New South Wales to just south-east of Glen Innes on the Northern Tablelands to east of Rylstone to south-east of Mittagong. The two northern populations were described as *E. camphora* subsp.



Fruit funnel-shaped (obconical)

*relicta* and the southern population as *E. aquatica*. Both are regarded by the authors of EUCLID as not being sufficiently distinct from *E. camphora* subsp. *camphora* to warrant recognition.

#### **E. camphora** subsp. **humeana**

Subspecies *humeana* is the more conspicuous form in mountains from north-west of Canberra extending south through Bombala and Kosciuszko National Park into eastern Victoria extending as far west as the Warby Range and Broadford. It has broad, glossy leaves that are often pendulous in the crown and because of this can easily be recognised from a distance in swampy sites.

*Eucalyptus camphora* belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphomyrtus* section *Maidenaria* because the cotyledons are bilobed, inflorescences axillary, anthers versatile and seeds flattened-ovoid. Within this large section, *E. camphora* 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. camphora*, *E. macarthurii*, *E. strzeleckii* and *E. yarraensis* (found only on the mainland). *E. camphora* is closest to *E. ovata* and *E. yarraensis*, but is distinguished by its broader, long petiolate adult leaves from *E. ovata*, and differs noticeably from *E. yarraensis*, which has extensive rough bark and smaller fruit.

*E. aquatica*, regarded by the authors of EUCLID as synonymous with *E. camphora* subsp. *camphora*, is listed as "Vulnerable" under the Australian Government *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Further information may be found at this web address:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl>

#### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus camphora*: refers to camphor in the essential oils of the leaf.

subsp. *humeana*: after Hamilton Hume (1797–1872). Hamilton Hume was an early Australian explorer who, with William Hovell (an English sea captain) and six convicts, travelled overland through southeast Australia (the Berrima–Bong Bong District) to look for any large rivers. They set out in 1824 from Appin and travelled from Gunning to Corio Bay, discovering the Murray River, the Murrumbidgee River, and Mount Bland. They returned in 1825. Hume was rewarded with hundreds of acres of land in the Yass district.

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