

Eucalyptus cunninghamii

Cliff mallee ash

Classification

Eucalyptus | Eucalyptus | Eucalyptus | Strictae | Regulares

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus cunninghamii Sweet, *Hort. Brit.* 2nd edn, 209 (1830).



Eucalyptus microphylla A.Cunn. in Field, B. (ed.) (1825), *On the Botany of the Blue Mountains. Geographical Memoirs on New South Wales*: 350. T: Blue Mts, N.S.W., Oct. 1822, A. Cunningham 32; lecto: BM.

Note from APNI (accessed 26 Nov 2019): "Several other sheets in K labelled '*E. microphylla*' are not indisputably Cunningham 32, and bear mixed collections including *E. moorei*, *E. stricta* and *E. cunninghamii*." Comment: Although the specimen Cunningham 32 at BM was listed by Johnson & Hill (in *Flora Australia* 19: 508 (1988)) as the "holo", since Cunningham did not list the details of any specimens in the protologue this citation is here considered to constitute an effective lectotypification by Johnson & Hill under ICN Art. 9.10 (Shenzhen Code, 2018).

Eucalyptus rupicola L.A.S. Johnson & Blaxell, *Contr. New South Wales Natl Herb.* 4: 287 (1972). T: Pulpit Rock, 3.2 km N of Blackheath, NSW, 16 Apr. 1953, L.A.S. Johnson NSW 26906; holo: NSW; iso: CANB, MEL.

Description

Mallee to 2 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark smooth, grey, often with scribbles.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stem rounded in cross-section, smooth or warty; juvenile leaves sessile, opposite for 5 or 6 nodes, then alternate, shortly petiolate, linear to narrowly lanceolate 5–10 cm long, 0.3–0.5 cm wide, concolorous, green.

Adult leaves alternate, petiole 0.2–0.5 cm long; blade linear to narrowly lanceolate, 3–10 cm long, 0.3–0.8 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous or slightly discoloured, glossy, green, side-veins obscure, reticulation absent, intramarginal vein absent or parallel to and remote from margin, oil glands island; new growth tips pink.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.3–0.8 cm long, buds 7 or 9 per umbel, pedicels 0.2–0.4 cm long. **Mature buds** obovoid or clavate, 0.4–0.6 cm long, 0.3 cm wide, green or pinkish, usually warty, scar absent, operculum conical to rounded, stamens inflexed or 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 pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.2(0.3) cm long), urceolate, barrel-shaped or truncate-globose, 0.5–0.8 cm long, 0.5–0.7 cm wide, disc descending, valves 3 or 4, enclosed.

Seeds brown, 1–1.5 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, slightly warty; leaves sessile and opposite for 4 or 5 nodes then alternate and shortly petiolate, linear to narrowly lanceolate, 5–10 cm long, 0.4–1.5 cm wide, base tapering, glossy, green.

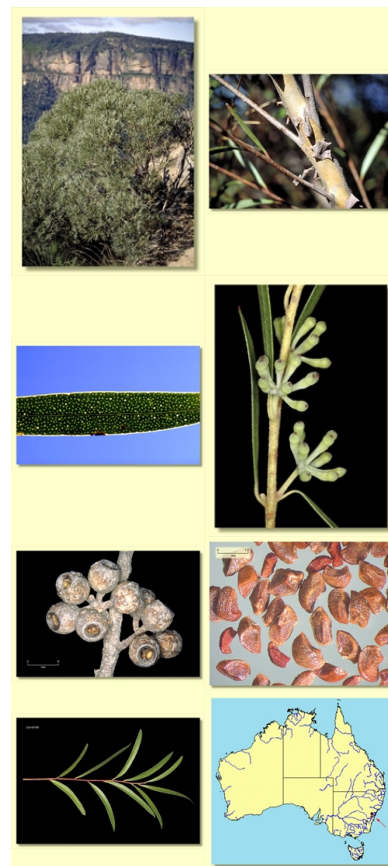
Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in April, September and December.

Notes

A dwarf mallee endemic to New South Wales, restricted to the Blue Mountains west of Sydney, occurring on sandstone-derived soils on cliff edges and upper sides of the Jamieson, Kedumba, Megalong and Grose valleys, also in the vicinity of Blackheath, Katoomba, Leura and Wentworth Falls.

A mallee ash, *Eucalyptus cunninghamii* differs from related green-leaved mallee ashes, e.g. *E. stricta*, by the bluish grey to pinkish grey crown, very fine leaves, delicate buds and fruit, and scabrid juvenile stems. The leaf oil glands are more prominent than in the green-leaved ashes and relate *E. cunninghamii* to the northern green-leaved mallee ashes such as *E. approximans*.



Eucalyptus cunninghamii belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Eucalyptus* section *Eucalyptus* series *Strictae*, because of a combination of characters: mallee habit with smooth bark, alternate, green juvenile leaves, adult leaves held \pm erect and with obscure side-veins and little or no visible reticulation, single axillary inflorescences, the buds in clusters of seven or nine, with buds having only one operculum and reniform anthers, ovules in two rows, and \pm pyramidal seeds. Within series *Strictae*, *E. approximans*, *E. cunninghamii* and *E. paliformis* form a small group, subseries *Regulares*, characterised by the leaf oil glands being round in outline.

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus cunninghamii: after Allan Cunningham (1791–1839). Allan Cunningham was one of the great early botanists of Australia and equally famous as an explorer. He was appointed by Sir Joseph Banks in 1814 as a botanical collector and after a short period in Brazil, arrived in Sydney in 1816. He accompanied John Oxley on his expedition in 1817 and later accompanied Phillip Parker King on his surveys of the Australian coast, making many important collections on both trips. He made many explorations himself and is credited with discovering Pandora's Pass across the Liverpool Range, the Darling Downs in south-east Queensland, and the way from the Downs to the Moreton Bay District through what is now called Cunninghams Gap.

Copyright © CANBR 2020, all rights reserved.



Web edition hosted at <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/euclid>