

# *Eucalyptus dendromorpha*

## Budawang Ash

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Eucalyptus | Eucalyptus | Strictae | Irregulares

### Nomenclature

**Eucalyptus dendromorpha** (Blakely) L.A.S.Johnson & Blaxell, *Contr. New South Wales Natl. Herb.* 4: 286 (1972).

*Eucalyptus obtusiflora* var. *dendromorpha* Blakely, *Austral. Naturalist* 10: 258 (1941). T: West Albion Park, near Macquarie Pass, NSW, June 1901, *R.H.Cambage s.n.*; holo: NSW.

### Description

**Tree** to 30 m tall. Lignotuber absent.

**Bark** usually rough on lower trunk, rough bark compacted, grey or brown; smooth bark white, cream, pink, green or grey, usually with scribbles, often ribbony. Young reproductively mature trees may lack any rough bark.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stems round in cross-section, densely warty; juvenile leaves opposite for 4 to 7 nodes, sessile, discolorous, elliptical, soon becoming alternate, petiolate, broadly lanceolate to falcate, 7.5–14 cm long, 2–5 cm wide, base becoming oblique, slightly discolorous, glossy, green.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petiole 0.6–1.5 cm long; blade lanceolate to falcate, 7–12 cm long, 1–2.5 cm wide, base usually oblique, concolorous, glossy, green, side-veins acute, sparsely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and just within margin, oil glands mostly island.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.6–1.5 cm long, buds 7, 9 or ?11 per umbel, pedicels 0.2–0.6 cm long. **Mature buds** obovoid to clavate, 0.5–0.6 cm long, 0.2–0.3 cm wide, smooth or sometimes warty, scar absent, operculum conical to rounded-apiculate, stamens irregularly flexed, anthers reniform to cordate, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscent by confluent slits, style long, stigma tapered, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 2 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

**Fruit** pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.5 cm long), cup-shaped, barrel-shaped, slightly urceolate or truncate-globose, 0.7–1 cm long, 0.7–1.1 cm wide, disc descending, valves 3 or 4, enclosed.

**Seeds** brown, 1.5–2 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, densely warty (feel scabrid); leaves sessile to shortly petiolate, opposite, elliptical and discolorous for 4 to 7 nodes then alternate with more obvious petioles, lanceolate 5–10 cm long, 1.5–3.5 cm wide, base rounded, oblique or tapering, apex pointed, concolorous, glossy, green.

### Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in January, June and December.

### Notes

A small to tall tree endemic to New South Wales, of the tablelands and slopes from the Blue Mountains south to Budawang south-east of Braidwood in southern New South Wales. When fully grown it is partly rough-barked, and has glossy green leaves, club-shaped buds and barrel-shaped fruit.

*Eucalyptus dendromorpha* belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Eucalyptus* section *Eucalyptus* series *Strictae*, because of the following combination of characters: small tree habit with some rough bark, alternate, green juvenile leaves, adult leaves held erect and with acute side-veins and little or no visible reticulation, single axillary inflorescences, the buds in clusters of seven, with buds having only one operculum and reniform anthers, ovules in two rows, and ± pyramidal seeds. Within series *Strictae*, *E. dendromorpha* is one of six closely related species all with leaf oil glands that are irregular in outline (subseries *Irregulares*), the others being *E. triflora* (a mostly smooth-barked tree with oblong sessile buds in threes or sevens and more squat fruit with level to slightly descending disc); *E. apiculata*, *E. stricta* and *E. burgessiana* (all mallees with smooth bark and clavate buds in sevens, rarely elevens); and *E. langleyi* (also a smooth-barked mallee with angular branchlets, clavate buds in sevens and adult leaves to 5 cm wide).

*E. dendromorpha* is sometimes confused with *E. fraxinoides*, but that species has blackish seed, not brown, and juvenile leaves that are predominantly bluish, not green.



## Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus dendromorpha*: Greek *dendros*, tree and *morphos*, form, referring to the habit compared with related mallee species.

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