# Eucalyptus dorrigoensis

## Dorrigo white gum

#### Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Maidenaria | Triangulares | Microcarpae

#### Nomenclature

Eucalyptus dorrigoensis (Blakely) L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Telopea* 4: 63 (1990).



Eucalyptus benthamii Maiden & Cambage var. dorrigoensis Blakely, Key Eucalypts 162 (1934). T: NSW, Wild Cattle Creek and Megan, Dorrigo, Sept. 1931, W.A.W. de Beuzeville, NSW 118429; lecto: NSW; isolecto: CANB.

#### Description

Tree to 30 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** smooth throughout or with some grey to grey-brown slabs of rough bark persisting on base of trunk; smooth bark sometimes slightly powdery, white, cream, pink or grey, often with ribbons of decorticated bark in the upper branches.

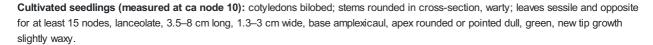
**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stem rounded in cross-section, warty; juvenile leaves opposite for many pairs, sessile, ovate to broadly lanceolate, 3.5–8 cm long, 1.3–4 cm wide, base amplexical at first then rounded, dull, green to blue-green or slightly glaucous.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petiole 0.5–2.5 cm long; blade lanceolate to falcate, 6–22 cm long, 1.2–2.7 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, glossy or dull, green to grey-green, sideveins greater than 45° to midrib, moderately to densely and finely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and just within margin, oil glands numerous, island.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.4–1 cm long, buds 7 per umbel, pedicels 0.1–0.3 cm long. **Mature buds** ovoid, 0.4–0.5 cm long, 0.2–0.3 cm wide, green, scar present, operculum conical, stamens inflexed, anthers cuboid or cuneate, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits (non-confluent), style long, stigma blunt, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

**Fruit** sessile or pedicellate (pedicels to 0.2 cm long), cup-shaped, obconical or hemispherical, 0.3–0.4 cm long, 0.4–0.5 cm wide, disc raised-convex, or disc level, valves 3 or 4, exserted or near rim level.

Seeds black or brown, 1–2 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, lacunose, dorsal surface shallowly pitted, hilum ventral.



## Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in May.

#### Notes

An erect medium-sized to tall, smooth-barked tree of very restricted distribution near Dorrigo on the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales

*E. dorrigoensis* differs from other seven-budded species of the Northern Tablelands by the many pairs of sessile, opposite, ovate to broadly lanceolate, blue-green to glaucous juvenile leaves and the mostly dull adult leaves. It was originally described as a variety of *E. benthamii* of the Blue Mountains and south along the Nepean River, but which differs most conspicuously in the scarcely dehiscent outer operculum.

Eucalyptus dorrigoensis belongs in Eucalyptus subgenus Symphyomyrtus section Maidenaria, a large group of species more or less restricted to south-eastern Australia, characterised by bilobed cotyledons, simple axillary inflorescences, buds with two opercula, stamens with versatile anthers and flattened seeds with a ventral hilum. Within this section E. dorrigoensis and 3 other species form series Microcarpae diagnosed by the smooth white bark, non-swampy habitat, and small, rather flat-topped fruit.

















*E. dorrigoensis* has sessile rather than the shortly petiolate juvenile leaves of the 3 other species in this series, viz. *E. scoparia, E. mannifera* (with 3 subspecies), and *E. elliptica*.

### Origin of Name

Eucalyptus dorrigoensis: from the Dorrrigo locality, an area in the high hinterland country west of Coffs Harbour.

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