

Eucalyptus largeana

Craven grey box

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Adnataria | Apicales | Buxerales | Amissae

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus largeana Blakely & Beuzev. ex Blakely, *Key Eucalypts* 232 (1934).

T: Avon State Forest, Craven, NSW, 25 June 1931, *W.A.W.de Beuzeville & R.Large s.n.*; holo: NSW.

Description

Tree to 40 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark rough on trunk and often larger branches, box-type often tessellated, grey; smooth bark white or grey.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stems square in cross-section, slightly warty or smooth; juvenile leaves always petiolate, opposite for 2 to 4 pairs, then sub-opposite to alternate, ovate to lanceolate, 4.8–12 cm long, 1.5–5.5 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, discolorous, dull, green.

Adult leaves alternate, petiole 1.3–2.1 cm long; blade lanceolate to falcate, 11–19 cm long, 0.8–2 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, glossy or dull, green, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and remote from margin, oil glands island and intersectional.

Inflorescence terminal compound, or with some axillary compound, peduncles 0.2–0.9 cm long, buds 7 per umbel, pedicels 0.1–0.4 cm long. **Mature buds** ovoid, 0.5 cm long, 0.3 cm wide, green, scar present, operculum conical, stamens irregularly flexed, anthers adnate, cuboid to cuneate, dehiscing by lateral pores, style long, stigma pin-head shaped, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

Fruit pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.2 cm long), cupular to barrel-shaped, 0.3–0.4 cm long, 0.2–0.4 cm wide, disc descending, valves 3 or 4, enclosed.

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

Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10): cotyledons reniform to oblong; stems square in cross-section, warty; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 3 or 4 pairs then becoming alternate, ovate-lanceolate, 6–8.5 cm long, 1.5–3.2 cm wide, base tapering, margin entire, apex pointed, discolorous, dull, mid-green above, slightly paler beneath.

Flowering Time

Flowering time not recorded.

Notes

A medium-sized to tall box tree species of restricted distribution in subcoastal ranges of northern New South Wales from north of the Hunter Valley to the upper reaches of the Macleay and Manning Rivers. It occurs in areas of high rainfall and is a tree of good form with rough box bark usually to the larger branches. It has the other box characters of terminal inflorescences and adnate anthers. Buds and fruit are small.

Eucalyptus largeana 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. largeana* belongs in a subgroup of ca 30 box species with mostly eastern and southern distribution, series *Buxerales*, further characterised by having some rough bark and buds that shed the outer operculum early in development. Within series *Buxerales*, *E. largeana* is most closely related to the widespread arid zone species, *E. intertexta*; and inland temperate Queensland species, *E. orgadophila*, because all stamens are fertile and leaves are concolorous.

Within its natural range in wetter subcoastal eucalypt forests *Eucalyptus largeana* is most likely to be confused with two other box species, *E. rudderi* and *E. rummeryi*. It differs from the restricted New South Wales endemic, *E. rummeryi*, which has discolorous adult leaves (i.e. paler on the underside) and more robust obconical fruit. *E. rudderi*, also endemic to New South Wales, differs in having some stamens lacking anthers (i.e. staminodes).



Origin of Name

Eucalyptus largeana : after Richard Large (1882– the date of his death is not known). Richard Large commenced duties with the Forestry Commission of New South Wales in 1917 and retired as Foreman on Craven State Forest, near Gloucester in 1951. He was a co-collector of the type material for the species named in his honour. Blakely referred to Large in the original description of the species as "a very keen observer of native trees".

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