

Eucalyptus macarthurii

Camden woollybutt, Paddy's River box

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Maidenaria | Triangulares | Foveolatae

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus macarthurii H.Deane & Maiden, *Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales* 24: 448 (1899).

T: New South Wales. Argyle, *W. Macarthur* 142, anno 1854 (lecto K [K000279769]; *vide* Brooker *et al.*, 'Forest Trees of Australia' Edition 4, p. 466 (1984); see also Bean, A.R., *Telopea* 12(3): 315 (2009).

Eucalyptus diversifolia Wools, *Contr. Fl. Australia* 235 (1867), *nom. illeg.* non Bonpl. (1813).
T: not designated.

Description

Tree to 40 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark rough, fissured longitudinally, fibrous, often hard, grey, continuing to smaller branches or the branches < 8 cm diameter smooth, ribbons sometimes conspicuous in the crown.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stem rounded in cross-section, often warty; juvenile leaves opposite, sessile, broadly lanceolate to ovate to cordate or deltoid, 3.5–7 cm long, 2.5–4.5 cm wide, stem-clasping, discolorous, dull, grey-green or green.

Adult leaves alternate, petiole 1–2 cm long; blade narrowly lanceolate to falcate, 9–18 cm long, 1–2.5 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, glossy, green, side-veins greater than 45° to midrib, moderately to densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and just within margin, oil glands mostly island.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.4–1 cm long, buds 7, sessile to shortly pedicellate, pedicels 0–0.2 cm long. **Mature buds** ovoid (0.25–0.5 cm long, 0.2–0.35 cm wide), green to yellow, scar present, operculum conical to beaked (0.2–0.3 cm long), stamens inflexed, anthers cuboid to oblong, 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 sessile or pedicellate, pedicels 0–0.2 cm long, obconical to campanulate, 0.2–0.5 cm long, 0.4–0.6 cm wide, disc raised-convex, valves 3 or 4, exserted or near rim level.

Seeds dark brown or black, 1.5–2.2 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 rounded in cross-section, warty; leaves opposite and sessile for many nodes, cordate, 4–7 cm long, 2.5–4.5 cm wide, amplexicaul, margin entire, apex pointed, slightly discolorous, dull, mid-green.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in January and May.

Notes

A medium-sized to tall tree of the Central and Southern Tablelands of New South Wales between the Blue Mountains and Goulburn. *E. macarthurii* is related to the small-fruited swamp gums. The rough bark is often ragged and extends to the larger branches but the smaller branches are smooth; the crown is ribbony with shedding bark. Leaves are small and narrow, buds in sevens, somewhat like *E. aggregata*, and it usually grows near water. *E. macarthurii* is distinguished from similar species and others in the vicinity by the conspicuous, large, opposite, sessile, ovate, grey-green juvenile leaves

Eucalyptus macarthurii belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Maidenaria* because the cotyledons are bilobed, inflorescences axillary, anthers versatile and seeds flattened-ovoid. Within this large section, *E. macarthurii* is one of 10 species forming series *Foveolatae* further characterised by swamp habitat and fruit more or less obconical.

Eucalyptus macarthurii is naturalized around Emerald in the Dandenong Ranges of Victoria.



Origin of Name

Eucalyptus macarthurii : after Sir William MacArthur (1800–1882). William MacArthur was the son of Captain John MacArthur, a notable figure in the early history of Australia. William MacArthur was a horticulturalist from the Camden area of New South Wales. He also had a strong interest in botany. He corresponded and exchanged seed with botanists abroad. He had a strong belief in the medical virtues of Tasmanian blue gum, *Eucalyptus globulus*, and distributed seed of it to many parts of the world, some of which led to successful plantings of the species in the marshes of the Roman Campagna.

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