

# *Eucalyptus mackintii*

## Orbost stringybark

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Eucalyptus | Capillulus | Pachyphloius

### Nomenclature

**Eucalyptus mackintii** Kottek, *Austral. Sys. Bot.* 3: 685 (1990).



T: Beside Rocky River Road, 1.5 km NW of Murrungower Rd. Approximately 10 km NW of Cabbage Tree Creek, Victoria, 19 Jun. 1987, *M.H.Kottek 80*, collected by *P.Geary*; holo: MEL; iso: CANB, MELU, NSW.

### Description

**Tree** to 30 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** rough to small branches, stringy, grey to red-brown.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stem rounded in cross-section, scabrid at first; juvenile leaves always petiolate, opposite for 3 to 5 nodes then alternate, oblong to elliptical to ovate, 4.5–10.3 cm long, 3.5–9 cm wide, margin entire to slightly irregular, green to blue-green; stem, petiole and lamina scabrid until nodes 9 to 11 on seedlings, on field coppice only the lowest few (up to ca 6) pairs scabrid.

**Crown** blue-green.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petiole 1.3–2.8 cm long; blade broadly lanceolate to lanceolate to falcate, 8.5–23 cm long, 1.7–5.5 cm wide, base oblique, concolorous, slightly glossy or dull, green to blue-green, side-veins acute, sparsely to moderately reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and well removed from margin, oil glands small, island or obscure.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.8–2.2 cm long, buds in umbels of 7, 9 or 11, pedicels 0–0.5 cm long. **Mature buds** diamond-shaped to ovoid, 0.7–0.8 cm long, 0.3–0.5 cm wide, green, smooth or scurfy, with slight longitudinal angles, scar absent, operculum conical, stamens 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** on pedicels 0–0.3 cm long, cup-shaped to hemispherical or truncate-globose, 0.5–0.7 cm long, 0.9–1.3 cm wide, disc level or slightly raised, valves 3 or 4, near rim level or slightly exerted.

**Seeds** dark brown, 1.5–3 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, stellate-hairy at least on the lower internodes; leaves opposite, sessile, discolorous and stellate-hairy for ca 5–10 nodes then becoming alternate, shortly petiolate, more ovate and basally oblique, 3.5–15.5 cm long, 1.5–7.5 cm wide, lamina smooth after alternation, concolorous, glossy, green.

### Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in June.

### Notes

A medium-sized stringybark tree known only from coastal areas south of Bruthen and foothills north and east of Orbost, Victoria, on poor sandy soil. *Eucalyptus mackintii* is fully rough-barked and has a crown that is bluish green, buds that are more or less ovoid but with slight angles, subsessile fruit with level or slightly raised disc with valves scarcely exerted. Juvenile leaves on field coppice are broad and are scarcely scabrid (lowest leaf pair only).

*E. mackintii* is distinguished among the stringybarks by the bluish green crown. It differs from *E. macrorhyncha* in having a conical (not beaked) operculum and fruit with a more or less level (not prominently raised) disc. Both *E. goboidea* and *E. agglomerata* differ in having crowded clusters of fruit and in having coppice growth scabrid for at least 0.5 m. *E. baxteri* differs from *E. mackintii* in having a green crown, obovoid buds without angles and fruit usually with a raised disc but, like *E. mackintii*, has juvenile growth scabrid for few nodes. The sparse oil gland pattern of *E. mackintii* adult leaves and the angled buds suggest a relationship with *E. youmanii* of northern New South Wales.



## MORE ABOUT STRINGYBARKS

### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus mackintii*: after James Andrew McKinty (1916–1999). James McKinty was a forester with the Forestry Commission of Victoria. He was District Forester at Orbost for many years. He collected this species in 1947, recognising it to be different from other local stringybarks. Mt McKinty from the Jamieson area north-east of Melbourne is also named after him.

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