

# *Eucalyptus nudicaulis*

## Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Exsertaria | Erythroxyton

## Nomenclature

***Eucalyptus nudicaulis*** A.R.Bean, *Austrobaileya* 3 (3) 467 (1991).

T. Queensland: Burke District: 25 km N of Mount Isa, November 1986, *P.L.Harris* 98; holo: BRL.

## Description

**Mallee** to 6 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** smooth throughout, mottled grey to pinkish or silvery.

**Branchlets** lacking oil glands in the pith.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stems squared in cross-section; leaves always petiolate, alternate, narrowly lanceolate, ca 7–10 cm long, 1–2 cm wide, green.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petiole 0.8–2.5 cm long; blade narrowly lanceolate to almost linear, 7–18(19) cm long, 1–2(2.5) cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, dull, grey-green, side-veins acute or at an angle greater than 45° to midrib, moderately to densely reticulate, intramarginal vein close to the margin, oil glands island, numerous.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.5–1(1.3) cm long, buds 7, pedicellate, pedicels 0.1–0.4 cm long. **Mature buds** ovoid, scar present (outer operculum shed early), operculum conical to horn-shaped, rarely slightly beaked, 0.7–1.1 cm long, stamens erect, anthers oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by lateral slits, style long, stigma tapered, locules (3) 4 or 5, the placentae each with 6 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

**Fruit** sessile or pedicellate, pedicels 0–0.4 cm long, cup-shaped to hemispherical, 0.6–0.9 cm long, 0.6–0.9(1) cm wide, disc raised, raised disc convex to oblique, valves 4 or 5, exserted.

**Seeds** dark brownish-black, 1–1.5(2) mm long, ± cuboid to pyramidal, dorsal surface variably pitted, hilum terminal.

**Cultivated seedling (scored at ca node 10):** cotyledons more or less oblong-reniform; stems squared in cross-section; leaves always petiolate, opposite for the first 3–5 nodes then alternate, lanceolate, 6–13 cm long, 0.8–2 cm wide, dull, grey-green.

## Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in February and March.

## Notes

A mallee confined to some rocky gullies and steep hillsides in the Mt Isa – Cloncurry district of north-west Queensland. Characterised by its smooth bark, its narrow lanceolate juvenile and adult leaves and the long acute operculum.

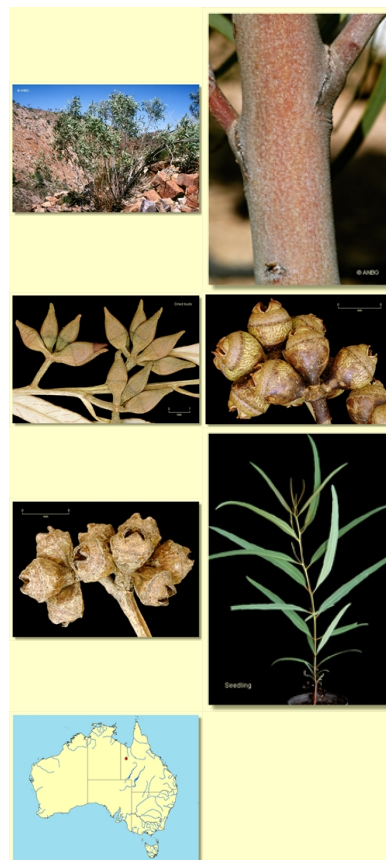
*Eucalyptus nudicaulis* belongs to *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Exsertaria* (red gums) series *Erythroxyton* because the buds have two opercula, ovules are in six rows, seeds are pyramidal to cuboid and black, cotyledons are reniform to oblong, adult leaves are concolorous and the fruit have exserted valves. Within the series *Erythroxyton*, *E. nudicaulis* is closest to *E. gillenii* and is only weakly separated by having a slightly longer more acute operculum and by having narrower juvenile leaves.

Seedlings of *E. gillenii* grown at CSIRO Black Mountain, Canberra, from seed collected in central Australia, have proven to be variable in leaf shape, being commonly broadly lanceolate but sometimes narrowly lanceolate. The narrow seedling leaves of *E. nudicaulis* are very similar to those cultivated from collections of *E. gillenii* made in the Hermannsburg region of Central Australia.

## MORE ABOUT RED GUMS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED GROUPS

## Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus nudicaulis* : Latin *nudus*, naked or bare and *caulis*, stem, referring to the smooth bark on the stems.





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