

# *Eucalyptus rudderi*

## Rudder's box

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Adnataria | Terminales | Heterophloiae

### Nomenclature

**Eucalyptus rudderi** Maiden, *Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales* 29: 779 (1904).

T: Cundletown, near Taree, NSW, July 1885, *A.Rudder s.n.*; lectotype: NSW135705, *vide* Bean, A.R., *Teloepa* 12(4): 474 (2010).

### Description

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

**Bark** rough to small branches, box-type, often tessellated, grey to pale grey.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stems square in cross-section and slightly winged; juvenile leaves always shortly petiolate, opposite for 4 to 6 nodes then alternate, narrowly lanceolate, 3.5–5 cm long, 0.5–1 cm wide, tapering to petiole, slightly discolourous to concolorous, dull, green.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petiole 0.8–1.5 cm long; blade lanceolate, 7–13 cm long, 1.2–2.5 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, green, side-veins greater than 45° to midrib, densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and just within margin, oil glands mostly island.

**Inflorescence** terminal compound, peduncles 0.5–1 cm long, buds 7 per umbel, pedicels 0.3–0.4 cm long. **Mature buds** obovoid to ovoid, ca 0.3 cm long, 0.2–0.3 cm wide, scar present, operculum conical, stamens inflexed, with outer staminodes, anthers adnate, positioned obliquely at filament tip, cuboid, dehiscing by terminal pores, style long, stigma pin-head shaped, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

**Fruit** pedicels 0.2–0.5 cm long, barrel-shaped or hemispherical, 0.3–0.4 cm long, 0.4–0.5 cm wide, disc descending, valves 3 or 4, near rim level, or enclosed.

**Seeds** brown or reddish brown, 1–1.5 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, often pointed at one end, dorsal surface pitted, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10):** cotyledons reniform to oblong; stems square in cross-section, smooth; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 4 to 6 nodes then becoming alternate, lanceolate, 3.6 cm long, 0.5–2 cm wide, base tapering, margin entire, apex pointed, discolourous, mid-green above, slightly paler beneath.

### Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in March and April.

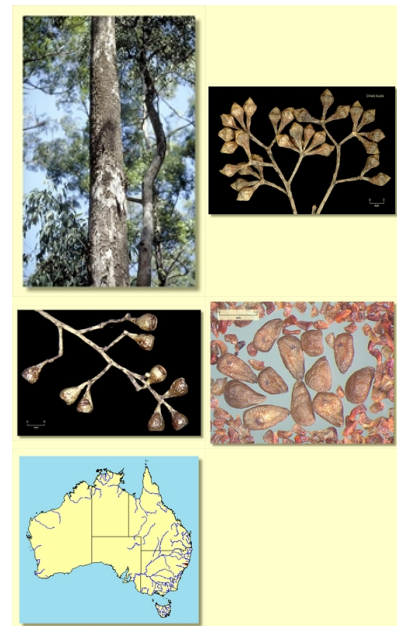
### Notes

A small to tall, erect, forest box tree of restricted coastal distribution in New South Wales in the Taree–Karuah area. It has grey box bark. Concolorous leaves distinguish it from the closely related *E. hypostomatica*. It differs from other box species from the coastal area north of Sydney, *E. moluccana*, *E. largeana* and *E. rummeryi*, which have irregularly flexed stamens all of which are fertile. On the tablelands to the west of the distribution of *E. rudderi* the related box species, *E. magnificata*, occurs, which differs in the ovate to broadly lanceolate adult leaves and glaucous buds.

*Eucalyptus rudderi* belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Adnataria* 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. rudderi* is part of series *Heterophloiae* having box bark, terminal inflorescences, buds that shed the outer operculum early, stamens inflexed and the outer stamens sterile (staminodes). Other species in this series are *E. hypostomatica* from sandstone areas west of Sydney north to Wattagan State Forest, *E. baueriana* and *E. polyanthemos* in southern New South Wales and eastern Victoria, *E. magnificata* from the northern tablelands of New South Wales, *E. conica* from the slopes and adjacent tableland areas of New South Wales north from the Weddin Mountains to central Queensland, and *E. fasciculosa* from far western Victoria and adjacent parts of South Australia. An eighth species in the series, *E. lucens*, is found only west and south-west of Alice Springs.

### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus rudderi*: after Augustus Rudder (1828–1904). Augustus Rudder was an officer with the Forest Department of New South Wales



from 1884 to 1896, mostly in the Gloucester-Manning River-Taree area. He had great knowledge of the trees of this area and made many botanical collections which are now housed in the National Herbarium New South Wales, Sydney.

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