

Eucalyptus scias subsp. *scias*

Red mahogany

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Latoangulatae | Annulares

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus scias L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Telopea* 4: 42 (1990) subsp. **scias**.

T: NSW, Central Coast, West Head, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, 33°35'S, 151°18'E, 5 May 1971, *M.I.H.Brooker 3039*; holotype: NSW; isotype: CANB.

Eucalyptus scias subsp. *callimastha* L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Telopea* 4: 44 (1990). T: NSW, South Coast, 7 km SSE of Batemans Bay, 35°46'S, 150°13'E, 4 July 1980, *M.D.Crisp 6449*; holotype: NSW; isotype: CBG.

Description

Tree to 20 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark rough throughout, fibrous, grey or brown, held in long strips or slabs with shallow furrows.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stem rounded or square in cross-section; juvenile leaves always petiolate, opposite for 3 to 6 nodes then alternate, broadly lanceolate, 6–10 cm long, 2–4.5 cm wide, base usually tapering to petiole, discolorous, dull, green.

Adult leaves alternate, petiolate, petiole 1.5–2.7 cm long; blade broadly lanceolate to lanceolate to falcate, 7–20 cm long, 2–6 cm wide, base usually tapering to petiole, discolorous, glossy, green, strongly pinnate-veined, densely to very densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and just within margin, oil glands mostly intersectorial.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.5–2.3 cm long, buds 3 or 7, pedicellate or sometimes sessile (pedicels 0–0.8 cm long).

Mature buds ovoid to fusiform to diamond-shaped (1.1–1.9 cm long, 0.7–1.3 cm wide), green to brown, smooth or warty, sometimes with longitudinal ribs, scar present, operculum conical or slightly beaked, stamens inflexed, anthers cuboid or cuneate, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits (non-confluent), style long, stigma tapered, locules 3 to 6 each with 6 or 8 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

Fruit pedicellate to sometimes sessile (0–0.7 cm long), cup-shaped to obconical or campanulate, 0.6–1 cm long, 1–1.8 cm wide, 2-ribbed longitudinally, with prominent vertical, broad, inner operculum scar, disc raised-convex to annular or level, valves 3–6, strongly exerted.

Seeds brown, 1.5–2 mm long, cuboid to pyramidal, dorsal surface pitted, hilum terminal.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10): cotyledons bilobed; stems square in cross-section and often winged also; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 4 to 6 nodes then alternate, ovate-lanceolate, 7.5–15 cm long, 2.5–5.5 cm wide, base rounded to tapering, margin entire, apex pointed, discolorous, dull, dark green above, paler beneath.

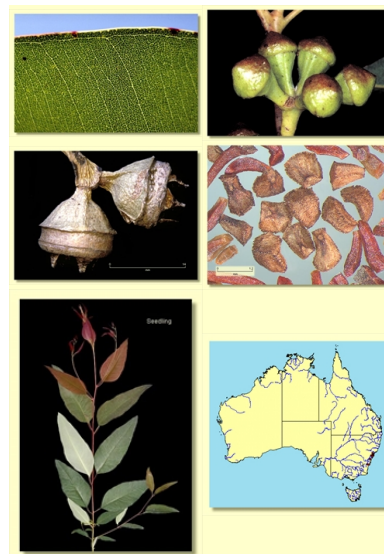
Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in January and February.

Notes

Eucalyptus scias is a species of small straggly to medium-sized forest tree, endemic to eastern New South Wales. It is characterised by its thick, rough bark and discolorous adult leaves with wide-angled side-veins, buds with the base of the operculum normally wider than the hypanthium, and squat fruit with prominently exerted valves. These features easily distinguish it from others within its range.

Eucalyptus scias belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Latoangulatae* because cotyledons are bilobed, leaves are discolorous and have side-veins at a wide angle to the midrib, buds have two opercula and fruit have exerted valves. Within this section, *E. scias* is one of seven species forming series *Annulares* (the red mahoganies), as it has ovules in six or eight rows, seeds cuboid to pyramidal and bark rough over the trunk. The other six species are *E. pellita* from coastal north Queensland and New Guinea, *E. urophylla* from Timor and other islands to the north-west of Australia, *E. notabilis* scattered in coastal and subcoastal New South Wales and south-eastern Queensland, *E. resinifera* (with two subspecies) and *E. robusta* both widespread in coastal New South Wales and Queensland, and *E. botryoides* from coastal eastern Victoria and southern New South Wales. Of these, *E. scias* is very closely related to *E. pellita*, *E. urophylla* and *E. notabilis*. All four have relatively short fat buds where the operculum is usually wider at the base than the hypanthium. It differs only marginally from *E. pellita* and *E. urophylla* by having slightly smaller adult leaves and slightly shorter umbel peduncles. On the other end of the spectrum is *E. notabilis*, which is also very close to *E. scias*. *E. scias* differs only marginally by having larger buds and



fruit. *E. resinifera* differs by having relatively long narrow buds with an acute operculum, where the base is normally not wider than the hypanthium. *E. robusta* has cylindrical fruit in which the tips of the valves are usually joined across the orifice. (In *E. scias* fruit are cup-shaped to funnel-shaped.) *E. botryoides* has sessile to shortly pedicellate oblong buds and cylindrical to barrel-shaped fruit.

There are two subspecies recognized in EUCLID.

E. scias subsp. **scias**

A medium-sized tree occurring sporadically in coastal and subcoastal ranges, principally from Narooma north to Cessnock, that has robust buds in clusters of seven. As treated here subsp. *scias* includes the more southerly subsp. *callimastha* which tends to have smaller buds often lacking a beak or apiculum on the operculum, and smaller fruit with a maximum of four valves, but the differences are slight.

E. scias subsp. **apoda**

Usually a poorly-formed tree with buds mostly in threes. Subsp. *apoda* occurs east of Tenterfield at high elevations. A population further south at Werrikimbe National Park at high elevations has somewhat smaller buds and may represent yet another subspecies.

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus scias: Greek *skias*, shade, referring to the broad-leaved crown.

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