

# *Eucalyptus squamosa*

## Scaly bark

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Destitutae | Squamosae

### Nomenclature

**Eucalyptus squamosa** H.Deane & Maiden, *Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales* 22: 561 & t. 19 (1898).

*Eucalyptus tereticornis* var. *squamosa* (H.Deane & Maiden) Maiden, *Bull. Herb. Boissier* ser. 2, 2: 574 (1902). T: National Park, NSW, 6 Jan. 1891, *J.H.Maiden s.n.*; lecto: NSW, *vide* J.H.Maiden, *Crit. Revis. Eucalyptus* 2: 237 (1912).

### Description

**Tree** to 15 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** rough throughout, tessellated, grey and red-brown.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stems round in cross-section; juvenile leaves always petiolate, opposite for 3 to 7 pairs then alternate, ovate, 4.5–10 cm long, 2–6 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, dull, green to greyish green; new growing tips often glaucous but wax not persisting on stems or leaves.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petiole 1–2.2 cm long; blade lanceolate to falcate, 6–13 cm long, 0.9–2 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, glossy or dull, green to grey-green, side-veins greater than 45° to midrib, very densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and just within margin, oil glands intersectional.

**Inflorescence** paired in axils, peduncles 0.5–1.3 cm long; buds 7, 9 or 11, pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.4 cm long). **Mature buds** ovoid (0.6–1.1 cm long, 0.3–0.5 cm wide), green to red-brown, scar present, operculum conical or beaked, stamens inflexed or irregularly flexed, anthers globoid, versatile, basifixed, dehiscence slits separate, style long, stigma tapered, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

**Fruit** pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.4 cm long), cup-shaped or hemispherical, 0.4–0.7 cm long, 0.6–0.8 cm wide, disc level, valves 3 or 4, strongly exserted.

**Seeds** brown, 1.5–2 mm long, ovoid or depressed-ovoid, often pointed at one end, dorsal surface pitted, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10):** cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); stems square in cross-section; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 3 to 6 nodes then alternate, ovate, 4.5–7.5 cm long, 2–4 cm wide, base tapering to rounded, margin entire, apex pointed, concolorous, dull, green.

### Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in March, October, November and December.

### Notes

A small to medium-sized tree of restricted distribution in subcoastal hills of central New South Wales from Picton to Broke, usually on sandstone. A rough-barked tree with small leaves, it is one of only four eucalypts that have paired inflorescences in the leaf axils. Two of these species, *E. regnans* and *E. fastigata*, are tall trees of wet forests and could not be confused with *E. squamosa*, while the species most closely related to *E. squamosa*, viz. *E. pachycalyx* from near Grafton and scattered through Queensland to west of Atherton, is completely smooth-barked. *E. squamosa*, and *E. pachycalyx* can scarcely be distinguished on buds and fruits alone.

*Eucalyptus squamosa* belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Bisectae* subsection *Destitutae* because the buds have two opercula, cotyledons are Y-shaped and branchlets lack oil glands in the pith. Within the otherwise Western Australian subsection *Destitutae*, the two eastern Australian species *E. pachycalyx* and *E. squamosa* together form series *Squamosae* which is further characterized by tree habit and paired axillary inflorescences.

### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus squamosa*: Latin *squamosus*, scaly, referring to the loose, rough bark.





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