

Eucalyptus tintinnans

Ringing gum, Hills salmon gum

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Exsertaria | Subexsertae | Applanatae

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus tintinnans (Blakely & Jacobs) L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Fl. Australia* 19: 510 (1988).



Eucalyptus platyphylla var. *tintinnans* Blakely & Jacobs in W.F. Blakely, *Key Eucalypts* 138 (1934). T: Outlier from plateau 10 miles [16 km] W of Pine Creek, Northern Territory, 27 July 1933, M.R.Jacobs 89; lecto: NSW; isolecto: CANB; *fide* L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *loc. cit.*

Description

Tree to c. 15 m tall, usually much shorter and often of straggly appearance. Deciduous during the drier months prior to the wet season. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark smooth throughout, new bark pale orange to pale creamy-pink, maturing through brilliant salmon-pink to dull grey-white and weathering to grey just before decortication.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm) : not seen.

Adult leaves alternate to sub-opposite, petioles 2.5–4.2 cm long; blade orbicular to deltoid to rarely ovate, 5.5–11 cm long, 3.5–6(8) cm wide, base broadly lobed to truncate to rounded to tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex pointed to rounded, concolorous to slightly discolourous, usually dull green to grey-green, side-veins mostly at a wider angle than 45° to the midrib, reticulation dense to very dense, intramarginal vein present, well removed from the margin, but sometimes not well formed in larger leaves, oil glands sparse intersectional or sometimes somewhat obscure.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.2–0.6 cm long, buds per umbel 7 or sometimes more than 7, sessile to shortly pedicellate (pedicels 0–0.5 cm long). **Mature buds** globular, 0.4–0.7 cm long, 0.3–0.6 cm wide, scar present, operculum rounded to shortly beaked (0.1–0.3 cm long), hypanthium sometimes with two longitudinal ridges, stamens usually inflexed, anthers oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma blunt, locules (3)4, the placenta each with 6 or more vertical rows of ovules. Flowers white.

Fruit sessile to shortly pedicellate (pedicels 0–0.3 cm long), obconical to hemispherical, non-glaucous, 0.4 cm long, 0.5–0.6 cm wide, disc raised and annular, valves (3)4, near the rim or slightly exserted.

Seeds dark brown, 1–1.5 mm long, ± flattened ovoid to obliquely pyramidal, dorsal surface shallowly reticulate, edge of seed sharply toothed, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10): not seen

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in July and September.

Notes

A small to medium-sized tree, endemic to the Top End of the Northern Territory. Usually on rises or low stony hills from the Stapleton area just south-east of Darwin, then east to the Kakadu National Park and then south to the Katherine Gorge – Beswick area. Characterised by the smooth, brilliant coloured, newly exposed salmon-pink bark, the deltoid adult leaves, the globular buds and hemispherical to obconical fruit with a raised annular disc.

Eucalyptus tintinnans belongs to a small group of species closely related to the red gums (*Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Exsertaria* series *Subexsertae* subseries *Applanatae*). Subseries *Applanatae* is distinguished by having pale smooth powdery bark in season with newly exposed bark uniformly highly coloured, adult leaves with dense to very dense venation and oil glands intersectional, or absent, buds with inflexed stamens, fruit with an annular disc, and more or less flattened, toothed seeds with a ventral hilum. Other members of this group are *E. bigalerita*, *E. platyphylla*, *E. alba*, *E. apodophylla* and *E. houseana*.

Within this group, *E. tintinnans* is closest to *E. bigalerita* and *E. platyphylla* because all three species have relatively large deltoid adult leaves. They are weakly separated from each other by the size of the adult leaves, the buds and fruit. (The adult leaves in *E. bigalerita* are



normally wider than 6 cm but narrower than 6 cm in *E. tintinnans* and the fruit in *E. bigalerita* and *E. platyphylla* usually wider than 0.6 cm but 0.6 cm or narrower in *E. tintinnans*, although some overlap does sometimes occur.) In the Northern Territory, *E. tintinnans* and *E. bigalerita* can also be separated by the habitat in which both grow. *E. tintinnans* is a small tree of the stony hills, while *E. bigalerita* is normally a well formed tree growing in heavy soils on the lower, flat country. The only other species in this group that may be confused with *E. tintinnans* is *E. alba* var. *australasica*. It can be distinguished by having broadly lanceolate to ovate adult leaves, in contrast to the deltoid or orbicular leaves of *E. tintinnans*. *E. apodophylla* and *E. houseana* are easily separated on adult leaf shape, colour and size. *E. houseana* has dull, long, lanceolate adult leaves always narrower than 4.5 cm and *E. apodophylla* has opposite, sessile to very shortly petiolate, glaucous to grey-green adult leaves (*E. tintinnans* usually alternate, dull green, distinctly petiolate and deltoid).

Because of its distinctly petiolate, deltoid adult leaves, *E. tintinnans* cannot be confused with any other white gums growing within its area of occurrence, i.e. *E. brevifolia*, *E. glomericaensis*, *E. herbertiana*, *E. leucophloia* and *E. umbrawarrensensis*. All these have smaller or narrower lanceolate to ovate adult leaves.

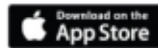
(The relationships between *Eucalyptus alba* var. *alba*, *E. alba* var. *australasica*, *E. bigalerita*, *E. hallii*, *E. platyphylla* and *E. tintinnans* need further investigation. *E. alba* var. *alba*, *E. bigalerita*, *E. platyphylla* and *E. tintinnans* are all very similar and the taxonomy, largely based on the size of adult leaves, buds and fruit, does not appear to work across the full range for this group. It maybe better that all four species be placed in one variable taxon, using the oldest name, *Eucalyptus alba*. Such a revision is beyond the scope of EUCLID, thus we have adopted the current curatorial status for this group.)

MORE ABOUT RED GUMS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED GROUPS

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus tintinnans: Latin *tintinno*, make a ringing sound, referring to the sound that many of the hollow trees give out when struck with an axe.

Copyright © CANBR 2020, all rights reserved.



Web edition hosted at <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/euclid>