

Eucalyptus umbrawarrensis

Umbrawarra gum

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Platysperma

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus umbrawarrensis Maiden, *Crit. Revis. Eucalyptus* 6: 257 (1922).



T: Northern Territory: Umbrawarra, 5 July 1916, *H.I. Jensen 412*; holo: NSW; iso: CANB, BRI.

Description

Tree to 18 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark smooth and powdery throughout, new bark pale yellow to pale pink to pale orange, ageing to white.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stems square to round in cross-section, not glaucous; juvenile leaves always petiolate, alternate, ovate, 4–10 cm long, 3–6.5 cm wide, base rounded, blue-green to green.

Adult leaves alternate, petioles 0.6–1.5 cm long; blade narrowly lanceolate, 6–12 cm long, 0.6–2.2 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex pointed, concolorous, glossy green, side-veins acute or at a wider angle than 45° to the midrib, reticulation dense to very dense, intramarginal vein close to margin, oil glands apparently absent.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.4–0.8 cm long, buds per umbel 7, pedicellate (pedicels 0.2 cm long). **Mature buds** ovoid to fusiform, 0.5–0.8 cm long, 0.25–0.3 cm wide, scar present, operculum conical to beaked (0.2–0.35 cm long), stamens irregularly inflexed, anthers oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma blunt, locules 3(4), the placentae each with 6 or more vertical rows of ovules. Flowers white.

Fruit pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.4 cm long), cup-shaped to barrel-shaped, non-glaucous, 0.3–0.5 cm long, 0.3–0.4 cm wide, disc vertically descending, valves 3(4), near the rim or slightly exerted.

Seeds brown to yellowy brown, 1–2 mm long, flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface shallowly reticulate, edge of seed smooth, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10): cotyledons bilobed to kidney-shaped, often only shallowly indented at the apex; stems square in cross-section, slightly glaucous; leaves always petiolate, opposite for c. 3–8 nodes then alternate, ovate, 4.5–7 cm long, 2.5–4 cm wide, concolorous, grey-green to slightly glaucous.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in January and October.

Notes

A small to medium-sized tree, endemic to the Top End and the Victoria River district of the Northern Territory, on sandstone ridges and escarpments from the Willeroo – Top Springs area, east to the Pine Creek – Mainoru area. Characterised by the smooth white powdery bark, glossy adult leaves and fruit with a narrow descending disc.

Eucalyptus umbrawarrensis belongs in a group of species that are distinguished by having smooth bark, very dense reticulation in the adult leaves and flat, flattened-ovoid, non-toothed, pale yellow-brown to brown seeds with a ventral hilum. The other members of this group are *E. kenneallyi*, *E. rupestris*, *E. leucophloia*, *E. confluens*, *E. brevifolia* and *E. ordiana*.

Within this group, *E. umbrawarrensis* and *E. confluens* are the only two species with glossy green adult leaves. These two species can be easily separated by the disc of the fruit. *E. umbrawarrensis* has a narrow descending disc and *E. confluens* (like *E. brevifolia*) has a broad flat to slightly ascending disc. *E. brevifolia*, *E. kenneallyi*, *E. leucophloia*, *E. ordiana* and *E. rupestris* all have dull adult leaves.

Within its area of occurrence, *E. umbrawarrensis* maybe confused with other closely related white gums, i.e. *E. apodophylla*, *E. cupularis*, *E. glomericassis*, *E. gregoriensis* and *E. herbertiana*. *E. apodophylla* is easily distinguished by having relatively large, dull, opposite leaves



in the mature crown (usually > 4 cm wide in *E. apodophylla* but much smaller, usually narrower than 2.5 cm wide, alternate and glossy in *E. umbrawarrens*). *E. cupularis* and *E. herbertiana* are distinguished by having long lanceolate, dull adult leaves (usually longer than 10 cm in *E. cupularis* and *E. herbertiana* but narrowly lanceolate, glossy and less than 12 cm in *E. umbrawarrens*). *E. herbertiana* can be further distinguished by its fruit valves which are prominently exerted and only slightly exerted in *E. umbrawarrens*. *E. gregoriensis* is dull leaved in the mature crown and three-budded in each umbel. (*E. umbrawarrens* has glossy leaves and is seven-budded.) Like *E. umbrawarrens*, *E. glomericassis* also has glossy green adult leaves. These two species can be separated on fruit width and disc shape. *E. umbrawarrens* has smaller fruit 0.4 cm or slightly less and a narrow descending disc, while *E. glomericassis* has broader fruit, 0.6 cm or slightly larger and a flat to ascending disc.

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Origin of Name

Eucalyptus umbrawarrens: referring to the locality of Umbrawarra, Northern Territory.

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