

# *Eucalyptus barberi*



*Eucalyptus barberi* flowers.  
Photographs: M. Hanson.

**FAMILY:** MYRTACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Eucalyptus barberi*,  
L.A.S.Johnson & Blaxell, *Contr. N.S.W. Natl.  
Herb.* 4: 288 (1972)

**COMMON NAME:** Barbers gum

**COMMONWEALTH STATUS:** (*EPBC Act*)  
Not Listed

**TASMANIAN STATUS:** (*TSP Act*) rare

## Description

A shrubby plant with several stems from the base and no main trunk between 1-5 metres tall, or a small tree 6-8 metres tall. The bark is smooth, light grey and shed in irregular ribbons. In small trees, the bark is sometimes persistent and fibrous near the base. **Leaves:** The juvenile leaves are green, arranged oppositely along the stem and shortly stalked with a blunt apex and conspicuous oil glands. The stem is reddish and has a nodular or wart-like surface. The adult leaves are arranged alternately, slightly sickle-shaped, between 5-12 cm long and 1.5 to 2 cm broad with the tip narrowing to a point. They have a leathery texture and the intra-marginal vein is prominent. **Flower arrangement:** The flower groups (umbels) are 7 flowered and borne in the leaf axils (where the stem meets the leaf) on stalks between 5-15 mm long. The buds are cylindrical or urn-shaped, with a lid (operculum) that is conical or bearing a small knob in the centre. The main flowering period appears to be from March to August, broadly peaking between April and July. **Fruit:** The capsule is cylindrical or urn shaped, between 6-12 mm long and 6-8 mm in diameter. **Confusing species:** This species is distinguished from other *Eucalyptus* species by the shape and size of its capsules. *Eucalyptus barberi* is known to hybridise with *Eucalyptus ovata* (Curtis & Morris 1975, Kirkpatrick 1991, Williams & Potts 1996).

## Distribution and Habitat

This species is endemic to Tasmania and is found around eastern Tasmania on the edges of dolerite rock plates in dry sclerophyll forest and scrub (Kirkpatrick 1991, L. Gilfedder. pers. comm.).

## Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include the Douglas Apsley National Park and Blindburn Creek National Park.



Morphologically aberrant populations at Meredith Tier and Pony Bottom Creek also deserve conservation measures (McEntee *et al.* 1994).

### **Known Reserves**

Reserved in the Apslawn Forest Reserve, Apsley Conservation Area, Butlers Ridge Nature Reserve, Buxton River Forest Reserve, Cape Bernier Nature Reserve, Cygnet River Forest Reserve, Douglas-Apsley National Park, Eastern Tiers Forest Reserve, Freycinet National Park, Lost Falls Forest Reserve, Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve, Shingle Hill Forest Reserve, Swan River Forest Reserve, Three Thumbs State Reserve, Wye River State Reserve.

### **Ecology and Management**

This species shares the fire resistant characteristics common to most eucalypt species. It is able to resprout after damage from lignotubers and epicormic buds and holds seed in persistent capsules. Frequent fire and intensive grazing may remove this species from a site (Kirkpatrick 1991). This species is also threatened by clearing.

Birds and insects are the most likely pollination vectors for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

### **Conservation Status Assessment**

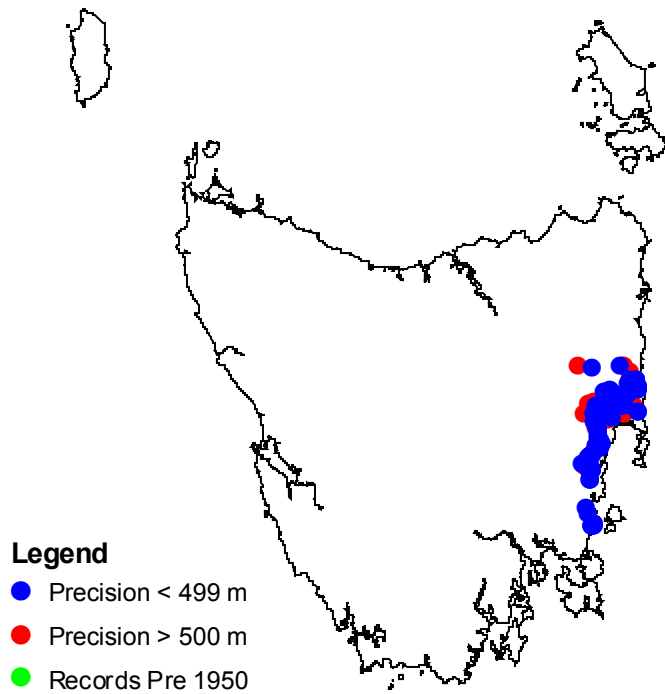
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Eucalyptus barberi*.

### **Further Information**

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 1, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1991, *Tasmanian Native Bush: A Management Handbook*, Tasmanian Environment Centre, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB, Brown, MJ & Moscal, A 1980, *Threatened Plants of the Tasmanian Central East Coast*, Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Hobart.
- McEntee, AC, Potts, BM & Reid, JB 1994, 'Variations in *Eucalyptus barberi* Johnson & Blaxnell', *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, vol.128, pp.21-30.
- Williams, KJ & Potts BM 1996, 'The Natural Distribution of *Eucalyptus* species in Tasmania', *Tasforests* (December 1996), Forestry Tasmania, Hobart.

## Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



### 1:25 000 Map Sheets

Apslawn, Bicheno, Colonels, Cranbrook, Friendly, Henry, Leake, Lodi, Mayfield, Orford, Ravensdale, Royalty, Sandspit, Snow, St John, St Pauls Dome, Tooms.

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