

Eucalyptus radiata subsp. *radiata*



Eucalyptus radiata subsp. *radiata* .
M. Wapstra.

FAMILY: MYRTACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Eucalyptus radiata*
Sieber ex DC subsp. *radiata*, *Prodr.* [A. P. de
Candolle] 3: 218 (1828)

COMMON NAME: forth river peppermint

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A medium to tall tree with an unspecified height in Tasmania (recorded as 12-45 metres in Victoria and New South Wales) with a long, straight unbranched main trunk. The bark is grey-brown and relatively fibrous. This species is very similar to *Eucalyptus amygdalina* (black peppermint) however, unlike *Eucalyptus nitida* (Smithton peppermint), which is smooth and pale above a stocking of fibrous bark. **Stems:** The stems of seedling and juvenile plants are sometimes covered with raised reddish oil glands that are rough to the touch. **Leaves:** The juvenile leaves are soft and flexible, green, stalkless, and arranged in opposite pairs along the stem. They have pointed tips and are broad rather than narrow linear in shape. The adult leaves are lance-shaped, shortly stalked, flexible, olive green and alternately arranged along the stem. When dried, the venation of both juvenile and adult leaves often becomes reddish. **Fruit:** The fruit is a small bud, which is shortly stalked and club-like in shape with a slightly pointed tip. There are between 8-16 buds in clusters on each flowering part. **Confusing species:** Basic characteristics that separate this species from other peppermints are included in a simple key by Fred Duncan - if the adult tree has bark less than half way up the trunk it is *Eucalyptus nitida*. If the bark is more than half way up the trunk and the juvenile leaves are lance shaped (generally under 12 mm wide at the widest point) then it is *Eucalyptus amygdalina*. Similarly, if bark is more than half way up the trunk and the leaves are broadly lance shaped to elliptic (over 15 mm wide at the widest point) then it is *Eucalyptus radiata* subsp. *radiata* (description from Hopkins 2000). Recent research indicates that this taxon shares greater affinities with *Eucalyptus radiata* subsp. *radiata*, which occurs in central Victoria and south-east New South Wales (Hopkins 2000, D. Rankin pers. comm.) than other subspecies

of *Eucalyptus radiata*. No other subspecies of *Eucalyptus radiata* are found in Tasmania. **This taxon was previously known as *Eucalyptus radiata* subsp. *robertsonii*.**

Distribution and Habitat

Eucalyptus radiata subsp. *radiata* is largely restricted to the mid to upper sections of the Forth River catchment. It occurs on basalt, granite, quartzite, sediments and metamorphic substrates and inhabits forest types from dry sclerophyll to wet sclerophyll. There is also evidence that this species has hybridised, leading to outlying stands in the Mersey catchment (Hopkins 2000). No other subspecies of *Eucalyptus radiata* are found in Tasmania.

Ecology and Management

This species recruits from canopy borne seed that is released after fire and other gap-forming disturbance. It can also resprout from lignotubers and epicormic buds after fire and damage. The main threats include habitat loss from hydro-electric development and agricultural and general forest clearing. Surveys of logged coupes that had developed into native forest indicated that *Eucalyptus radiata* subsp. *radiata* has regenerated well from seedlings and coppice (TPLUC 1996, Hopkins 2000).

Insects are the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

Conservation Status Assessment

There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Eucalyptus radiata* subsp. *radiata*.

Further Information

- Costermans, L 1981, *Native trees and Shrubs of South-eastern Australia*, Rigby, Australia.
- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 1, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Hopkins, K 2000, *Description, Distribution and Management of Eucalyptus radiata: A Report to the Mersey District*, Forestry Tasmania, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1991, *Tasmanian Native Bush: A Management Handbook*, Tasmanian Environment Centre, Hobart.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.
- Williams, KJ & Potts, BM 1996, 'The Natural Distribution of *Eucalyptus* Species in Tasmania', *Tasforests*, Vol.8, pp.39-149.

Preceding text last modified 3/9/2003.

Following updated 13/10/2016.

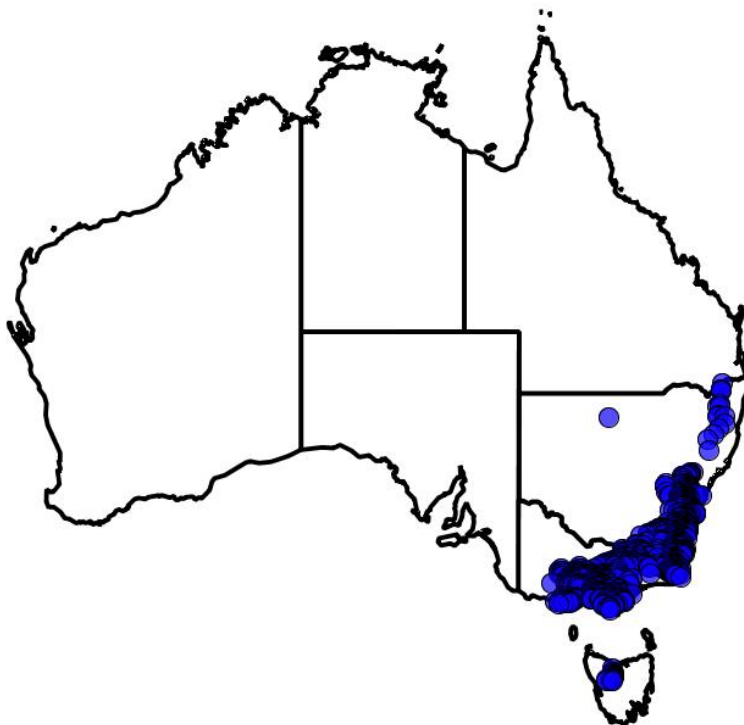
Survey Time and Habitat Guide (black = best, dark grey = possible, light grey with slash=poor time to survey, as guided by collection dates of specimens and records)

<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i> subsp. <i>radiata</i>	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
forth river peppermint	S S O O N N D D J J F F M M A A M M J J J J A A			

- This medium to tall tree can be identified at any time of the year though mature trees (with capsules) and juvenile leaves are required to confirm the identity of this species. The species intergrades with *Eucalyptus amygdalina* and *Eucalyptus nitida*.
- *Eucalyptus radiata* subsp. *radiata* is largely restricted to the middle and upper sections of the Forth River catchment where it occurs on basalt, granite, quartzite, sediments and metamorphic substrates. . It is present as a dominant or co-dominant in dry sclerophyll and damp sclerophyll forest, and in taller wet sclerophyll forest on more favourable sites (typically lower slopes of major river valleys)..

Distribution

(Atlas of Living Australia 13/10/2016)

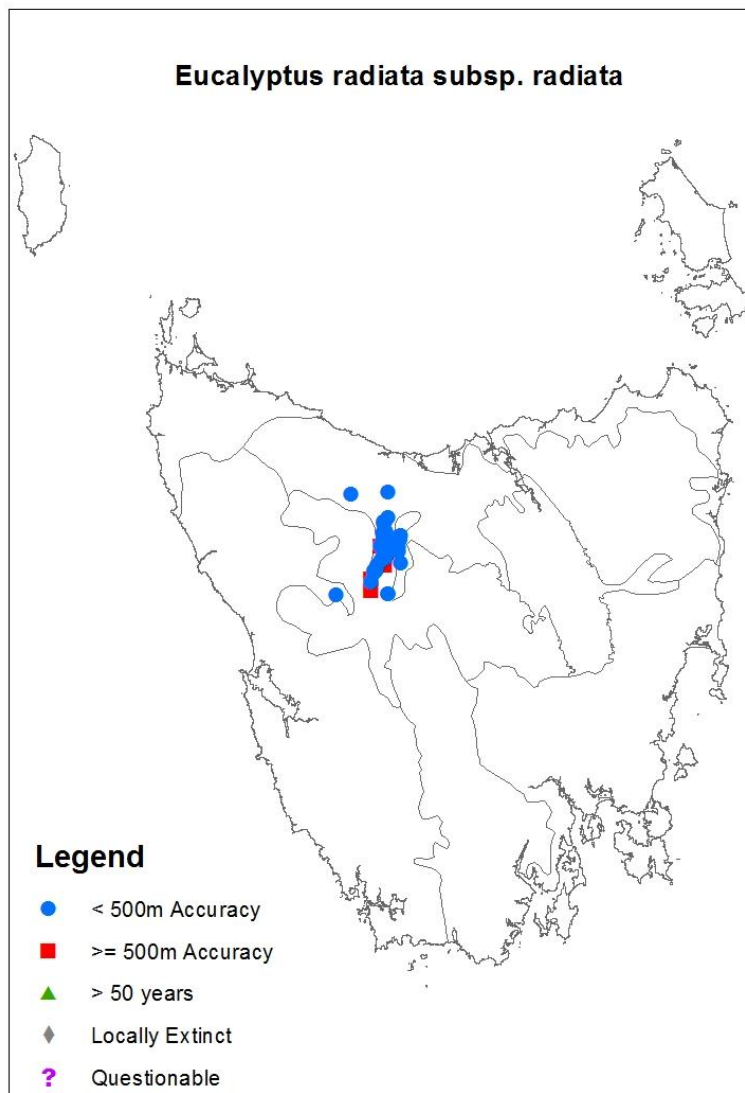


Known Reserves

Reserved in Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park and Mole Creek National Park. It also occurs on one private property in an area covered by a conservation covenant under the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

Tasmanian Distribution

(Natural Values Atlas May 2015)



Cite as:

Threatened Species Section (2016). *Notesheet for Eucalyptus radiata subsp. radiata (forth river peppermint)*. Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania.

View

<http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists>

Contact details

Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7001. Phone (03) 6165 4340.

Permit

It is an offence to collect, disturb, damage or destroy this species unless under permit.