

ON AN ADDITIONAL BLUE-LEAF STRINGYBARK.

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[Read before the Royal Society of N. S. Wales, December 7, 1921.]

E. AGGLOMERATA n. sp.

Arbor mediocris "Stringybark" vocata, ligno pallido durabili; foliis junioribus primum leniter tomentosus deinde hispidis pilis stellatis, sessilibus vel breviter petiolatis, ovatis, marginibus undulatis, venis secundariis tenuibus, venis periphericis margine leniter remotis. Foliis maturis lanceolatis, falcatis, sub-obliquis, petiolatis, crassiusculis, foliis novellis argenteis vel cæsiis; venis patentibus, venis secundariis angulum circiter 30° costa formantibus alabastris angustis, rotundatis, stellatis, in pedunculo applanato; operculo calycis tubum plus dimidio æquante; fructibus parvis compresso-spheroidibus, ad 9 in capitulo, orificio parvo margine nitente, valvis depressis vel interdum leniter exsertis.

The name *agglomerata* refers to the crowded heads of fruits, and was first used by me in connection with this plant (as a variety of *E. eugenioides*) in Agric. Gaz. N.S.W., VII, 268 (1896), subsequently in Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., XXI, 806 (1896). I then dealt with it under *E. capitellata* in my "Critical Revision," Part VIII, p. 215, and in the same work, Part XLV, p. 151, under *E. Blaxlandi*, and the tree has now reached its true position.

Illustrations.—It has been figured as regards juvenile leaves and fruits, at 6a and 6b of Plate 38, Part VIII of my "Critical Revision," and it will be additionally illustrated in that work.

A well-shaped tree of 50–80 feet, and 4–6 feet in diameter at 3 feet from the ground. A Stringybark. The timber pale brown, reddish towards the centre, of high

repute for durability. The whole plant has a somewhat strong peppermint-like odour.

Juvenile leaves.—Only the first two or three pairs opposite, at first softly tomentose with stellate hairs, eventually becoming markedly hispid on both surfaces; sessile to shortly petiolate, ovate, acute, paler on the lower surface, the margins undulate; secondary veins fine, looping and forming a moderately distant intramarginal vein; 4–7 cm. long, 2–4 cm. broad.

Intermediate leaves alternate, smooth, from paler beneath to dark green on both surfaces, narrow lanceolate to broadly, and obliquely lanceolate, the apex mucronate to shortly acuminate, 5–8 cm. long, 2–4 cm. broad.

Mature leaves lanceolate, falcate, attenuate, somewhat oblique, occasionally oblong lanceolate, from 10–15 cm. long, and 2 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ cm. broad; petiolate, thickish, equally green on both sides, but particularly in the upper part of the tree, having a steel-grey or “silver-leaf” cast, hence the vernacular name. Venation spreading, the secondary veins making an angle of about 30° with the midrib, the intramarginal vein not close to the edge.

Flowers.—Buds narrow, rounded, or only very slightly angled, stellately arranged, pinkish or brownish at the base when fresh, up to 14 in the head, sessile or nearly so, on an elongated flattened peduncle. Operculum pointed, more than half the length of the calyx-tube.

Fruits small, under 8 mm. in greatest diameter, compressed spheroid, with a comparatively small orifice, the rim shining, reddish-brown, the valves well sunk, or sometimes very slightly exsert; up to 9 in a dense head.

Range.

Type from Hill Top, New South Wales (J.H.M., January, 1896).

In Part XLV, p. 151, (under *E. Blaxlandi*) the following specimens should be referred to *E. agglomerata*:—

Waterfall (with *E. capitellata*), Woronora, Hill Top, Berrima, Berrima on Mittagong Road, Wombeyan Caves, Taralga Road (with slightly exsert valves); (ibid., p. 152), Goulburn, near Goulburn, Eden, Popran, Yarramalong, near Booral.

In addition to the above, the following are new records: "Blue-leaved Stringbark," Out Hill, Mittagong (D. W. Shiress). "Blue-leaved Stringy Bark, sometimes up to 5 feet in diameter. About 12 miles west of Sutton Forest, towards Arthursleigh," (R. H. Cambage, No. 4349). "White Stringybark."—Tall trees, white bark, good timber, leaves bluish tint, easily determined from "red" (Stringybark) in the bush by the more robust growth." Nye's Hill, Wingello (J. L. Boorman, August, 1899). Same locality (J.H.M. and J. L. Boorman, September, 1899), when I determined it "*E. capitellata*, small fruited form."

Nelligen (J. L. Boorman, June, 1906), "The most useful of all the Stringybarks, being cut for all purposes, especially for weatherboards and fencing. Attains large size and height." Clyde. near Nelligen (J. L. Boorman, March, 1909); "On a sedimentary deposit at about 900 feet, a few miles east from between Nelligen and Reidsdale. Locally known as Stringy bark" (F. W. Wakefield, No. 27, 1918).

Summing up these records, the species is at present known only from the coastal districts and coastal tablelands of New South Wales, from Booral (Port Stephens district) southward to the Victorian border. It can be confidently predicted to occur in Gippsland, Victoria, and to occur much further north in New South Wales.

Affinities.

It may be compared with certain other Stringybarks as follows:—

1. With *E. Blaxlandi* Maiden and Cambage. In the early juvenile leaves, which are rather larger in *E. agglomerata*, and in the stellate buds and smaller closely capitate fruits. The buds of *E. Blaxlandi* are clavate. In outward appearance both species have much in common.

2. With *E. capitellata* Sm. *E. agglomerata* appears to differ in the following characters:—

(i.) Smaller and more stellate juvenile leaves, the margins of which are undulate or crenulate. They are also less cordate. They appear to be intermediate between those of *E. Blaxlandi* and *E. capitellata*, i.e., larger than the former, smaller than the latter.

(ii.) In the *E. eugenioides*-like buds, with its longer operculum.

(iii.) In the smaller and more contracted fruits.

3. With *E. eugenioides* Sieb. The juvenile leaves are intermediate between *E. eugenioides* (which have the narrowest of the Stringybarks) and *E. Blaxlandi*, but nearer the latter, and considerably smaller than those of *E. capitellata*. The buds more closely resemble those of *E. eugenioides* than those of *E. capitellata*. They are stellate like the former.

In the type locality, *E. eugenioides* grows in flatter country.

4. With *E. lævopinea* R. T. Baker. They are both Blue-leaf Stringybarks. With *E. lævopinea* the affinity is not quite so close as in the three preceding species, nevertheless, the general facies of *E. lævopinea* is reflected in the essential morphological characters of the new species, with varying degrees of similarity. For example, at one stage, the buds of *E. lævopinea* are between stellate and clavate, while the fruits, though invariably rounded, vary from truncate to domed with slightly exsert valves, but, at the same time showing a tendency towards abbreviated and elongated pedicels. The juvenile leaves too, though not conspicuously stellate, as in *E. agglomerata*, are inclined to broadness.



Maiden, J. H. 1921. "An additional blue-leaf stringybark." *Journal and proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales* 55, 266–269.
<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.359800>.

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