

Eucalyptus tindaliae (Queensland White Stringybark)

When Arthur Harrold was studying the flora of the Noosa – Cooloola area over fifty years ago, Qld. White Stringybark was classified as *Eucalyptus nigra* in reference to its dark timber. Whether that name was changed because some may have understandably been offended by it I can't say, but *E. nigra* does not seem to be listed as a synonym of the botanical name which superseded it, *Eucalyptus tindaliae*. The type specimen of the species was collected in the Richmond River area of northern N.S.W. which might explain how it came to be named after Anne Tindal, a member of a pioneering farming family from the Casino – Grafton area of northern N.S.W. who had a strong interest in her local flora.

E. tindaliae is a true stringybark, with long fibred, rough bark, grey-brown in colour, longitudinally fissured and persistent to small branches.

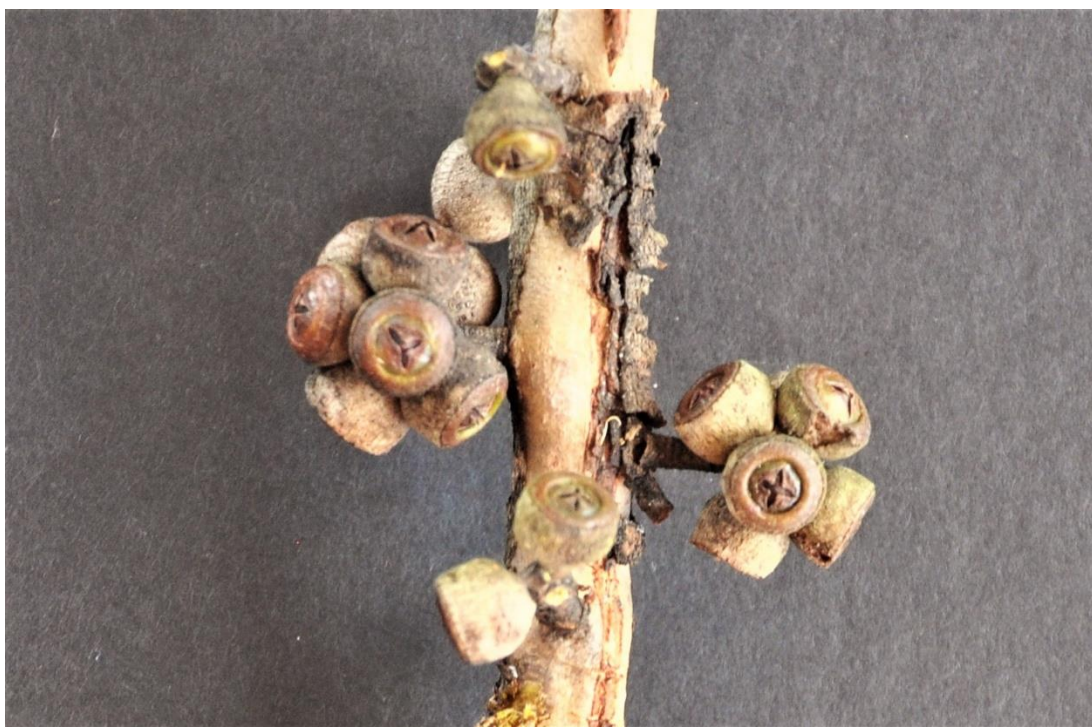


The tree's distribution is mainly coastal from Coffs Harbour to Maryborough, is absent in drier parts north of there, then reoccurs from Townsville to Cooktown but at higher altitudes. It is common on the Sunshine Coast where it is found on the slopes of ranges and tablelands with moderate drainage and in sandy wallum woodlands. There is a community of mallees on the exposed slopes of Mt. Tibrogargan.

The axillary flowers can be seen in late summer and autumn.



The small, pointed buds form in tight clusters and are sessile, i.e., without stalks, causing the hemi-spherical fruits which follow to be crowded, often distorting their shape. The prominent convex rim is a useful diagnostic feature.



Another distinctive feature of the tree is its silvery canopy of leaves standing out against the green of its neighbours.



Like many stringybarks, mainly from more southern, drier parts of the country where a larger variety of species occurs, Qld. White Stringybark provides us with a first-class construction timber, strong and durable and suitable for house framing and flooring. When our house was built in the late 1980s, Linda and I had the option to use hardwood framing. A more common choice was pine treated with CCA (chromated copper arsenate), termite and fungus resistant, light and easy to work with but, among other problems, producing toxic smoke and ash when burnt. Its use in structures where contact is frequent such as playground equipment and outdoor furniture has been prohibited in Australia since 2006 but CCA treated pine is still readily available to the public. Its use also of course necessitates the planting of exotic pine plantations. I'd love to see plantations of the beautiful Qld. White Stringybark instead.

Robert M Price, May, 2021