

Corymbia gummifera - Red Bloodwood

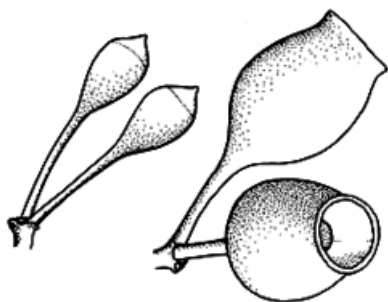
Family:
Myrtaceae

Common Name:
Red Bloodwood (Syn. *Eucalyptus gummifera*)

Distribution:
Coastal NSW extending from Victoria into Queensland. In HSC; one of the most widespread species of tree occurring in Communities N (7.9ha), TI (295ha), DF (15.5ha), L1 (837.3ha), Q1 (271.1ha), Q2 (6.6ha), SS (4.7ha), A (5579.4ha), C (638.4ha), E (46.5ha) F (1289.6ha), S (62.3 ha), B (93.4ha), D (4408.7ha) & G (657.7ha).

Derivation of Name:
Corymbia; Latin, 'corymbium', with reference to the terminal floral clusters called a corymb. ***gummifera***; Latin, referring to the gum production that characterises this species.

Conservation Status:
Although this species is widespread and generally adequately conserved in HSC it is in heavy decline in certain vegetation communities where fire has been absent for many decades, this includes communities- TI, L1 and Q2; these areas are often comprised of fragmented small reserves within a mosaic of urban development.



Description:
Medium to tall tree (rarely in HSC) to 25m (grows to 45m outside HSC); height is correlated to soil fertility and exposure. Bark is heavy and tessellated/scaly in appearance, dark in colour if subjected to bushfires otherwise light brown often with obvious wounds exuding heavy thick resinous red sap (kino), only outer smaller limbs are smooth barked. Leaves are thick dark green in colour and discolorous, lanceolate 10–16 cm long, 2–4 cm wide, often held on the ends of branches in thick heads. Flowers are generally produced in heavy events in late summer through early autumn. They are white or creamy in colour on terminal branchlets. Fruit is a distinctive urn shaped capsule.

Longevity:
Over 100 years.

Horticultural Merit and uses:
A fast growing tree suitable for use as a street tree and park planting. Tolerates a wide variety of soils provided adequate moisture is available in the establishment period. Flowers are quite ornamental and showy since they are produced on the outside of the canopy

Fauna Value:
Copious nectar production attracts a wide range of both invertebrate and vertebrate fauna. Fruit (seed) eaten by cockatoos. Glider possums actively scar this tree's trunk and branches to access the sap flow for food. Older trees develop hollow bearing branches which provide breeding and roosting opportunities for a diverse range of species.









