

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



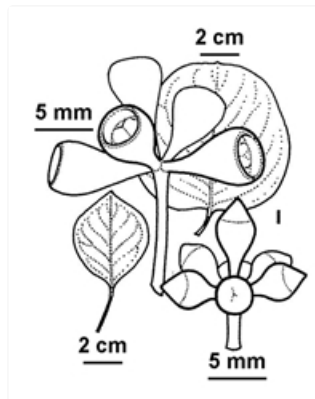
Flower buds and leaves (subsp. *polyanthemos*).  
Photographer Jackie Miles, Queanbeyan



Seedling (subsp. *vestita*). Photographer Jackie Miles



Tree. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer  
Murray Fagg, Mudjarr Nature Reserve near Tumut



Line drawings (subsp. *vestita*). h. juvenile (right) and  
adult (left) leaves; buds and gumnuts. KR Thiele,  
Australian National Herbarium, © 2021 Royal Botanic  
Gardens Board, Melbourne, Vic

## Common name

Red box

## Family

Myrtaceae

## Where found

Dry **forest** and **woodland**.

subsp. *polyanthemos*: Tablelands, ACT, and Western Slopes. Coast and ranges south of Bega. Occasionally elsewhere.

subsp. *vestita*: Western Slopes and east to the western edge of Kosciuszko National Park. Coast, ranges, and tablelands, south of Bega. Occasionally elsewhere.

## Notes

Tree to 20 m high. Bark smooth throughout, or with plates or flakes of rough fibrous-flaky ('box'), bark at the base of the trunk, or rough on the trunk and branches, grey or mottled with grey and white patches. Smooth bark shedding in short ribbons or flakes. Branchlets **glaucous** or non-glaucous. Juvenile leaves opposite each other for 4-6 pairs and then **alternating** up the stems, 2.5-8 cm long, 18-65 mm wide, dull green to blue-grey, blue-green or grey-green, occasionally glaucous. **Crown** often of **juvenile** to **intermediate** leaves. Crown leaves alternating up the stems, 3-11 cm long, 15-63 mm wide, dull, green to blue-green or grey-green, or glaucous. Flowers white, with 0 **petals**. Flower clusters 5-7 flowered, forming large **compound** clusters at the ends of the branchlets, occasionally single flower clusters at the bases of the leaves. Mature flower buds 3-6 mm long, caps shorter than the base. Outer **stamens** not producing pollen. Flowers winter-summer. Gumnuts 3-6 mm in diameter. Gumnuts that have dropped their seed have **valves** that are not very noticeable.

**subsp. polyanthemos**: Bark mostly smooth, shedding in large plates or **scales**. Bark sometimes irregularly rough at the base of the trunk.

All native plants on unleased land in the ACT are protected.

EUCLID description:

[https://apps.lucidcentral.org/euclid/text/entities/eucalyptus\\_polyanthemos\\_subsp.\\_polyanthemos.htm](https://apps.lucidcentral.org/euclid/text/entities/eucalyptus_polyanthemos_subsp._polyanthemos.htm) (accessed 22 January, 2021)

**subsp. vestita**: Bark rough, 'box', on the trunk and larger branches.

EUCLID description:

[https://apps.lucidcentral.org/euclid/text/entities/eucalyptus\\_polyanthemos\\_subsp.\\_vestita.htm](https://apps.lucidcentral.org/euclid/text/entities/eucalyptus_polyanthemos_subsp._vestita.htm) (accessed 22 January, 2021)

PlantNET description of species and key to subspecies: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Eucalyptus-polyanthemos> (accessed 22 January, 2021)

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*This identification key and fact sheets are available as a free mobile application:*



*Android edition*



*iOS edition*