

Eucalyptus perriniana



Eucalyptus perriniana. R. Barbour.

FAMILY: MYRTACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Eucalyptus perriniana*,
F.Muell. ex Rodway, *Pap. Proc. R. Soc. Tasm.*
1893: 181 (1894)

COMMON NAME: Spinning gum

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A small tree with either a mallee habit or a single trunk, up to 6 m tall. All plant parts have a distinct matt bluish-green colour (glaucous). The bark is deciduous, the trunk can be scaly at the base and smooth and blotched above. **Leaves:** The juvenile leaves are arranged in opposite pairs along the stem and are very glaucous. These leaves have no stalk and the base is wrapped around the stem. The leaves are either rounded, egg or heart-shaped with the tip of the leaf being rounded or with sharp point. The pair of leaves together measure between 6-12 cm long. The adult foliage is arranged alternately on the stem, and is stalked, glaucous and lance to sickle-shaped. The tip of the leaf is pointed or tapers to a point and is between 7-12 cm long and 1.2-2.5 cm broad. **Floral arrangement:** The flowering part (umbel) sometimes forms in the leaf axils (where stem meets leaves). They are 3 flowered, stalked and between 2-5 mm long. The operculum (lid like structure) is conical to nearly spherical in shape and is shorter than the receptacle (parts from which flowers arise). Flowers from November to May, with peak flowering in February-March. **Fruit:** The capsule is glaucous, nearly spherical or cylindrical 5-6 mm in diameter. The openings on the upper surface of the capsule are enclosed or the tips are protruding (description from Curtis 1975, Williams & Potts 1996).

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. In Tasmania, *Eucalyptus perriniana* is found locally in the Southern Midlands at Tunnack, Pelham Tier and Strickland at altitudes of 500 – 600 metres (Curtis 1975, TPLUC 1996). The habitat is sedgy dry sclerophyll woodland dominated by *Eucalyptus tenuiramis*, where *Eucalyptus perriniana* coexists and

intergrades with *Eucalyptus rodwayi*. The plants are seasonally inundated in marshy hollows and are prone to severe frosts (Williams & Potts 1996).

Key Sites and Populations

There are 3 populations with a total of approximately 1 000 individuals (TPLUC 1996).

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Duckholes Lagoons Nature Reserve, Spinning Gum Conservation Area and the Strickland Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

Eucalyptus perriniana requires fire to recruit seed that is stored in the canopy and is able to regenerate from lignotubers and epicormic buds following fire and other damage. Threats to this species include road building, as this activity causes an increase in fire frequency, which affects seed production in *Eucalyptus perriniana*. However, an appropriate fire regime is vital as it reduces competition from other plant species.

Management recommendations seek to establish the number of individuals in each stand so as to monitor the populations on a long-term basis. The recommendations include the avoidance of frequent firing (TPLUC 1996).

An interesting property of *Eucalyptus perriniana* is its tolerance to frost.

Birds and insects are the most likely pollination vectors for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

Conservation Status Assessment

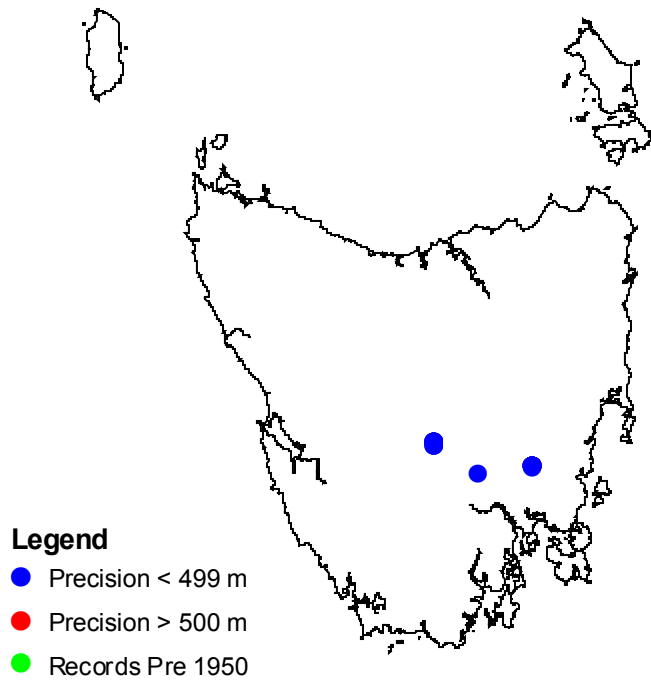
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Eucalyptus perriniana*. Differences from populations on the mainland may warrant description of the Tasmanian occurrence as a separate taxon, in which case it would qualify for listing at the National level as Vulnerable due to the low number of populations.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 1, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.
- Wiltshire, RE & Reid, JB 1987, 'Genetic Variation in the Spinning Gum, *Eucalyptus perriniana*', *Australian Journal of Botany*, vol.35, pp.33-47.
- Williams, KJ & Potts BM 1996, 'The Natural Distribution of *Eucalyptus* species in Tasmania', *Tasforests* (December 1996), Forestry Tasmania, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Colebrook, Dee, Elderslie, Strickland.

Date last modified: 28/08/03