

NZ Myrtaceae Key - Online edition

Angophora costata (Gaertn.) Britten

Common Names

rusty gum, smooth-barked angophora, smooth-barked apple, Sydney red gum

Origin

Australia: New South Wales, central coastal Victoria.

Cultivation

In New Zealand cultivated as a landscape tree of parks and gardens; occasionally naturalised from nearby planted specimens.

Distribution

Scattered records from the North Island and northern South Island of New Zealand.

Distinguishing Features

- With distinctive smooth, orange or pink trunk when bark has been newly shed, fading to light grey in winter.
- Leaves opposite (as opposed to alternate in *Eucalyptus*) and tapered to a narrow tip.
- Petals white with a green keel, clawed.
- Fruit with prominent ribs.

Habit

Tree, growing to 30 m tall.

Bark and Stem/Trunk

Main stems smooth-barked, bark orange to pink when young, ribbons absent, adventitious roots absent. Young stems rounded, without hairs.

Leaves

Mature leaves in opposite pairs, lanceolate or sickle-shaped; 70–190 mm long, 12–35 mm wide, upper surface green or olive green, paler below; leaf blade flat, hairless and surfaces not puckered; margins entire; tips tapered to narrowly pointed; leaf stalks 9–25 mm long. Juvenile leaves ovate or elliptic; leaf stalks absent.

Flowers

Flowers in terminal clusters, stalked; buds usually in 3s; petals 5, white, with a green keel, clawed (with narrow base); sepals 5, persistent; stamens white, longer than petals. Main flowering period: spring to summer.

Fruit

Fruit dry, free, ribbed, 3–4-locular, 9–18(–20) mm long, 7–17(–20) mm wide.

Similar Species

Angophora species are closely related to the large *Eucalyptus* genus. Unlike *Eucalyptus*, all *Angophora* species have true petals and have opposite adult leaves. *Angophora floribunda* and *A. hispida* occur uncommonly in New Zealand, and neither has the smooth bark that is characteristic of *A. costata*. *Angophora floribunda*, commonly known as the rough-barked apple, is a large tree with fibrous bark and cream-white flowers; *A. hispida*, dwarf apple gum, is a small rough-barked, usually multiple-stemmed tree, with young stems and new foliage covered in red bristly hairs.

Notes

Two subspecies recognised, but apparently only *A. costata* subsp. *costata* is found in New Zealand. *Angophora costata* subsp. *euryphylla* possesses petals 5–8 mm long and a hairy calyx tube, whereas *A. costata* subsp. *costata* possesses petals 3–4 mm long and a usually hairless calyx tube.

Angophora is a genus of 10 species related to *Eucalyptus* and endemic to eastern Australia. *Angophora costata* is the only species that has smooth bark as well as the distinctly stalked adult leaves.

External Links

- [Australia's Flora: Growing Native Plants](#)
- [EUCLID](#)
- [Flora of Australia](#)
- [Flora of New Zealand Online](#)
- [GBIF](#)
- [iNaturalist NZ](#)
- [NZPCN](#)
- [PlantNET: New South Wales Flora Online](#)

- Plants of South Eastern New South Wales
- VicFlora: Flora of Victoria

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