

## Plant of the Month - November

by Allan Carr

### *Angophora leiocarpa*

smooth-barked apple

**Pronunciation:** an-GOF-or-a lee-oh-CAR-pa

MYRTACEAE

**Derivation:** *Angophora*, from the Greek, *angos* – a vessel and *phora* – bearing (referring to the goblet-like capsules); *leiocarpa*, from the Greek, *leio* – smooth and *carpa* – fruit.



Leaves, buds, flowers



Opposite leaves, Fruits

*Angophora* is a genus of about 8 species all found on the east coast of Australia from Qld to Vic. They are closely allied to *Corymbia* and *Eucalyptus* but differ in having opposite leaves and no \*operculum on their flower buds.

**Description:** *A. leiocarpa* is a tree to 30 m with branches bent and twisted at crooked angles. Bark is \*decorticating, smooth and bright orange, becoming dull creamy-grey with age, often with distinct dimples and sometimes with rusty stains. They occur in a wide band from Blackdown NP to the coast in Qld south to Pilliga NP and across to the coast in NSW.

**Leaves** to 140 mm x 25 mm are opposite, \*lanceolate to \*falcate, glossy green above and paler below with a \*petiole to 15 mm long.

**Flowers** in terminal clusters to 20 mm across are white to creamy-white from November to January. These trees are an important source of honey and the flowers attract many bees, birds and butterflies.

**Fruits** to 12 mm x 9 mm are goblet-shaped, smooth or ribbed and brownish-grey. Inside are many 8 mm reddish-brown seeds.

\*operculum = a cap covering the bud and formed by fusion of \*perianth parts

\*perianth = calyx (all sepals) and corolla (all petals) together

\*decorticating = shedding loosely and remaining around the tree base

\*lanceolate = lance-shaped, about four times as long as broad tapering towards the tip

\*falcate = sickle-shaped

\*petiole = stalk portion of a leaf

New bark in November

