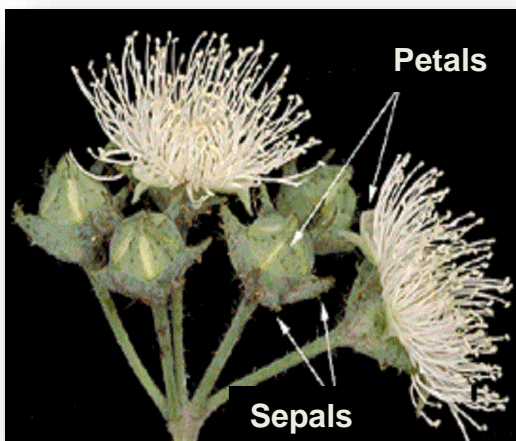


Narrow-leaved Apple

Angophora bakeri

There always seems to be a lot of confusion when it comes to distinguishing ***Angophora*** from ***Eucalyptus***. Both look similar from a distance, but close-up, there are some easily recognisable features. The arrangement of leaves on a stem is referred to as ***phytotaxy***. ***Angophora*** trees and shrubs have leaves that are ***opposite***, that is, *two leaves grow from the same point on the stem, but on opposite sides of the stem*. In contrast, *most* (but not all) eucalypts have ***alternate*** leaves that *grow from different places along the stem*.



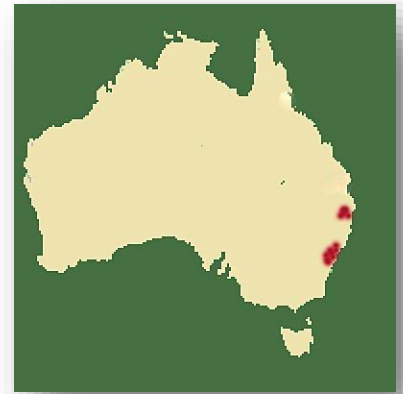
The flowers and fruits, too, are very different. Flowers of ***Angophora*** have *green sepals* and *white petals* but lack the *cap (operculum)* of eucalypts. The capsules of ***Angophora*** are relatively soft, with distinctive ribs and are shed soon after the seeds have dispersed, unlike those of *eucalypts* which have sturdy, woody fruits often held on the tree

for a long time after the seed has gone.

The Narrow-leaved Apple, is quite an attractive small tree. The grey bark is rough and the narrow, slender leaves very pleasing to the eye. It has an unusual, disjunct distribution. Where there is a great distance between two [or more] groups of the one species, the distribution is referred to as *disjunct*.



It has been recorded from Nowra to Karuah just north of Newcastle and as far west as Katoomba; a second population extends from Grafton to Woodburn and Gibraltar Rock. The northern populations of *Angophora bakeri* are considered by *some* botanists to be different species and subspecies: *Angophora exul* and *Angophora bakeri* subsp. *paludosa*. A *disjunct* species may have contracted from its earlier range, or could be in the process of expanding its range.



The name **Apple** supposedly comes from the early settlers, who considered the colour of the leaves of *Angophora* to be closer to the green of apple trees back home in England.

Angophora bakeri grows amongst the small cluster of (mostly) native trees between Macquarie University Railway Station and student housing opposite Macquarie Centre. Look for small, slender, eucalypt-like trees with rough bark and narrow, opposite leaves.

References and image of flowers:

Slee, A.V., Brooker, M.I.H., Duffy, S.M. & West, J.G. (2006) "Euclid: eucalypts of Australia." 3rd ed. (CSIRO: Canberra.)

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