

Corymbia citriodora

Corymbia citriodora is a tall tree, growing to 35 metres in height (but sometimes taller), from temperate and tropical north eastern Australia. It is also known as **lemon-scented gum**, **blue spotted gum**, **lemon eucalyptus** and **eucalyptus citriodora**.

Corymbia citriodora has smooth, pale, uniform or slightly mottled bark, white to coppery in summer, and a conspicuously narrow-leaved crown which smells strongly of lemons. Pear-shaped buds are borne in clusters of three, formed in the corner of leaf and stem junctions, whilst fruit (capsules) are urn-shaped. The bark is smooth for the entire height of the tree, often powdery, shedding in thin curling flakes.^[1]

It prefers lighter, slightly acidic loamy soils and occurs in dry sclerophyll forest and woodlands in hilly country. *Corymbia citriodora* has a lignotuber. Flowering has been recorded in January, April, May, June, July, August, October and December.

Plants of *C. citriodora* are naturalised in the Darling Range near Mundaring, Western Australia and by planting to suburban New South Wales and Victoria.



An avenue of Lemon-scented Gums in Kings Park, Perth, Western Australia

Kings Park in Perth has a famous, beautiful avenue of this species planted many years ago, but it has spread to become a serious weed there also.^[2]

Corymbia citriodora is an important forest tree, in demand for structural timber and for honey production. It also is popular in horticulture both within Australia and overseas. The name *Corymbia citriodora* comes from the Latin *citriodorus*, which means *lemon-scented*.

1 Essential Oil



Eucalyptus citriodora essential oil in clear glass vial

The essential oil of the lemon-scented gum mainly consists of citronellal (80%),^[3] produced largely in Brazil and China.^[4] While unrefined oil from the lemon eucalyptus tree is used in perfumery, a refined form of this oil is used in insect repellents. The refined oil's citronellal content is turned into cis- and trans- isomers of p-menthane-3,8-diol (PMD), a process which occurs naturally as the eucalyptus leaves age. This refined oil, which includes re-

lated compounds from the essential corymbia citriodora, is known widely by its registered tradename, "Citriodiol", but also by generic names which vary by country or continent: "oil of lemon eucalyptus" or "OLE"(USA); "PMD rich botanic oil" or "PMDRBO"(Europe); "PMD and related oil of lemon eucalyptus compounds" (Canada); Extract of Lemon Eucalyptus (Australia). Pure PMD is synthesized for commercial production from synthetic citronellal.

2 See also

- List of honey plants

3 References

- [1] Factsheet - *Corymbia citriodora*
- [2] Hussey et al., (1997) *Western weeds : a guide to the weeds of Western Australia* South Perth, W.A.: Plant Protection Society of W.A. : 1997. ISBN 0-646-32440-3, 1997
- [3] Boland, D.J. et al., *Eucalyptus Leaf Oils - Use, Chemistry, Distillation and Marketing*. ISBN 0-909605-69-6.
- [4] Lawless, J., *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Essential Oils*, ISBN 1-85230-661-0

4 External links

- Pink, A. (2004). *Gardening for the Million*. Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation.
- Euclid:*Corymbia citriodora*
- Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (PIER): *Corymbia citriodora*

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