

Eucalyptus camaldulensis Dehnh. var. *obtusata* Blakely, RED GUM, RIVER RED GUM, BLUNT-BUDDED MURRAY RED GUM. Small to large tree, evergreen, sclerophyllous, in range with 1 trunk < 25 m tall (parent tree), shorter individuals often several-stemmed at base; shoots with leathery leaves on spreading and drooping shoots having only adult, bluish green leaves (lacking distinct juvenile leaves), glabrous, glaucous (scarcely glaucous on some individuals, and these leaves not bluish), strongly aromatic from special glands (secretory sacs) embedded in tissues; bark shedding on major branches and trunk in strips or large patches and exposing younger bark, pale gray weathering darker. **Stems:** young stems angled, with 1 angle descending from each leaf, aging cylindrical and flexible, internodes mostly 12–40 mm long, initially green and gland-dotted. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole scarcely channeled, to 22 mm long, ± transversely wrinkled; blade lanceolate to narrowly lanceolate or narrowly ovate, straight or sometimes slightly sickle-shaped, 65–155 × 14–40 mm, relatively thin and flexible, ± symmetrically broadly tapered at base, entire, acute to acuminate at tip, pinnately veined with lateral veins joined to a common vein 1–2.5 mm from margin and midrib raised on lower surface, typically dark green with yellowish midrib, glaucous with bluish cast, having tiny oil sacs visible when back lighted. **Inflorescence:** umbel, axillary, of 4–10 flowers spreading from top of peduncle, flowers on pedicels, lacking bracts, glabrous, not glaucous; peduncle stiff, 10–12 mm long not increasing in fruit; pedicel 2–4 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 18–20 mm wide, strongly scented; bud subspheroid, 6–6.5 × 5 mm, with circular abscission groove near midpoint and at the widest diameter; hypanthium (staminophore) hemispheric to cup-shaped, 3 × 5 mm with width increasing slightly in fruit, rimmed, not compressed and ± smooth with oil glands numerous and slightly raised, the rim erect to ascending, ca. 1 mm long; **perianth (operculum)** = a cap of fused sepals and petals, conic-hemispheric, 5 mm wide, smooth, before anthesis pale to light green or blushed red, ± blunt at tip, not glaucous, abscising at anthesis (caducous); **stamens** 100+, free, producing a dense mass of stamens on staminophore rim; filaments ascending to spreading, 6–9 mm long within a single flower, white; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.6–0.7 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; staminophore ringlike, ca. 5 mm diameter, erect, short, ± 0.4 mm thick; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, inversely conic, as wide as bud cap, thick-walled with large oil glands in the outermost and innermost tissues, slightly cupped around style, (4–)5-chambered, each chamber packed with numerous ovules; **nectary disc** partially covering ovary and producing copious nectar flooding top of ovary, obscurely 4-lobed, greenish yellow; style crooked stout-cylindrical, 3.5–4 mm long, light green, with embedded oil glands; stigma terminal, pale green or becoming rose-colored, white-papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, woody, dehiscent on top mostly by 5 valves, many-seeded, ± spheroid, 6.5–7 mm, not ridged, with groove between hypanthium rim and top of ovary (staminophore + nectary disc), the valves typically erect to ascending and protruding beyond top of ovary, the nectary rim and staminophore becoming flattened, dry, and hard at maturity. **Seed:** angular club-shaped and straight, 0.7–1.5 × 0.3–0.7 mm, glossy brown, ribbed, highly variable in size and shape. Early April–May.

Naturalized. Evergreen tree planted throughout the range and occasionally reseeding near planted groves, e.g., Chatsworth Oaks Park (SH), and even resprouting after fire.

Eucalyptus camaldulensis does not have juvenile leaves, and in range seems to be a

favorite host plant of lerp psyllids. Flowers are formed in short axillary umbels, and in this population the bud is spheroid and does not have the beaked cap, hence would be var. *obtusa*, the blunt-budded Murray red gum, but both forms should be expected. Variety *obtusa* tends to have five raised valves on the fruits, but perhaps recognition of this variant may not be justified.

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