129

The Description of a New Eucalypt Species

By

R. G. BRETT, B.Sc.

(Read 14 November, 1938)

PLATES XIV-XV

Eucalyptus Morrisbyi, sp. nov.

Arbor parva vel media 6-12 m. *alta, cortice levi deciduo, cano v. puniceo, nonnumquam aspero ad imum. Folia juvenilia bina opposita, per multis paribus, glauca, cordata v. cordato-orbicula sessilia,* 2 cm. *longa,* 2·3 cm. *lata. Folia intermedia semi-glauca elliptica vel oblongo-elliptica, alterna, petiolata,* 7·5 cm. *longa,* 3·5 cm. *lata. Folia matura lanceolata vel sub-falcato-lanceolata, alterna,* 8-10 cm. *longa,* 2·5 cm. *lata. Umbellae axillares* 3—*flora, pedunculis compressis v. sub-compressis,* 9-12 mm. *longi. Gemmae maturae glaucae, obconiculae,* 9 mm. *longae,* 7 mm. *latae, pedicellatae. Operculum plano-hemisphaericum, apiculatum, brevius tubo calycino. Fructus glaucus, sub-cylindricus v. sub-urceolatus, sub-costatus,* 8 mm. *longus,* 8·5 mm. *latus. Valvae inclusae.*

A small to medium glaucous tree, with pruinose branchlets, 6-12 m. high. Bark grey to pink, smooth deciduous, sometimes rough at the base. Juvenile leaves opposite for an indefinite number of pairs, glaucous, cordate, crenulate, sessile, and slightly amplexicaul, 2 x 2·5 cm., or larger. Intermediate leaves sub-glaucous, elliptical to oblong-elliptical, 7·5 x 3·5 cm., or larger. Some trees, although mature, do not pass out of intermediate foliage. As in the case of *E. subcrenulata* Maiden and Blakely, this is probably determined by edaphic conditions. Thus the reduced alpine forms of *E. subcrenulata* rarely develop adult foliage. Mature leaves alternate, lanceolate to sub-falcate lanceolate, undulate, sub-glaucous, petiolate, 8-10 cm. x 2·5 cm., petioles 2·5 cm., or longer. Umbels axillary, three-flowered. Peduncles compressed to sub-terete, 9-12 mm. Mature buds obconical, glaucous, pedicellate, the central pedicel developed more than the

laterals, 9 x 7 mm. Operculum apiculate to subumbonate, depressed hemispherical, shorter than the sub-costate calyx tube. Fruit pedicellate, depressed cylindrical to sub-urceolate, glaucous, sub-costate, 9 x 8·5 mm. Valves enclosed, tips sometimes slightly protruding.

Habitat: Confined to coastal levels, and thrives on poor, sandy soil.

Distribution: As far as can be judged at present this species is almost extinct. It is confined to a thin belt of trees skirting the beach at the junction of the South Arm and Clifton Beach roads, S.E. Tasmania. An avenue of *E. Morrisbyi*, containing an interesting hybrid with *E. viminalis*, was planted about 50 years ago by Mr. J. R. Morrisby on ' Waterloo ', the property of Mr. A. Morrisby. Messrs. A. and M. Morrisby assert that the species formed a dense scrub of at least 50 acres in extent before clearing was undertaken. The rareness of the species resembles that of *E. cordata* Labill.

Genetic Character: E. Morrisbyi is a simple species constituting a single biotype. (Brett, 1938, p. 77.)

Affinities: With *E. cordata* Labill., *E. divaricata* McAulay and Brett, and *E. urnigera* Hook., f.

Hybrids: With *E. viminalis* Labill. The trees retain the general appearance of *E. viminalis*, but fruit and buds are sub-glaucous to glaucous, with valves partially sunk. The buds resemble those of *E. viminalis*, but are somewhat diamond shaped.

Economic Value: The principal economic value of this species is its power to flourish on sandy, coastal soils, where it forms an excellent windbreak. For this purpose it should be planted extensively in Tasmania and on the mainland.

The timber, although not highly recommended for fencing, is reported to make excellent fuel, and should be planted on properties at sea level where timber for firewood is scarce.

The graceful habit and glaucous character suggest suitability for ornamental culture.

REFERENCES

BRETT, R. G., 1938.—A Survey of Eucalyptus species in Tasmania. *Pap. Roy. Soc. Tasm.*, 1937 (1938), pp. 75-109.

PLATE XIV

A.—Intermediate leaves.   B.—Adult leaf.

PLATE XIV

B

A

A

A

R.K.

PLATE XV

FIG. 1.—Sucker foliage showing quadrangular stems.
FIG. 2.—Juvenile foliage of twelve months old seedling, raised from seed collected
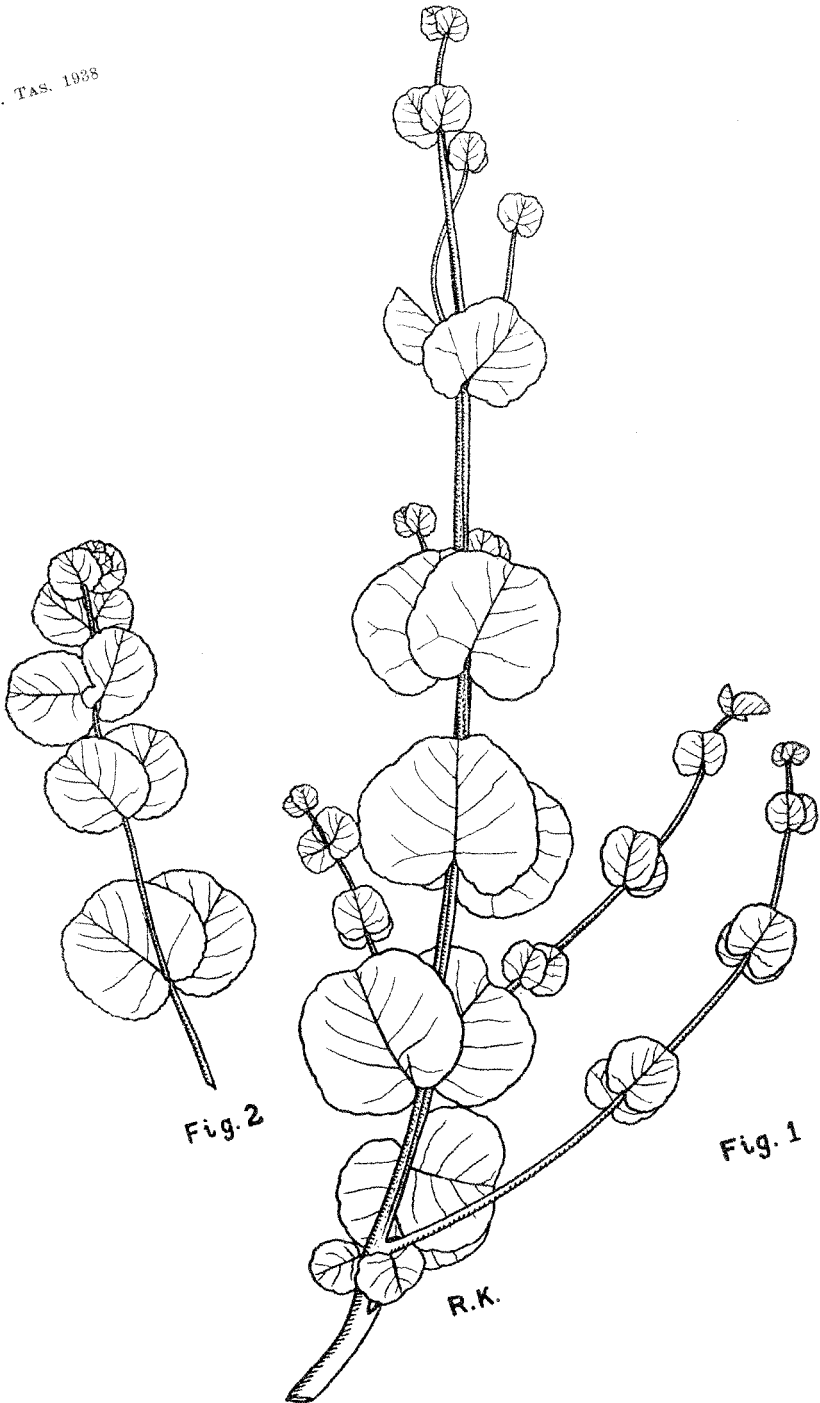from tree selected as type.

PLATE XV

Fig. 2

Fig. 1

R.K.