

NOTE ON A SPECIES OF EUCALYPTUS NEW TO
TASMANIA.

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(Read September 8th, 1902.)

(Issued September 10th, 1902.)

Eucalyptus Macarthuri, Deane and Maiden, between Deloraine and Chudleigh Junction, January, 1902.

Swanport, Dr. Story (labelled *E. Stuartiana*, by Mueller).

For an account of this species see Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., 1899, 448, with figure. Its discovery in Tasmania was the outcome of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science Meeting at Hobart, and came about in the following way:—Mr. R. H. Cambage, L.S., of Sydney, was travelling in the train between Deloraine and Chudleigh Junction when he espied a rather umbrageous tree, with fibrous bark up to the branchlets, in grassy flats or depressions, which become filled up with water during the wet weather, on the right bank of the Meander River. From its situation and habit of growth he considered it might be *E. Macarthuri*, which he had seen in New South Wales. When he came to the above meeting at Hobart he communicated to me his suspicions, and as it was impossible for him to examine the tree personally, I made a special journey to Deloraine, found the tree in question, and obtained specimens, which proved the species to be *E. Macarthuri*, Deane and Maiden. I have since seen specimens in the Melbourne Herbarium, collected by the late Dr. Story at Swanport, Oyster Bay, Tasmania, and referred to by Mueller at the time to be *E. Stuartiana*. Further inquiry will doubtless greatly extend the range of the species, which will probably be found in Victoria also ere long.

We thus add an additional Eucalyptus species to the flora of Tasmania, which now stands at 18, since in my paper on "The common Eucalyptus flora of Tasmania and New South Wales," read at the Hobart meeting, I produced evidence that the number stood at 17.

This species of Eucalyptus promises to have commercial importance through the researches of Mr. H. G. Smith, who has shown that its oil contains geranyl acetate in large quantities, which oil, when rectified, has a delicious odour of roses, which is remarkable in the genus. As I do not know the extent to which this interesting species occurs in Tasmania,

it will be desirable for oil distillers not to fell the trees, but to lop the branches only.

A. De Candolle, in his *Prodromus*, iii., 218, described a plant under the name of *Eucalyptus pilularis*, Smith, which is not that species. The plant must be referred to as *E. pilularis*, A. DC., and following is a translation of his description:—

“Operculum conical, with a rather shorter calyx tube, the peduncles very short and subangular, flowers 6 or 7 in the head, leaves linear-lanceolate acuminate, with the veins confluent at the tops into an intramarginal one. New Holland, Sieber, plant exs. nov. holl. No. 474. I doubt whether this specimen of Sieber’s that I have described is Smith’s species or not? Is Sprengel’s species different by reason of its corymbose inflorescence? Our flower-buds, the size of a grain of millet, peduncles 2 or 3 lines, nearly one half shorter than the petioles. Leaves 3 inches long and 5 lines broad.”

It will be thus seen that the plant is Sieber’s No. 474, an original specimen of which I have been able to examine from two sources (a) The Berlin Herbarium; (b) The Barbey-Boissier Herbarium at Geneva. The first specimen is in bud only, and the second is in bud and fruit. It turns out to be *E. Macarthuri*, Deane and Maiden, and thus the identity of a puzzling plant has been set at rest. Sieber’s No. 474 is in Bentham’s *Flora Australiensis*, iii., 240, referred to *E. viminalis*, Labill: which is a mistake.

This erroneous reference to *E. viminalis* reminds me to warn collectors that some small fruited multiflowered forms of *E. Gunnii* (e.g., vars: *acervula*, *maculosa*, and perhaps *rubida*) may, in the absence of notes on the bark and suckers, be referred to *E. Macarthuri*.