

***Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (E. rostrata)**

Myrtaceae

Eastern Australia

COMMON NAMES: **English:** River red gum; **Kamba:** Musanduku; **Kikuyu:** Mubau, Munyua mai; **Luo:** Bao, Bap kaladali, Bawo.

DESCRIPTION: A tall evergreen tree to 30 m, **deeply branched** but also with a long straight bole. **BARK:** White to brown, **thin and peeling in long strips**; when cut it exudes **red gum**. **LEAVES:** Grey-blue, long and drooping, to 30 cm. **FLOWERS:** White clusters, short **conical bud caps**. **FRUIT:** Very small rounded capsules on thin stalks, each less than 1 cm, 4 valves.

ECOLOGY: Widely distributed in its native Australia and one of the first *Eucalyptus* spp. used elsewhere, both in the Mediterranean and the tropics. Planted in Africa since around 1900, it does well in semi-arid regions and tolerates a long dry season as well as some salinity. Also planted in coastal plantations and in deep silt or clay soil, 0–1,600 m. Agroclimatic Zones II–IV.

USES: Firewood, charcoal, timber (construction, pulpwood), poles, posts, bee forage, shade, ornamental, windbreak, swamp reclamation, tannin, dye, essential oil.

PROPAGATION: Seedlings, direct sowing at site.

SEED: About 2,200,000 seeds per kg. Germination: 15–40%, from 3 days and completed after 13 days in good conditions.

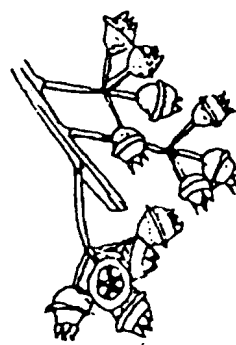
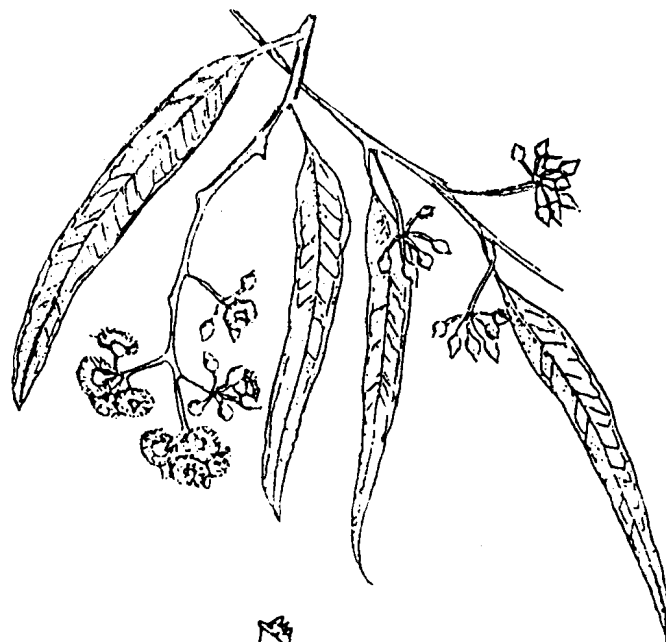
treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Seed can be stored for long periods.

MANAGEMENT: Fast growing. Most trees coppice, although not all; pollarding.

REMARKS: The red heartwood of *E. camaldulensis* is hard, durable and relatively termite resistant. Young trees require protection from termites. The species was first introduced to Kenya primarily for supply of firewood for the railways. Do not plant near crops. Among the eucalypts common in Kenya, this is the one best suited for dry areas.

FURTHER READING: <http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/Sites/TreeDBS/AFT/AFT.htm>; Albrecht, 1993; Bein et al., 1996; Bekele-Tesemma et al., 1993; Fichtl and Adi, 1994; Jensen, 1999; Katende et al., 1995; Mbuya et al., 1994; National Academy of Sciences, 1980; Noad and Birnie, 1989; von Storrs, 1979; Maydell, 1990.



Fruit capsules

