

Eucalyptus citriodora (*E. maculata* var. *citriodora*)

Myrtaceae

Eastern Queensland, Australia

English: Lemon gum, spotted gum**Nyanja:** Bulugamu**Senga:** Bulugamu**Ecology:** A tall tree, in its native habitat 0–900 m, but widely planted from arid areas to tropical climates where it can grow at 1,800 m. In Brazil, it was a major source of charcoal for steel production and it is valued in Kenya as heavy construction timber. Planted in plantations in Zambia, so far it makes up only a small percentage of the total *Eucalyptus* planted. It prefers well-drained soils and can survive a long dry season.**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, **poles**, medicine (leaves), bee forage, **windbreak**, essential oils (citronellal).**Description:** An evergreen tree which may reach 40 m with a straight bole and rounded crown; foliage drooping. It is easily identified by the **strong lemon oil in the leaves** which perfumes the air, especially after rain. **BARK:** rounded patches flake off revealing grey-brown-yellow below. Old bark appears smooth grey-white. **LEAVES:** mature leaves **very long and narrow**. **FLOWERS:** smooth oval buds. **FRUIT:** rather large, about **1 cm, oblong cup-shaped**, in clusters.**Propagation:** Seedlings.**Seed:** Not a prolific seeder like other *Eucalyptus* spp. Good germination rate: 60–90%. No. of seeds per kg: 140,000–220,000.**treatment:** Not necessary.**storage:** Seed can be stored.**Management:** Coppicing.**Remarks:** This species is not so frequently used in Eastern Province as *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, which is more termite-resistant, or *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, which is more drought-resistant. However, its timber is superior and the species has a potential for the extraction of essential oils. Large branches are brittle and break off in strong winds. Susceptible to termite attack.